The comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Overall Summary

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

35559 forms were submitted.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 16468
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 7935
   - I hunt in this unit: 32893
   - General interest in this unit: 6215

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In the DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 30674
   - Bow: 18080
   - Crossbow: 13299
   - Muzzleloader: 10871

3. How many years have you hunted deer in the unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 23.6
   - Maximum: 99

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in the unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 17595
   - Mostly Private Land: 5124
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 3719
   - Mostly Public Land: 2180
   - Exclusively Public Land: 3955
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 320

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in the deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 1356
   - Not too crowded: 3843
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 2911
   - Somewhat crowded: 2999
   - Very crowded: 3246
   - Not applicable: 623

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in the DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 6797
   - Fewer: 10610
   - Same: 12432
   - More: 3762
   - Many More: 1275
   - Unsure: 683

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in the unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1678</td>
<td>3781</td>
<td>15170</td>
<td>8927</td>
<td>5058</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for the unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>1205</td>
<td>2857</td>
<td>15039</td>
<td>9547</td>
<td>5333</td>
<td>1578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>4008</td>
<td>14982</td>
<td>7620</td>
<td>4939</td>
<td>2412</td>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<td>787</td>
<td>2570</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>1170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
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<td>841</td>
<td>2549</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>1189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in the unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>2042</td>
<td>12863</td>
<td>7688</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>1229</td>
<td>2719</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>925</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 9259 Support, 11719 Oppose, 2121 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 12404 Support, 8713 Oppose, 1946 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 3247 Support, 24890 Oppose, 1827 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

- Should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? 6148 VALID, 4933 NOT VALID, 1379 Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for the unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Summary: Friday, May 01, 2020
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

15916 forms were submitted.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 8507
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 2915
   - I hunt in this unit: 14663
   - General interest in this unit: 2695

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In the DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 13684
   - Bow: 8507
   - Crossbow: 6213
   - Muzzleloader: 5422

3. How many years have you hunted deer in the unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 23.47
   - Maximum: 71

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in the unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 9684
     - Mostly Private Land: 2437
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 1181
     - Mostly Public Land: 467
   - Exclusively Public Land: 777
     - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 117

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in the deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 636
     - Not too crowded: 1556
     - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 967
     - Somewhat crowded: 788
     - Very crowded: 596
     - Not applicable: 319

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in the DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 2783
     - Fewer: 4857
     - Same: 5970
     - More: 1554
     - Many More: 474
     - Unsure: 278

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in the unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>463</td>
<td>1438</td>
<td>7279</td>
<td>4235</td>
<td>2041</td>
<td>460</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Antlerless Quota is...
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for the unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>1117</td>
<td>7382</td>
<td>4499</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>1730</td>
<td>7303</td>
<td>3375</td>
<td>1690</td>
<td>1359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<td>336</td>
<td>1542</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>1506</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in the unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
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<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>1286</td>
<td>8931</td>
<td>5351</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>1637</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 5874 8484 1558
If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 8130 6389 1371
If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 1801 13243 872
If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID | NOT VALID | Unsure | 0 | 0 | 0

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for the unit?  
Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 516
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 571
   - I hunt in this unit: 2003
   - General interest in this unit: 363

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In the DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 1870
   - Bow: 1127
   - Crossbow: 805
   - Muzzleloader: 584

3. How many years have you hunted deer in the unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 23.4
   - Maximum: 66

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in the unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 720
   - Mostly Private Land: 263
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 265
   - Mostly Public Land: 224
   - Exclusively Public Land: 510
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 21

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in the deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 102
   - Not too crowded: 284
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 255
   - Somewhat crowded: 266
   - Very crowded: 325
   - Not applicable: 30

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in the DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 472
   - Fewer: 628
   - Same: 641
   - More: 254
   - Many More: 83
   - Unsure: 50

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in the unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
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<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>154</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
**Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations**

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for the unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<tr>
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<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>292</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>107</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in the unit?  
*Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>1062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
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11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for the unit?  
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2.45</td>
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10332 forms were submitted.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 3516
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 3074
   - I hunt in this unit: 9629
   - General interest in this unit: 1874

2. In the DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 9113
   - Bow: 4532
   - Crossbow: 3809
   - Muzzleloader: 2858

3. How many years have you hunted deer in the unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 25.6
   - Maximum: 99

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in the unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 2924
   - Mostly Private Land: 1394
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 1797
   - Mostly Public Land: 1253
   - Exclusively Public Land: 2143
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 118

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in the deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 248
   - Not too crowded: 1234
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 1273
   - Somewhat crowded: 1599
   - Very crowded: 2098
   - Not applicable: 135

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in the DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 2478
   - Fewer: 3074
   - Same: 2956
   - More: 1227
   - Many More: 431
   - Unsure: 166

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in the unit?

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<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>1343</td>
<td>3839</td>
<td>2268</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for the unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>3571</td>
<td>2489</td>
<td>2230</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>3676</td>
<td>2174</td>
<td>2190</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in the unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
0 | 0 | 0

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
0 | 0 | 0

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
653 | 5553 | 484

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
VALID | NOT VALID | Unsure
5086 | 4155 | 1091

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for the unit?  
Scale: 1 = Not-at-all;  2 = Slightly;  3 = Moderately;  4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020
Northern Forest
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

7183 forms were submitted.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 3929
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 1375
   - I hunt in this unit: 6598
   - General interest in this unit: 1283

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In the DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 6007
   - Bow: 3914
   - Crossbow: 2472
   - Muzzleloader: 2007

3. How many years have you hunted deer in the unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 21.03
   - Maximum: 85

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in the unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 4267
   - Mostly Private Land: 1030
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 476
   - Mostly Public Land: 236
   - Exclusively Public Land: 525
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 64

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in the deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 370
   - Not too crowded: 769
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 416
   - Somewhat crowded: 346
   - Very crowded: 227
   - Not applicable: 139

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in the DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 1064
   - Fewer: 2051
   - Same: 2865
   - More: 727
   - Many More: 287
   - Unsure: 189

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in the unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>212</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>3314</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020
**Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations**

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for the unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>3372</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>375</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>3280</td>
<td>1607</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in the unit? *Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>3932</td>
<td>2337</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td>3385</td>
<td>3235</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>4274</td>
<td>2324</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for the unit? *Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

170 forms were submitted for this unit.

### Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 40
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 51
   - I hunt in this unit: 159
   - General interest in this unit: 28

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 145
   - Bow: 90
   - Crossbow: 65
   - Muzzleloader: 49

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 19.94
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 110
   - Mostly Private Land: 24
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 11
   - Mostly Public Land: 2
   - Exclusively Public Land: 10
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 7
   - Not too crowded: 18
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 11
   - Somewhat crowded: 4
   - Very crowded: 3
   - Not applicable: 4

### Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 35
   - Fewer: 46
   - Same: 68
   - More: 13
   - Many More: 4
   - Unsure: 4

### Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020  
Adams, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Support: 58  Oppose: 91  Unsure: 21

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Support: 82  Oppose: 73  Unsure: 15

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Support: 23  Oppose: 137  Unsure: 10

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID  NOT VALID  Unsure: Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all;  2 = Slightly;  3 = Moderately;  4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Your format focuses is made on an assumption that both private and public land share the same deer density -- and that's a patently false premise. Private land, by definition, is used by owner(s). The public land is open to more people- the "public". I have been hunting in Wisconsin as a non resident since 1980. The deer herd size has dropped precipitously since the early 90's. So today's "public land" hunter drags thru the season seeing fewer and fewer deer each year-- because they flee the public land as soon as bow hunting start and head to and then stay in the sanctuaries of private land. Add to this misery the "early hunts" that you sponsor-- again it just further drives the few deer left back to private sanctuaries. Giving me three tags to sit in a virtual "desert" does not help me and it certainly doesn't help you. The season just ended was for me the straw that broke the camels back-- THIS WAS THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW THAT I HUNTED ON PUBLIC LAND AND DID NOT SEE A SINGLE DEER DURING HUNTING HOURS. States out west have used a program where private owners issue an access slip to hunters for a fee. If the permitted hunter then bags an animal, the permit slip is included in the registration process. At the conclusion of the season the private owner recovers a fee from the state -- which is in addition to his access fee. If you do not find a way to open up private land you might as well make property owners the only licensed hunters.

2 More CWD cases in the county. That's the most important stat in the entire presentation. We must "drastically reduce" the herd to "save it." CWD is only going to grow and infect a larger portion of the herd each year unless we make the tough call and take action now. This means declare war on CWD and cull the herd until we hit pre 1980 levels. The health of the herd is not all that we have at risk - since we don't fully understand CWD, to hope the herd just copes with it on it's own is a time bomb. What is at stake when CWD could jump to another species? That species could even be humans. Who at the WI DNR is going to show the intestinal fortitude to stand up for the course of action that is in the long term best interest of not only the WI deer herd but all WI humans? I don't like this idea any more than anyone else and but we must think big picture, we must see the potential of what could happen here and think of the future. What's at risk, is worth what we must do. We must rally and get ahead of what potentially could be very dangerous situation by reducing the deer herd size via very aggressive hunting laws to address the risk of CWD. If you're not for declaring a war on CWD by cutting down the herd size, then at least fund more research of it.

3 Gun Deer harvest in this unit is directly/positive correlated to the corn harvest. When the corn harvest is at a lower %, so is hunter success rate, and vise-versa. I was provided data from the NASS and WI DNR to do my statistical analysis. I have concluded that there is a fairly notable direct/positive relationship (Correlation Coefficient of 0.46) between the Corn Harvest % by the first weekend of the 9-day Gun Deer season AND hunter success rate during the 9-day gun season. Any lack in harvest this year was due to that. All things being cyclical, I'm sure when we have a good stretch of less fall precipitation and higher corn harvest %, we will see an increase in deer harvested during gun season. From a deer population standpoint, our land has increased throughout the last 10 years. Along with the quality of mature bucks. This is attributed to QDM practices by my neighbors and myself. Not only being selective, but managing land. I'd say the more incentives you can provide for land management, the better.
I hunted predominantly on private land in Adams County. I hunted every day of the season for a minimum of 4 hours although my usual was an average of 6.5 hours. I saw a total of 2 deer while in the field and actually hunting. I stand hunted, slow walked some areas and participated in small drives of 1/2 to 1 mile in length. Consulting my records I have noted that over the last 5 years the number of deer seen has decreased drastically. Going back to 2014/2015 and previous years it was common to see 7 deer a day. I will grant that it is possible that I was seeing some of the same deer every day but not all were the same deer. I will also grant that the amount of water currently on the ground in many areas over the last 3 years has to have had an effect on the deer movement. However the areas I hunt have some nice oak knolls and other natural foods. We have also put in a number of smaller food plots to attract and hold whitetail into the area. That has not yet born fruit. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I would like to see an extended Nov gun season. As an aging hunter it is no longer feasible for me and many others that are getting too old to bow hunt. Most of us would like to see or have a chance for a trophy buck, how ever by the time gun season opens the rut is pretty much done and so are the chances of the big one. I would say that of 100 hunters I know that last season only 45 of them bought a deer license. They have quit hunting for the reasons I stated above. I don’t see many younger hunters replacing us old guys far as gun hunting. It seems the younger hunters do go in for bow hunting. The deer herd is up, the kill is down and license sales where down 2019. I think it will continue unless there is more gun hunters that can have a hope of getting in on a good hunt during the rut. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Hello, I am a private land owner/private land hunter. We are seeing very large increases in deer numbers in southern Adams county. Surrounding large tract private landowners are “managing” for deer hunting, but do not harvest near enough antlerless deer. Our family has limited time to hunt, and/or some parcels too small to harvest enough antlerless deer to keep herd in check. See the future herd growth as only an increasing problem. I would like to see return of earn a buck tagging. I realize this is unpopular, but forest health, and herd health, will suffer in near and long term. I also feel that hunters just will not kill extra does, or an additional deer if they kill a buck, no matter if additional tags are given away. Thank you for allowing my input.

We need to encourage more people to harvest antlerless deer other than simply offering more tags. Perhaps sponsoring/supporting/funding more programs like Field to Fork...especially during the December antlerless season...could inspire more private property owners to support more antlerless harvest. Although I hate EAB, there needs to be more/different tools available to CDAC to encourage more antlerless harvest while still allowing folks to pursue mature bucks. Perhaps a hybrid EAB whereby your previous year antlerless harvest qualifies you to harvest a buck. This may help encourage more folks to participate in the December hunt while still not “ruining” the early season and rut.

I would like to see the bow an crossbow season stay the same. I’m a felon from owi’s And I understand that what I did was of my doing and losing my right to carry a firearm. So when crossbow became legal for deer hunting I pick back up into a sport that I love to do. Felt like I had a new life of hunting whitetails once again. And if changing the crossbow season to only October and then after the gun season. I think that would push me away once again not being able to hunt the best part of the rut. I don’t think with the technology in bows today that it really doesn’t matter I think it just the hunters preference in weapon choice just my thought. Thanks for you time.

Stop using CDW as a ploy to rid our state of deer. Have a state deer hunt every other year or no killings of does. We want more deer after you killed them all years a go they are just now starting to rebound there used to be hundreds of deer now maybe I see one or two. The dnr doesn’t know how to manage because it’s a sick government program that’s all about $$$$$ you have wrecked wildlife populations I hunt but don’t take doe. Government of every firm has molested the citizenry and have trampled in constitutional rights including DNR
Too many doe tags are issued to hunters in the area. Also should go back to using actual tags and registration stations because paper tags and registering online makes it too easy for someone to poach deer and never register them and/or shoot more than they are allowed in a season. Crossbows make it too easy to harvest deer during archery. There is no challenge to hunting with a crossbow compared to a regular compound bow. Restrictions should be set back to limiting those who are able to use a crossbow during archery season.

Considering any sort of holiday hunt or bonus tags for this unit is laughable. I’ve seen more wolves than deer over the past 5 years and it’s been over a decade since my family has seen a healthy number of deer where we hunt. Between predators, harsh winters and farmer tags, there is absolutely no reason to give out more tags or extend any sort of hunting seasons for deer. Hunting sales are down for a reason, I really hope the dnr will figure it out and do the right thing and bring the deer population back up.

We hope the gun deer season remains in the traditional 9 day period coinciding with thanksgiving. The idea brought up about moving it to earlier and extending it to 19 days contradicts the idea of providing better opportunity to harvest deer for 2 reasons: most people have extra time off the week of thanksgiving, and spreading out the hunting pressure will mean less deer movement. Also dedicated muzzleloader hunting would be eliminated which would be disappointing.

1. DO NOT want to see the gun deer season changed from the traditional 9 day during Thanksgiving dates. 2. Raise out of state tag prices. 3. DO NOT change the crossbow season and think you should simply make vertical bow and crossbow all Archery. Crossbow has doesn't have that much advantage over vertical bows. 4. NEVER bring back Earn a Buck, worst idea ever and increases poaching levels. 5. CWD has been around forever, stop wasting our dollars on this junk.

I have hunted this area for 65 years. The quality (deer seen and bucks shot) has progressively decreased. It seems as if hunting pressure has increased. The long bow and crossbow seasons have subjected the deer to constant pressure for about 4 months. The deer bow and crossbow seasons should be shortened! The distribution of deer among the farms is remarkably variable while the overall population maybe at a desirable level to the DNR.

I see possible major changes in crossbow hunting. I personally love the experience of using the crossbow and support the current seasons. There's a reason why there are more deer take with crossbow. Its the preferred method and is getting more people out. Please keep it as is and do not cave into pressure by bow hunters. Again, we want max participation and using a crossbow seems to be a popular method these days.

Keep the gun season as is. Don’t punish the crossbow hunters by shortening their season. Take a look at the wolf numbers in our area. Have more wolves on game camera than deer. Have not seen one deer opening weekend of gun hunting in 3 years. Now we go hunting out of state for whitetail. Why should I hunt on our land and get nothing. Now I have to carry a pistol because of the wolves on our land.

I tried to go through the video twice, but it would not move forward, so I wasn't able to get through the whole presentation. During Gun-Deer, I saw the most deer of my group of three of us of ~4 for the entire season. Another member saw a number of good bucks during early bow season, though. Hunting pressure has decreased.

I understand that it is not currently an option, but I think anyone who is given the opportunity should support the return of Earn-a-Buck. I believe that EAB is the only realistic tool that can be used to control populations. Antlerless seasons will never garner enough support to be successfully utilized.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>20</strong> I wish there was just one November deer hunt season like years ago, and shorter bow season. There are too many seasons, too many long seasons, and it just makes the regular November season less enjoyable. Plus I think it leads to seeing less deer although they are out there hunkered down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21</strong> The archery season should be extended regardless of a holiday hunt. The few hearty individuals who head out in January will not take too many deer. If you feel that doe need to be taken to maintain the population level, why wouldn't you allow this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22</strong> I keep track of deer population in the town of Dell prairie in south Adam's county by observation and talking to neighbors. Deer populations are staying average in this area. I suggest to keep a maintain of the deer quotas for this unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23</strong> The over abundance of the top predator wolf and coyote in my past years of hunting and observing, reviewing trail cameras for months at a time has multiplied and has had a drastic toll on the number of the deer herd population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong> I am in favor of a longer archery/crossbow season however I oppose a 19 day gun hunt. I also oppose shortening the crossbow season I dont believe its fair to limit the crossbow season and end it just before the November rut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25</strong> Open it back up to a normal unit. There are plenty of deer in Adams county. If we wouldn't hand out a 1000 free tags to everyone for ever county when they buy there tags we wouldn't have any problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>26</strong> Public deer herds are at ridiculous low levels-- and hunting pressure is at an all time high. The &quot;special hunts&quot; ps deer from &quot;public&quot; to &quot;private&quot; lands where they remain til the season is over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>27</strong> All I want to see is a state wide gun deer season for the entire month of November. I had to pick a unit to continue survey. Most years I cant get vacation to go in WI so I hunt out of state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28</strong> Never quite sure where you get your numbers as I always ask plenty of people about how many deer they saw and at least 3/4 of them saw very few deer ( I hunted 6 days and saw 3 deer ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29</strong> I would like to see the youth hunt extended in such case if a parent has shared custody of a child or children it may make it hard for them to get afield with only 2 days to do so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30</strong> Do not make a longer deer gun season End the holiday hunts Do not punish the crossbow hunting sector group Take a good look at wolf population. End handing out extra doe tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>31</strong> I hunt in the management zone formally known as 54C. The deer sightings and sign on the private property I hunt is very poor. I am in favor of no antlerless tags being issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>32</strong> Very concerned about the increase of wolf predation in Central Farmland Zone. Starting to see wolf pictures on trail cams and tracks. Concerned for my safety while bowhunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>33</strong> We feel going to one buck tag and one bonus doe tag is what we need to maintain/ rebuild in our area. We havent seen any damage to crops or yards within our community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>34</strong> Leave the darn seasons alone for archery hunting. we got the lengthy season because regular archery is harder than crossgun( yes crossbow-gun) and firearms. Thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>35</strong> I would like to see a “point minimum” for a season or two...in other words, no 6 point or under for example helping to “let them grow”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>36</strong> Leave the length and time of gun season the way it is! Get rid of the holiday hunt! Get the quota straight for once!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>37</strong> Charge Illinois hunters the same as we pay 400!!! We are destroying our deer head To many does shot last 10 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>38</strong> I would like to see deer numbers go up in this unit instead of staying low and the same as the last 9 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **39** let's get the population back to where we can get our children to see some deer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Poor weather contributed to low kill numbers for 2019 gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Please leave the crossbow season as is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Having too many crop damage permits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

604 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 156
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 150
   - I hunt in this unit: 571
   - General interest in this unit: 115

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 530
   - Bow: 334
   - Crossbow: 261
   - Muzzleloader: 183

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 20.95
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 298
   - Mostly Private Land: 104
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 57
   - Mostly Public Land: 38
   - Exclusively Public Land: 67
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 7

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 56
   - Not too crowded: 83
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 45
   - Somewhat crowded: 36
   - Very crowded: 37
   - Not applicable: 9

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 161
   - Fewer: 201
   - Same: 178
   - More: 41
   - Many More: 11
   - Unsure: 12

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public :</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...  
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT :  
Support|Oppose|Unsure
---|---|---
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...  
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:  
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...  
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:  
Support|Oppose|Unsure
---|---|---
VALID | NOT VALID | Unsure
58 | 507 | 39

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...  
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?  
Support|Oppose|Unsure
---|---|---
VALID | NOT VALID | Unsure
291 | 238 | 75

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for Adams, Central Forest

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
I would like to start off by saying I have lived in Adams County my entire life and would consider myself an avid outdoorsman with roughly 20 years of hunting experience. I just wanted to express my concern and disappointment with how we have managed our deer herd in this county, and quite frankly in this entire state. Numbers and graphs publicly displayed by the DNR would indicate that people are seeing as many or even more deer than in years past, which I thought was so strange. In the forest land zone in which I hunt I have yet to talk to a single person who was satisfied with the amount of deer, rather lack thereof, last deer season. The farmland zone wasn’t much better even though people claim there are way more deer south of highway 82 than all of north of highway 82 combined (not true at all). I have personally talked to government employees in this county who have tried to make excuses for why there were significantly fewer deer seen in this zone than in years past, and believe me, I’ve heard many off the wall theories. It’s obvious to me that certain people in power do not want to admit that our deer herd overall is declining. I ask people, why is it a bad thing to have more deer in our area? Some folks claim we will have more vehicle collisions if the herd grows, but there is no evidence of that happening in the past to support that claim even remotely, (at least in this county). The other concern I hear from people is the CWD effect as I call it. It is the one ace in the hole subject that our DNR has used as a tool since 2002 to essentially eradicate localized deer herds. I'm not even going to get into this subject, but I believe it is an overblown media frenzy. Just wait until bluetongue disease creeps up and takes hold in this area for a few years. CWD will be a laughable subject. Even voting online for the spring hearings showed me that it is so blatantly obvious that the DNR is massively biased favoring a significantly smaller deer population in this county and probably wouldn't even consider trying to increase the herd, even just for a year to see what happens. I also am a little skeptical on how many deer are being killed in our county over the course of a year. I know the DNR calculates deer mortality rates based on human and natural factors, but I've always wondered if they calculate for deer that have been shot and never recovered. I'm very confident that number would be high and very relevant. I also noticed that data would indicate that antlerless deer are having fewer fawns, especially in the forest zone. I observed this trend in virtually all areas I hunted and or scouted last year. It seemed strange to me considering we've had relatively "easy" winters the past few years, but nonetheless was concerning. I'm still not sure why our state decided to implement private vs public land tags either. I don't understand the significance of that decision, and I believe you should be allowed to hunt any area you have a tag for regardless of whether or not it is private or public. What is the difference? The other subject I wanted to talk about was the price of licensing for non-resident hunters, and fishermen for that matter. Anyone who cares about deer hunting, or nature, or the outdoors in general, knows that Wisconsin has very cheap licensing for non-residents as compared to other states. I can't tell you how many times I have heard the DNR say we can't do a certain project because the funding isn't there. That is such bologna! Other avid sportsmen that I have talked to in other states nearby believe what we do in Wisconsin as managers of our land, and especially our deer hunting is absurd, and I unfortunately have to agree with them. Please increase the price for non-residents to hunt and fish in our state. I realize that this takes upper tier legislature from the state, but it is something we should have done 25 years ago. I hunt and fish in many other states and provinces and understand that paying a little more money as a non-resident to experience different opportunities is well worth it. The final and probably most important thing that I need to say is our use of CDAC's. Many people realize deer populations are very spotty and spatially congregated, which is why we now have CDAC's I would assume, to combat and "better" manage for smaller areas. I listened in on the last board meeting and was disappointed in the system as a whole. Granted it is difficult to communicate over the phone between a handful of people, and I understand that. The problem is that these people on our CDAC boards have no business making the decisions that they are making. I personally know almost every member on the Adams county CDAC board and they are all good people! Don't get me wrong on that fact, that being said, there is no way a single person on that board knows enough about wildlife ecology or population dynamics to make an educated decision as far as quotas. I know the DNR helps them out and everybody is doing the best they can, but I don't foresee this system working in the long run. I believe we need an overhaul in this entire state when it comes to deer hunting and how we manage it. If I had a good answer I would gladly explain how we could make it better. The reality is that it is much more complicated than any of us even realize, and I know everyone involved is trying
their best. This letter wasn't meant to offend any affiliation or singular person and I apologize if I have. In the end I am just a passionate outdoorsman who wants to see sustainable deer populations for future generations. I believe we are walking a slippery slope as managers and just want to see the right decisions being made in our county and state. Thank you for your time.

Adams county: One thing that is never talked about, is average parcel ownership size, and hunters per parcel. If a square mile has 640 acres, but the average parcel is 20 acres, or 40 acres, and each 20 has 3 hunters, and each 40 has 6 hunters, and each hunter buys a bonus tag. That could allow 96 does, to be shot per square mile. This has gone on for years!!!!!! Adams county has lots of small parcel ownership. How can you have a deer psm goal of 36 deer, but allow 96 does to be shot per sq mile each year??? This is a sever problem. I used to see 32 deer on opening weekend, now I see 4..maybe!!! This is horrible, for the enthusiasm of our youth, and out ability for hunters to maintain enthusiasm in the sport.

2nd point. Population kill data. Every year, we see and hear the reports, we are only down 10% in kill. However that doesn't talk about comparison to a 10 year peak. During the 10 year peak we killed 400,000+ at our peak. Last year we killed less than 160,000 during rifle season. That means deer sightings were 60% less....we only see 40% of the amount of deer. Deer kills were 60% less........ we were 40% less successful. What if deer license purchases became 50% less?????? What would that income loss be?? It is time for us to consider parcel size, and reduce the kill substantially, in order for our hunter interest, and hunter youth interest, to maintain or increase. We have to allow populations to increase, in order to maintain hunter enthusiasm. Where public land had 30 cars parked there all week, we now have 1 or 2. Why...if you look at population count, and a kill count, since 1980, we are no where near out peak. Why keep hunting???

It would be nice to see the use of crossbows strictly for someone who has a disability permit or youth hunter getting into the sport. As I strictly hunt public land it would be nice for hunters to have more access to private land where most of the deer are seen as it seems. I think not having the additional waterless hunts and extra tags would give a year or two for the population to come back. I know someone on private land would disagree as on private land deer are abundant. The deer on public land are few to begin with and one you spook them they run right for the private land. Opening morning of gun deer we put our stands basically trying to cut the deer off before they run to the private. I just wish it was easier to see deer on public. Now having kids of my own a 6 and 9 year old who show interest in the sport I worry they will lose interest after not seeing deer. It's not unlikely to go 4-5 days without seeing a deer. That's with walking, sitting trying every tactic available. I dont like hunting in big parties for the safety factor so pushing deer is not an option. I know there are private land open to the public and may have to explore more options on that for my kids so any information would be helpful. I miss the days of registering deer and back tags too. My first time giving feedback so I hope I don't sound like I'm ranting or complaining. Giving my opinion and that is all. Thank you.

I think the crossbow season should stay the same as it has. I like the ability to hunt through the bow season and through the gun season with the same weapon. I doubt I'll hunt if this changes because the cross bow season will be shortened and I most likely would miss the prime rut. I'm opposed to an extended gun season if it negatively impacts the crossbow season. It seems there is a school of thought that continued manipulation of the different deer hunting seasons will generate more revenue in selling multiple licenses. For me personally I may not hunt if I feel this manipulation is going to negatively impact crossbow hunting. I hunt private land that is in an area that is archery only because of the deplorable condition the public hunting land has become with disrespectful out of town hunters that follow locals to find deer and shoot anything that moves. I quit going out to public lands for some time now because they shoot their AR-15s and scare everything away as soon as it gets light out. I used to like the gun hunt and then it became way too dangerous. Generating revenue has taken priority over quality hunting for Wisconsin residents in my opinion. I would like to see 0 out of state licenses for a number of years. Especially now that folks are hurting due to Covid-19. Keep those out of town guys out of it and let local folks harvest food for their families. That's my 2 cents.
Started hunting deer at the age of 13 in and on public land in Adams county in 1973. Have seen a lot of changes over the years and generally have felt my opinion didn't amount to the value of the paper a license is printed on today. For the past couple decades, because of desire and hard work I own and hunt on private land. And because of my job I get all over the county on a daily basis. I see racoon, possum, skunk, badger, beaver, mink, fox, coyote, bobcat, cougar, bear, Fisher, wolves and most predominantly whitetail. In the 70s the deer population was way different than today, although in my opinion is climbing to that level again today due to plenty of browse and food and mainly, to the decline in overall hunter participation. My opinion on the hunter participation is due to mismanagement of the CWD and the baiting ban over the course of all these years. Not being able to legally bait is slowly taking the heart out of the sport. Sure many still bait but everytime a violator gets caught it effects many and the fear of getting caught is more real and more hunters drop out of the sport. Today, I recognize that the deer population is about to explode. In all the years in my memory I have never seen the amount of white tail in the area as there is since last season. Please consider what the sportsman care about and what we are in fact seeing. Thanks.

Personally I feel you keep making to many changes to the hunting regulations all the time. The public land vs private land is a joke. 1-Public lands are for the tax payers to enjoy outdoor activities to limit one ability to enjoy those land is just wrong. 2-To sell more tags for private land then public is unfair the wild animals are everyone's not just the guy who has land in the area. 3- sometime hunting spots are a bust ie wind direction, other people in the area, closed due to logging or flooding what ever it might be. It is unfair to say well you spent all that money for a trip. your spot is a bust and now you cant move because your tag is not only good for a type of deer it now has a type of land in a zone. Really now you want to limit the type of bow i use on top of it? You had a boost in hunters because of xbows now your going to tic them off by limiting their season. And most of us guys using xbows use them in the late season when its to cold and you are wearing so many layers to keep warm. Trying to use a bow results in bad shots injured game. Who is the winner it that situation? Are are deer numbers not high? Are new hunter numbers not low? Are less deer being harvested? I have so many pics of half starved deer in Roam WI it is truly sad. So you think more rules will help this?

I have hunted this area since I was twelve years old and have seen some ups and downs in population of deer but I feel a combination of predators such as wolves and coyotes and poaching have taken a huge tole on the total population. The pine plantations have grown significantly as well reducing cover and food sources and significant acreage has been put up for sale to the public reducing the area for public hunting. I have seen more private land hunting and a significant reduction in public land and public land hunters. I think personally most hunters just don't know where to hunt anymore and have given hunting up because like myself I can't afford $3000 or more per acre for recreational land. I was hoping this area would get purchased by the State or Federal funds but instead Governor Walker talked about selling what we have and putting MFL back into the hands of the owners to post against open hunting. My father used to say that some day hunting would only be for the wealthy and I think it has come to that point but the predators and poaching have devastated the small areas of public hunting land still available. Another thing that concerns me is the registration of deer on a honor system. I think a lot of deer are being shot in some areas and registered in another or not registered at all.
I hunted over 40 days last year in Adams County and the same or more in 2016, 2017 and 2018. I have continued to see larger and larger numbers of Antlerless Deer in the Central Forest unit, particularly within a few miles of Adams Friendship. Our property is roughly 2 miles from Castle Rock Lake and just north of Hwy J. Based on personal observation our numbers are too high, particularly antlerless deer numbers. Our ratio is skewed heavily toward antlerless as well. We've seen increased browse on all understory and many areas now look almost park like. Our hunting party and neighbors make up 320 acres and were able to take 9 antlerless this past year and roughly the same amount the previous two years. Yet the population continues to grow. In late bow season it was not uncommon to observe 15-25 does in an afternoon sit. The major concern is we have had confirmed cases of CWD only a few miles North of our property. We test all deer harvested in order to monitor the spread but the one tool that we have to delay the spread is population control. More needs to be done to lower the population and lessen the chances of CWD spreading to our area. Options such as no-cost landowner antlerless tags and more antlerless gun season opportunities should be considered.

Knock off ALL the special does seasons. The past 4 years, shots on opening day of gun deer are under 30 all day. Yet you still give out a ton of doe tags. Sundays shots are under 10. No shooting means no deer. But you still give out bonus doe tags. Our cabin borders public land and private land. We have hunters in the woods, sitting, moving so its NOT because of lack of hunters. I do take offense to the DNRs solution to why the harvest numbers are low. It rained, it snowed, to warm, to cold, the hunters didnt spend enough time in the woods, the hunters were in the bars instead os the woods,( great for the public to hear ), how about just admitting, the deer population is down. Since your earn a buck it hasnt been the same. Talking to alot of hunters, WE DONT SEE DEER is what i hear. Look at your license sales going down. In the business world, thats not good. A couple suggestions, again, STOP all the special doe only seasons, you need the does to repopulate, stop extra doe tags with your license. No good if i see a few deer during bow, gun and blackpowder season. You want to build up bucks, 6 point minimum. And final thought, KEEP THE 9 DAY SEASON. Its been there for YEARS. When your sales plummet, go back to basics. All i ask is listen to the hunters, we ARE in the woods.

The current proposals for the neww 2020 season are insane and will do nothing to further hunting in the state of wisconsin. The youth now a days arent interested in killing and cleaning animals to eat . The number of broken families fueled by tge xbox baby sitters and lazy dads has taken away from the youths desire or ability to enjoy hunting. By adding season length and taking away a weapon only hurts the deer . Thse who want to hunt will make tg he time. Those selfish politicialy creed motivated individuals looking for more rules in an already complicated need a lawyer to interpret the rules book time we have already should be ashamed. Give the deer a chance to live and breed. The more pressure the more nocturnal the more problems we create as human beings. Im 60 years old have enjoyed all my hunting years. Some very good all successful because i was able to hunt them all. Leave it alone or better yet take a step back. Give the deer a week off between first bow and gun. Lets get back to the old tradions. Plaid orange and red coats

Have hunted this unit for many years. Deer sightings, let alone shooting opportunities, are way down from previous years. First noted this trend about 5 to 7 years ago and has gotten worse since. Was not uncommon years ago to see 8 to 14 deer per sit in archery tree stand. Now can go for days with zero sightings. Have harvested a deer every year in archery season up to 2 years ago. None harvested in last 2 years and total sightings way down. Contributing factor may be legalizing crossbow hunting during entire conventional archery season. Properties of crossbow are much more in line with a rifle than vertical bow. Like a rifle, crossbow can be shot from a rest, can utilize a scope, is a shoulder held weapon, requires no movement to fire except moving a trigger finger and is ready to fire with no additional movement as is required to draw a vertical bow before firing. Efficient range of crossbow much longer than vertical bow. Crossbow should be limited to disabled or youth and crossbow season should not run entire archery season.
I am a property owner and have hunted this area for 40 years. In the past 10 years the number of predators has increased quite a bit. We have seen two different litters of wolf pups since they started breeding in our area. Our neighbor told us that the wolves den on his property. I believe him because when we saw the first litter, about 4 years ago, the pups looked to be about 4 mo. old. I have numerous photo/video of the family on our clear-cut ridge day and night for about a two week period in July...about 6 pups in that litter. Last year we caught on camera three different fawns being hauled back to the neighboring property before the pups were old enough to hunt. They also killed a Sandhill Crane. Later we only observed one fawn on our property during hunting season. We don’t feel we can shoot any does as the population is being thinned out by the wolves. We also see Bobcat, Bear and Fisher. I don’t know if they affect the deer population as much as wolf, but I think if they had opportunity and were hungry they would.

The habit and area included in Central Forest is way to big and varied, specifically concerned about Adams county being split with part in Central Forest and part in Central Farmland. I own land and hunt very near Heartland Farm headquarters - that area has an abundance of farm land and yet it is considered Central "Forest". Kind of ironic that there is such a high number of Ag tags issued, which by definition Ag is farming so why is this Forest?? Makes absolutely no sense that no "extra" tags are included in purchase of license in Adams - Central Forest yet if I go a mile north or east it is designated as "farmland" and one gets 1-2 extra tags w/ licence purchase (yet one can still purchase extra tags suggesting it may be more about generating revenue than managing herd). I am pretty sure that the deer don’t stay on one side of the arbitrary boundary so really begs the credibility of zone designations. If serious about management of the herd, go back to smaller units like we had before.

One of the large public lands open to hunting is now being used to pasture cattle and that is a terrible way to promote hunting in the area! Our family and hunting group has hunted this property for over 30 years including years before the dnr purchased this land and have always saw and harvested deer from it. During the 2019 season not one single deer was spotted or harvested during the 9 day rifle season due to cattle being pastured and to the dnr digging 2 ponds and destroying numerous trees on this otherwise grass land. Every little patch of trees on this property were ripped out and buried around the ponds that were dug! It's sad that this land is being destroyed and that a large chunk of public land is now useless! All of the deer that used to use it are now pushed to private land! Sad dnr very sad! I am referring to the public grass land on the corner or county hwy D and county hwy W near the Adam’s waushara county line.

As many people agree, its past due to stop participating in the Ag. Damage program. Year after year its the same few individuals that participate relying on payments to survive instead of practicing good farming practices like most others do. Now that there is no requirement to physically register deer harvested like used to exist, I personally know of one farmer who registers deer electronically through others, that are not harvested so that he can stay in the program year after year. This coupled with the fact that he leaves his crops stand throughout the winter should indicate that he really is not concerned about alleged damage. Majority of corn was finally harvested on April 1, this Spring with a majority balance of soybeans a week later! Does this sound like someone who is concerned about crop loss to wildlife? When complaints are registered, they seem to fall on deaf ears. Time for local CDAC to get involved here!

I feel the deer hunting use to be a lot better in the Quincy Bluff area. But now the four wheelers are carting people back 3 or 4 people on a four-wheeler and then walking in from there quarter to a half mile... I feel if they can walk in that far after they drive their four-wheelers back they do not need to drive in there.. I walk in a mile and a half to watch a four-wheeler driving through the woods when it is just starting to get light out it is ridiculous! I have talked to DNR wordans and they say to get the number of the 4-wheeler and get it to them!! I do not go in the woods to hunt to walk around and look for four wheelers so I can turn them in... I feel that we need to start raising the out-of-state licenses I just applied for Kansas this year myself and it was over $500 to go over there I think we need to start doing that same thing for our state! Public land is getting over run by out-of-state people!
I purchased my land in 1996. Back then there were hunters choice permits and not all that applied received them. I would see many more deer both hunting and recreating. Deer numbers have never been as high as say southern farmland in my area (old 53) but these days it's not uncommon to not see a deer for days while hunting. My neighbors across the street own 70 acres and last rifle season did not see a deer! Quite common on my block. We were fortunate to harvest two antlerless but that was the best hunting I have seen in 5 years. By the way the only deer seen during rifle. I believe my area of Adams never rebounded from the bonus tag days of the early 2000's. I voted that your numbers are probably right as far as quota for 2020 but would love to go back to hunters choice to put deer back in the woods. Even back in the 90's where I say hunting was much better it still really wasn't that good.

Hi, thank you for making such an effort to gather public opinion. I spend two or three weekends a month from April through December in Adams county North of Hyw 21 to HYW D. I have talked with quite a few land owners in this area. All have noticed some of the lowest number of deer seen in the last 30 years. My memory of this area, formerly listed as management zone 53, is it used to have very few antlerless permits. Recently flooding, from increased precipitation and influenced by more beaver and land development, along with terrible winters and more predation makes me wonder why so many permits are being issued. Also, it seems like a gun season lasts from November until January. I'm not sure if this impacts the deer population much, but it is exhausting being a land owner with guns blaring every day for months. When you add early duck season and coyote season in it get long.

Based on deer herd quantity/quality and the number of deer seen throughout the year vs during hunting season, overall the herd sizes have significantly decreased in the last few years. The predator sightings have significantly increased with more wolf sighting occurrences. The number of unregistered deer is also a large concern. Based on this information, its our recommendation that the DNR seriously considers opening up a wolf season, go back to earn-a-buck along with making a set limited quantity of bonus antlerless tags available. As well as going back to requiring back tags and having registration stations. We feel this would help prevent the number of unregistered deer for more accurate numbers, would help keep the predator numbers in check and would help with a more accurate deer herd for the 'maintain' numbers/quantity for future.

The increase of WOLF'S in the area. Also the deer survey from the public if I drive down a road and see 5 deer in a field and report them and 6 more cars do the same thing then there's 30 deer reported in this field instead of 5. The past 4 years the deer I've seen has decreased alot in 2005 when I started hunting here I would see 10 plus deer a day when 2012 season started the decline started in 2017 I believe I harvested 2 deer the only deer I saw 2018 I saw a total of 3 deer 2019 I saw a total of 5 deer the anterless hunt needs to END keep the regular seasons with buck and doe harvest. I hunt the Adams central forest zone I absolutely love to deer hunt but the past 2 years and this coming season my motivation to bow/gun hunt has declined so bad from the lack of deer I'm not sure I even want to hunt this year.

We're losing a lot of good public land to hunt. Heavy pine or marsh lands not very huntable. Why so many antlerless tags for private land over public. And now you want to give archery more time. Isn't 4 months enough. Put doe only on the archers and give gun hunters a better chance at bucks. I think archery should be shortened not extended. Why so much time especially when the get the rut season. 2 years of gun hunting all week and I've seen 6 deer total. I don't know where these metrics on deer are coming from. Try hunting on public land. Take care of us public land hunters and not the private. We're losing a lot of land by sales or clear cutting. Give public hunting a break. If you want doe numbers down than have archery harvest doe first to receive buck tag and watch the doe quota grow. Garantuee it.
A significant increase in wolf sightings on our property began in Jan. 2019. I am retired and have time/passion for observing nature and hunting. I have reported a few wolf sightings with pictures and rec’d confirmation. I continue to record "game camera" images of wolves about once per month since the fall of 2019. Cameras were placed on a fresh wolf kill (deer) resulting in 400+ pics of wolves. Multiple Wolves continued to visit the bone pile into May 2019. We noticed a reduction in fawns last year and by hunting season we saw zero fawns. I use as many as 10 game cameras taking thousands of pictures per year. I purchased and did not use my doe tags this past year. No doe's will be shot this year. Mature Does and Bucks are still common but I fear this could change due to predation.

Although deer number are "ok", we still don't have the numbers of deer to keep people interested, especially younger kids. If we want to get the young people interested in hunting again, we need to have enough deer so that they at least see some deer. It used to be a regular opening weekend I would see 20 or more deer......the the last 2 years I saw 2 deer total one year, and zero deer last year. These were all day sits, and I hunted at least 5 days each year. I walk through my woods and hardly see any deer browse whatsoever, so the land can definitely hold more deer. Although I do believe in the youth hunts, and really don't want to take that away, we need to stop all the other special hunts we have. We certainly don't need an antlerless hunt after the gun hunt. Thanks!!

deer numbers have not rebounded liked i thought they would even though the antlerless tags have been lower. for young hunters who do not have access to private land and must hunt the public central forest land soon learn that deer hunting based on the number of deer seen, is boring, we need to bring deer numbers back or even close to numbers in the mid 90's. the higher the numbers get in the private will eventually will filter out to the public land and this is where you will capture the next generation of hunters. the media filled youth of today with grand dreams like they see on the outdoor channel are soon shattered by the reality of minimal of deer sightings. even though reality isn't what they see on on tv lets give them something to keep them in the sport

For all units we need to go back to the hunters choice program where it still only allows one deer per license for crossbow and gun. If hunters want a choice, they spend $5 on an application and a lottery picks who gets one. Go back to either sex for now bow season per license. Stop separating public and private. Re-establish the 10 year old minimum for the mentor ship program. Thwart the federal government and start a wolf season. Keep the traditional 9 day gun deer season. Keep the youth hunt weekend. End the early gun season and end the holiday gun hunt. Run the bow and crossbow season from October 1st to January 31st.

I own 80 acres and have for years. I do not understand why I'm required to pay to reduce the herd or get it back in check. I pay my taxes not reduced per MFL. I look to waushara, (3 miles away) and there in farmland, Marquette as well. These areas as well as a lot of the others bordering central forest all receive additional permits with there license. ? Deer are tourist and go to those areas instead of central forest? Landowners should be given antlerless tags and not required to buy. They should be transferable but specific to that land. If I plant trees the deer eat them. I have to now fence in order to protect them or anything I plant. How would you like to own 80 acres of green plastic fencing? The system needs an overhaul.

I believe the number of deer is good in the area of Richfield that I have hunted for 40 years based on my group's hunting observations and trail cam activity. The last few years have been bad hunting mainly because of the amount of water in the area and the impact that the wolves have in terms of modifying deer behavior...not to mention the depredation effect itself. I think the disparity of hunting experiences (from seeing lots of deer consistently to seeing no deer for a whole season) expressed by the CDAC members and even within the members of the Richfield QDM cooperative of which I am a part is mainly driven by habitat differences. Those with good, diverse habitat seem to have a much better hunting experience.
I would like to see a holiday hunt for both zones in Adams county. The early seasons such as the youth hunt do cause the deer to adopt a more nocturnal pattern decreasing opportunities during later hunts, a holiday hunt would give hunters additional time to harvest a deer, some of us hunt for the meat and are not too concerned with targeting bucks, if we do get one it is nice but we are not focused on this goal. With the present economic uncertainty due to the COVID 19 issue many of us would welcome the extra chance to feed our families. In addition, our weather is usually not too conducive to hunting during the holiday hunt so I feel it would have minimal impact on the over all kill rate for the county.

Myself and my son hunted on private land for 5 of the 9 days and did not see a deer...my brother was hunting for 2 day without seeing a deer...this is hunting all day...open to close..if u want people to continue hunting we need to see deer...a young hunter would be very frustrated..my nephew has stopped hunting because of the lack of seeing deer..I am just telling u like it is...even the neighbors who live there see very few deer..Big flats area is where I hunt..thanks for allowing me to have imput..i went to a meeting years ago and was not impressed...the questioner was not just about deer hunting..i dont fish or anything else so i did not answer those questions but I'm sure some people would...

the deer numbers that I saw during both bow and gun seasons in 2018 were discouraging so I had high hopes for 2019! 2019 comes and that proved to be worst then 2018. 2 does and 1 spiker observed during my 10 day bow hunt during the “rut” and 0 observed during the gun season. Also not buying the late start of the gun season as a reason for not seeing deer. The numbers just aren’t there! I’m at the point in my life where I appreciate just seeing deer! I know what I’ve said does not matter but sooner then later you have to start listening to the average hunter! My nephew has already given up because of not seeing deer. Has no interest in getting his two daughters involved which is a shame!

This old timer has been hunting deer in this great state for over 50 plus years this thing with shooting all these does is crazy with the inceccssin wolfs bear and coyotes slot more deer are being taken down by these animals and along with all the road kills the numbers a way down I say stop shoot I g does for a couple of years let those does in the end alot more happy hunters we do not need all these special hunts no youth hunts no doe only hunts no holiday hunts go back to the way we hunted back when a hunter would see 20 plus deer a day and harvest a nice buck yo take home thank you

I own 30 acres that i live on and hunt on when we first bought the property 4 years ago we saw deer daily. It has gotten to be less and less we see deer. I saw 2 the other day out the window and was surprised that is a rare site anymore. The coyote and wolf population has grown to be a problem we here them 4 or 5 nights a week and see whats left of the carcasses they devour. I enjoy deer hunting and have chosen not to take a deer last year in hopes next year i would have a chance to shoot a 3 year old deer most of what i saw was very young deer. 4 years ago i had on several older bucks last year not one. I do not think the population needs to be decreased.

Coyotes and wolves have completely decimated the deer herd. When we started hunting here decades ago, i would see 70+ deer on opening day of the rifle season and typically harvest 1-2 antlered deer in a season. For the past 3-4 seasons, we are lucky to see a single deer over the opening weekend. When we walk the property, we find wolf sign more frequently than any deer sign. My father is so disgusted that he will not hunt anymore since the chance of actually seeing a deer is highly diminished. Really disappointed. Find a way to get the wolf population under control. Predators are wiping out the deer herd and not sure that it will ever fully recover.

I believe that there should be a buck only hunting season or a party doe tag for this unit. I have gone several years without even seeing a deer. Losing interest in the investment of time and energy to hunt. It’s very difficult to encourage young hunters to hunt when year after year they see nothing. It’s discouraging and difficult to convince them that there are better days ahead when I myself am not seeing them in sight. I believe youth doe tags should be honored but no doe tags available to hunters over 18. If you want to keep hunters and hunters spending millions on equipment lodging and food then there needs to be deer to bring them out.
I would like to see a September 1 opening day for archery to have a greater chance for hunters to get a velvet buck. Also allowing crossbow and compound and not favoring one over the other is the best way to promote more hunters and help the economy is important to me and hunting because my daughter isn't strong enough to use a bow and it's harder today to get kids excited about hunting and crossbows add a different appeal to young people. I also think all doe tags should cost money why not generate extra income to help the DNR in its duty to ensure the best experience for all of us to enjoy our great resources in WI.

During the course of the past 20 years, I've observed a steady decline in deer numbers. I have some acreage and a trailer back in a woods and we used to see deer almost daily and would harvest at least one deer in our group. Now I'm lucky if I see four or five from about mid April until the end of November. I believe part of the problem is also due to the loss of woods around there to fields for crops. I haven't seen a deer during the deer season in probably seven or eight years. It won't be long before I stop throwing my money away on deer hunting, and I've been deer hunting every year for almost fifty years.

I hunt on the southern border of the Colburn Marsh. Every year the deer population gets less and less. However we see wolves on our trail cameras and when we are sitting on stands. It appears from what we see, the deer population is decreasing and the wolf population is increasing. Before the wolves hunting was great. Now it pretty much stinks. I can go 2 or 3 days without seeing a deer. There is a serious wolf problem in that area. We need to have a wolf season. I think if something is not done about the wolves, people will take care of it themselves. It would be nice to see deer like we use to.

Hello in 2017 while crossbow hunting I seen fair amount buck to doe racial while gun hunting private and public was very low numbers in 2018 crossbow only seen 0 bucks and a few does while gun hunting I seen 1 buck only and I harvested 2019 I seen a couple does first couple weeks of crossbow after that the wolves were killing deer 300 yds from where I hunt never see a deer the rest of crossbow none during gun season none during black powder none during doe only season deer hunting by the colburn swamp is very poor and thinking about giving up deer hunting and many my friends thinking the same.

Factors like poaching, shooting and killing without tagging, need to be at a plus or minus of at least 10% and your mapping zones do not mean people actually use them. I think you need to account for the cheating that goes on and the impact of predators as not really mentioned. I have purposefully not harvested antlerless deer due to lack of numbers for at least 3 years I do not agree with the dnr quotas and extra tag sales. Also our public land and huntable land is shrinking due to woodland clearing for irrigation fields and public land being sold to private has really shrunk around Adams Co.

I don't believe deer drives should be permitted on public land. It's no fun putting in the effort to find a good buck bed and plan a setup just to have a bunch of people come stomping through the brush and yelling. Deer drives ruined my hunt several times last year and they ran all the deer over on private land. I'm considering not even gun hunting this year. Is ridiculous paying for a license just to have my hunt and the land ruined by deer drives. Nobody does it on private land cause they know it ruins the rest of the season. Why it's allowed on public land is aggravating.

Please address the fact that the Central Forest of Adams County has an abundant population of wolves. On my property located just SE of Adams-Friendship I observed 2 wolf predations this last Winter. Nearly every square yard of my 80 acres had wolf tracks on it. I firmly believe that the estimated number of wolves in this unit and others is way lower than actual populations. I'm not against wolves in Wisconsin, I just believe that the DNR needs to address their presence as a huge factor in population growth, especially in Central Forest of Adams County.
I think elimination of deer carcass tags and relying on phone/online registration contributes heavily to unreported deer harvests. Too easy for unscrupulous hunters to harvest a deer and continue to hunt and harvest additional deer. Since deer harvest numbers are heavily used by DNR to establish deer hunting regs and season structure, using current system of self registration is too unreliable. I feel DNR is operating on faulty harvest numbers and has no way to factor into those numbers unreported harvested deer. At best it’s a guessing game.

I have a major concern with the increased wolf population. One of our young bow hunters witnessed two wolves take down a doe and tear her apart. The local police have acknowledged there is a growing wolf population and several DNR people have acknowledged the area now has a new, growing pack. Between the growing wolf population and Adams county water problems that they and the DNR will not address, our hunting area on private land has decreased significantly. We are losing both the value of our land, along with the hunting area.

The wolf population in this area has taken its toll on the deer numbers in this unit. The state should have a wolf season to reduce the numbers so the deer population can increase again. Wolves are killing so many deer and fawns here, that you barely see any deer. When Wisconsin had the party tag system, only one doe tag was awarded to a party of 4 hunters. I used to see over 20 deer in one day of the opening day of gun season. Now your lucky if you see 3 and you don’t hear many shots either, so others in our area aren’t seeing deer either.

Certainly feel the deer herd is down with both quantity and quality the last number of years during hunting season, predator sightings have increased with more wolf as well. As well as the large number of unregistered deer is a huge concern. Should go back to earn a buck as well a set amount of antlerless tags. As well as going back to having back tags and registering them at a station would make counts way more honest and accurate. We all love our forests and would like to keep a more accurate herd management out there.

During the last few years of hunting I have seen my hunting land plummet in the amount of deer I see throughout the year. I use trail cameras and last year in a 2 week period I seen 1 doe, 2 fawns, and 2 bucks. I think the hunting lands are being destroyed with tourism and it is ruining the hunting for hunters in this area. I know many hunters are facing the same problem and many will not be participating in the 2020 gun deer season. All because we think the changing of seeing a deer worth shooting is slim to none.

While I understand deer do agricultural damage, I do not feel farmers should be able to fill "ag damage permits" year round. From January through July/August, close the season. There is no reason to continue shooting deer after archery season closes. There are no crops even on the fields until May, and at this point, there is no good reason to shoot pregnant does or does with fawns that are only days/week old. This just gives anti-hunters more ammunition and gives true outdoorsmen a bad image.

My son (12 yr old hunting for the 1st time) and I saw so many hunters on Public Land - and only 3 deer. Your numbers back this up, with only ~250 antlerless deer taken. As I have noted, I've been hunting in Adams Cty (forest land) for over 30 years and ever since the mid-2000's (~2005ish), the deer population has unfortunately plummeted. I would like to see quotas continue to drop until populations are able to come back up. Also, I am STRONGLY AGAINST changing the 10-day gun-deer season.

Last year was our worst year of seeing deer since we started hunting in this area 30 years ago. No one saw any deer and one of our group is from out of state and will not come back. There are deer in the area from the sign, but there is so much pressure in the area that the deer stay in safe areas and do not come out in the daylight. Last year was a strange year and we heard many hunters were unsuccessful. I hung a camera for one week and saw over 40 deer. all were after 8pm and before 5am.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a significant concern to the stability, health, and long term viability of the local deer population. As this disease continues to expand across the state and this deer management unit, it is clear that science - not politics, needs to be the driving factor influencing deer management decisions. Public education about the severity of this disease is greatly lacking and is fracturing the WDNR's professional influence with the hunting community on this issue.
Chronic Wasting Disease is a significant concern to the stability, health, and long term viability of the local deer population. As this disease continues to expand across the state and this deer management unit, it is clear that science - not politics, needs to be the driving factor influencing deer management decisions. Public education about the severity of this disease is greatly lacking and is fracturing the WDNR's professional influence with the hunting community on this issue.

I strongly object to extending rifle season and restricting crossbow season. I personally hunted at least 3 days a week during the early season before rifle opener. If these new regulations are enacted I will not buy a rifle license for Wisconsin and my not crossbow hunt, that is still up in the air. Ir you teach people to be patient and not shoot the first 50 pound fawn they see the quality of their hunt will go up. We need to change the ethics of the hunter, not the hunt.

I have 40 acres and found remains and carcasses of 3 deer this Spring. Rabbit and turkey sightings are lower than normal as well. Coyote and bobcat trail cam sightings are up, but not drastically. Ag plantings in 2019 were not as diverse as previous years. Many farmers all had corn this past year and the corn crop was below normal. Also, two wet spots on our land were virtually dry most of the year. I’m guessing most of these factors weighed in for a poor presence of deer.

I own 80 acres in Northern Adams County. In the past 10 years I have seen the deer population on my property steadily go down. Deer sightings all year long have steadily decreased. I have talked to my neighbors and they have also seen the same thing. During the 2019 gun season my grandson and I sat all day for the first 3 days and never saw a deer. I’m not too sure I can get him to go deer hunting this year. In my opinion your numbers are way off in the Central Forest of Adams.

There should be some way for private land owners to be prioritized on getting bonus tags for their land area. The bonus tags seem to be sold out every year in my area, even when getting licenses months in advance. This has been the case for many years now, and it gets very frustrating, for those of us helping with deer and forest crop management, to always be turned down for a bonus tag for our own land area. This never seemed to be a problem when I first started hunting.

I own 100 acres in this DMU. I feel deer numbers are adequate and both buck and does are healthy and stable. Why is it that I buy a Conservation Patrons license and yet I must still buy a “bogus” I mean “bonus” antlerless permit to harvest a doe? Is there anything that can be done to change this situation? I feel it’s very unfair requiring hunters to purchase extra tags in this unit. Thank you for your time and efforts to make Wisconsin deer hunting enjoyable.

The primary problem with deer management in this unit is the Wolf overpopulation we have hundreds of pictures of wolves on our property in 2019 alone if the predation problem is continued to be ignored all of the rest of the survey that you give is immaterial. Every time I go to my property to do work I find in another carcass of a deer ripped apart by wolves on my property wolves are killing more dear than hunters by far please stop ignoring the real problem.

I feel that more antlerless tags should be available for public. The parcel of land south of hwy 86 is not enough for the tags issued. There is plenty of land in central forest to harvest doe. From the sightings I have seen. Being that I can cross the street to Marquette cty and harvest a doe. It makes more sense to spread out the hunters. I believe it would evenly distribute harvest numbers. This is condensing Hunter traffic and is not good for game hunting.

The unit boundaries need to be modified. To include southern portions with mainly private land into the Central Forest is not representative of the deer and hunting population. I can go three miles south and get free antlerless tags and see as many antlerless deer in that three miles than in the Farmland Zone. The Farmland Zone northern boundary needs to extend past State Road 82, possibly to County Road E or at least some point between County Road A and E.
I own 270 acres and as I increase the number of food plots on my land I would think that I would increase the number of does on my land. It’s work in progress but I’m just not happy with the amount of does in my area. It’s hard to take kids hunting when they just don’t see a reasonable amount of deer to keep them interested. Who wants to hunt bow season and only see a hand full of deer. I do have wolves and I realize they harvest a lot of deer.

Deer hunting rule Enforcement is missing in our area. So many are baiting as well as taking more than what’s tagged. You only have to be an ear in a bar to know that. Or watch when the Illinois hunters come up and stock up on hundreds of pounds of corn. Places are even allowed to have a wagonload of DEER APPLES outside the front of their store. They were even labeled that way. This is wrong on every level.

The numbers in this unit have steadily declined over the past five years as predation goes unchecked because of politics. This unit used to be excellent hunting now I’m hunting alone on thousands of acres because everybody has moved on to areas with deer or given up hunting all together, we need to save this sport it’s dying a slow death and it will have long reaching effects on our economy and wildlife as a whole Thank you for your time

Stop the wolves! Had one come through my property about 9am opening morning and the deer sightings were VERY scarce after that. Made it seem like the 3 (wife, Son, and myself) of us hunting my property were basically wasting our time. Hunted Sat-Tues then back Fri-Sun spent many hours out in nature but not seeing deer made it very disappointing. If it continues I don’t think we will waste our time (or money) sitting in the cold for nothing.

The deer population has not recovered from the heavy harvests in the previous years. It is unfortunate to hunt in both private and public areas and not see the amount of deer available to harvest. This leads to less people supporting the community economically. The state needs to continue maintaining a healthy herd in all zones. CWD will infect the weak population and the strong will produce a healthy herd in the future.

I personally am not seeing the projected deer herd that you are seeing. I think the trends in the central forestland are going down because there are not as many deer out there vs what we are projecting. I believe to stay in a "maintain" objective we need to have similar permits and harvest numbers as last year. I would argue that we may need even less of a harvest considering the numbers are trending downward.

The 2019 season was truly disappointing during the gun season. Weather was certainly a factor but there still seems to be much fewer deer around than several years ago. The past winter was mild so I would hope deer numbers increase as hunter numbers have each year across the state. Realistically, more opportunities for hunters to see and harvest deer impacts hunger numbers fat more than people realize.

I would like to see less antlerless harvest tags given out. I spend a lot of time hunting and scouting public land properties all over Adams county central forest. Many days I walk 7-8 miles through the woods. Because of the amount of deer I jump while walking and the amount of deer I see while on stand, I do not believe we need to lower our deer herd. I believe we still need to see our deer herd grow.

Hunters in areas with to many deer should start harvesting them, and areas that need to increase the herd should resist. This problem can’t be solved by only C.D.A.C. We as Hunters, Farmers, Land owners, ect need to take responsibility for the future of deer numbers in our areas. No need to point blame, lets get this done so that our kids and this tradition can continue for years to come. Thanks

Just cancel deer hunting in areas for a year if need be to get the numbers up, I am sick of wasting my money every year trying to hunt on public land with no deer. No wonder deer hunting is becoming less popular, when you have no chance to even see a deer in the woods it makes it pretty unappealing. I will be joining the non hunting people at home soon if the deer population gets any smaller.
5 guys saw 2 deer in 178 hours of hunting on a privately owned 160 acres in this unit during the gun deer season. Same 5 guys hunted private and public sat 48 times on private in the pm and saw 5 deer in total sat 31 times in am on private saw 4 deer total sat 12 times on public on pm and saw 0 deer. Need to increase deer population maintaining the deer population at 5 deer is not working.

I will try to be nice do not listen to the member from the north part of the county tells me he is seeing less deer but tells the committee to reduce the deer population anyhow he also brags about telling the people he hunts with to shoot at every deer they see especially if there running he doesn't care if they wound them. Not the kind of guy you want representing the hunters.

It would be good to issue antlerless permits in the Central Forest with tag purchase like farmland. There are ample antlerless deer as well in that unit. Very concerned about the wolf population in Adams county. We are seeing more and also more frequently. We are located north of cty O and east of Hwy 73. Near Leola. Wolves are killing a lot of deer in that area.

Please keep Wisconsin the way it is! We don’t need to change things around. We have it very good compared to other states. We definitely do not need and extra amount of dats tacked on. And being a bow and gun hunter I especially don’t like a 5 day rest period directly in the prime of the rut considering I put A LOT of time and effort in finding that monster buck.

I am part of the Richfield QDM group..the real numbers are no one sees any deer if you want blown up political BS listen to what they say. The loudest members do not speak for the majority we need to kill less does and issue fewer tags deer sightings are way down unless you are one of a couple in this group who see 100 more deer than anyone else (I wonder why)

Bought 40 acre oak and pine woods three years ago put it into managed forest nice mix of mature and young growth. Young growth of trees are doing great because it has not been browsed. Saw 7 deer now and gun hunting in 2017, 2 in 2018 and 0 2019. I have food plots and water holes I don’t over hunt the property. Still no deer. We need 0 doe tags in this unit.

The wolves need to go my property has so much wolf sign it’s ridiculous and speaking of witch last day of gun season I watch two wolves kill a perfectly healthy deer and it’s wrong they need to be managed before us as hunters just take matters into are own hands and the elk gig all there doing there by bringing elk here is feeding the wolves.

Moved here last year, have never seen 1 buck anywhere, either out hunting, near our home, on the road. There are does everywhere, yearling’s, mature does, and in-between. Their like fricking rabbits. Live near east side of Petenwell lake. Hoping to get a doe permit or two for Adams this year. Just what I observe everyday around here. Thanks.

Public land acres decrease every year making available land more pressured by hunters driving deer to private. Allowing ATV access permits in state lands (Quincy) is being abused by transporting multiple hunters miles in for deer drives or just to lazy to walk and ruined what once was good hunting for us that walked the miles to get there.

I feel like it would be easier to propose an antler size restriction (past the ears/point limit) or something like that, than an antler less only season. I hunt for food, and having the extra tag helps. I also try and manage my small property as best I can. I border on public land where nothing is let go. Thank you for all the hard work.

I ride ATV in Adams County and hunt both Bow and gun, saying this I spent a lot of time in the woods and I am constantly looking for Deer and Deer signs while in the woods. I do not agree with the total number of deer you are stating there are. There has been way to many bonus permits available for the amount i see in the woods.
First I want to say great job to all in this turbulent time! We need to continue to put a great deal of energy into youth hunting to bring in the next generation. Maybe a family style permit that would keep the cost down for young hunters and promote the family deer hunt. Good luck and thank you for a great job!

Please get the deer numbers back up so we have a chance to get a deer. Also go back to the days where you sent in for 1 doe permit per person and if you didn't get one you had to shoot a buck. Or if you were lucky enough to get a doe permit you had a choice. If you want people/kids to hunt they need to see deer!!

The agricultural damage done by deer is huge. I see 12 to 15 deer grazing on my alfalfa and rye fields currently in the spring of 2020. My family has harvested 3 to 5 does on my property for the last 4 years, but the number of deer increases. The deer population needs to be lowered instead of maintained.

The dnr has allowed the dessimation of the deer population. In adams county you are lucky to see a deer ever. I do not know where you think the deer are at. Many landowners i know never saw a deer last season. My sons are choosing not to hunt deer this year. Thank you so much for destroying this sport.

I believe the only reason for trying to kill off the deer population is to make the insurance companies happy. Deer crop damage is not that bad as everyone thinks and besides the farmers get plenty of welfare to make up the difference. We need to go back to the original deer season and party tag system.

Please do not extend the deer hunting seasons . Adams county seems to have lost a huge number of deer . I believe If hunting stays the way it has been the last few years and the adams county above ground standing water stays as it has been My party of 7 gun hunters will hunt else where. Regards.

We saw a LOT less deer in our area in 2019. Of course, the number of antlerless permits being issued is ridiculously high, and has a very detrimental effect on the herd. I own a farm here, and deer browsing has never been a concern for us. The area could support a Much higher population.

A committee member told me to watch this presentation and comment: why when the biologist indicates the population went down and you are in maintain population goal, do you increase the amount of quota and tags shouldn't the quota go down. I know increase the deer population in this unit

I have family that hunts a Dane County metro area and their season is longer would help them to harvest more deer. I would like to see not just Adams Forest unit but the adjoining counties also extend their hunting season for antlerless and bucks. Started sooner run it longer.

I hunt public land which is several thousand acres less than when I started hunting in this unit but you issue more tags ????? I did not know how to answer the question about how many deer I saw because I haven't seen one in 4 years. Is that a ( saw way fewer deer) answer ???

i am a landowner i have trees i have flowers and shrubs the deer do a very large amount of damage especially to the trees you should give as in free an antlerless permit to every landowner that has 40 or more acres if they dont want to use it they could give it away

The predators are a big issue in the Forest Area of Adams County. I have seen a great increase number of wolves in the Rome area of Adams Co. and the deer numbers have declined. I'm a land owner and it's frustrating to see deer numbers decrease and predators number increase!

There are not enough deer being taken out I can remember years back for knows one buck per hunter now its 1 doe 1 but depending on the county your and you can get to doe in 1 but we are way overwhelmed with dear we need more dough permits we need the analyst tag brought back

Are you one of the CDAC members that ignore the citizens input every year lower the quota and increase the deer population. I want to see deer again. Please follow the input of the hunters you represent, cdac is not for your personal belief or deer management ideas
On Opening Saturday morning a group of about 10 hunters did a very loud deer drive and scared every deer out of the area, this should be illegal at least on the first weekend. Also we should be allowed to put up and keep up deer stands for the entire season.

Why is Adams County one of the only in the state to be split into two different units? Treat it as one whether that is farmland or forest. A decision should be made. I hunt on both sides of highway 82 yet need to have different antlerless licenses.

No holiday hunts leave season at 9 days eliminate all special seasons and reduce anterless tags to 0. 4 people hunted 6 days 3 deer seen and we hunt we don't go to the bars and sleep in. Shame on DNR for destroying a county that had good deer hunting.

Bought 120 acres built food plots cut the mature trees following a forest plan have water on land NO DEER anymore. Deer sighting have gone down every year now my two kids no longer want to hunt. Thank You !!! Why don't you issue a few more doe tags!!

The deer predators seen in this area has increased tremendously. During turkey hunting, there were coyotes and wolves spotted. All within the hunting areas available to open hunting. The open hunting lands are becoming less and less in this area.

Every spring I capture coyotes carrying fawns back to their dens on trail cams. Wolf sign has become more and more abundant on my property in recent years. When can we expect accurate data on how these two predators are affecting our deer herd?

To many farmers in this unit with crop damage tags. Deer numbers are down in areas of this unit because of years and years of over harvesting with these tags. Deer become totally nocturnal because they are getting shot at all Fall by farmers.

People are loosing interest in hunting because not seeing any deer. NEW HUNTERS WANT TO SEE DEER if not they will stay home and play games all day rather then sit in the woods, just ask them and listen to them. With CW coming it will get worse.

I didnt see many deer in the colburn during gun season or bow season. I also never saw another hunter. I believe the low deer sightings during gun season were largely due to the lack of hunters. Not sure why I didnt see much during bow season.

I make this same comment every year. How does a deer know if it is on private or public land? The proposed numbers make no sense to me. The deer population in my area of Adams County is not as high as I believe that management describes.

I would like to see the seasons stay the same as it does not favor any hunters weapon choice. I believe that the population in this area is about the correct numbers. Also being disabled that everything works well for me with brothers help.

I would like to see Wisconsin go back to Hunter Choice License until Deer numbers increase. I think Deer Management is failin, Deer Numbers has become more about revenue, &Insurance Companies than Deer Numbers,and harvesting opportunites.

Don’t punish the good hunter so the bad hunter gets a better chance of harvesting a buck do the work like I do don’t be lazy . I’d like to see gun go back to just 9 day hunt and unit choice no more doe or youth hunts go back to tradition.

I just feel that some people are shooting way too many does when they can buy so many bonus tags. I can understand shooting a couple of deer but more than that seems greedy and I feel it has too much impact on the following years hunt.
Over the past few years, the deer seem to have dwindled and not many are being seen by all Hunters, bow, crossbow, and rifle. I think this is a concern especially for the young people that are just starting to be able to hunt.

The deer are disappearing and even with daily hunting, scouting and planting of food plots the deer are gone from over harvesting and the number of Predators... How about issuing extra Bonus tags for bringing in a Coyote!

CWD is here and we need to do everything we can to combat its spread. The deer density in our unit is too high. The CDAC needs to provide the Department with every available tool to decrease the deer density and fight CWD.

During the 2019 gun deer season I was able to hunt 7 out of the 9 days. I hunted all day during those 7 days. I saw a total of 2 deer the entire gun season, and that was on opening day only. One mature doe with a fawn.

I think what should also be considered, is the fact that they have been doing a lot of clear cutting near where I hunt public land. An exact place is hwy c and 16th ave in Monroe county and the boarder petenwell

Why do we even have anterless tags. I drive Co.C all of the time. Used to not be able to drive more than 50 MPH after dark. I have counted over 100 deer between Co G and Co Z now you are lucky if you see anything.

If it were up to me I would have quality deer management where the only buck that could be taken would be larger bucks. In that way the quality of the bucks will improve and we will have a much better deer herd.

Getting to the point where I can’t answer way fewer deer because I only saw 1 deer last year. I don’t even get any pictures anymore. I also am snowmobiler please do not allow a holiday hunt south of highway 82

If Central Forest zone for Adams county is buck only, but you can still hunt does with bonus tags, why not include doe tags with the license that can be used in that zone? Instead of having to buy bonus tags.

Lower the amount of deer to be killed the harvest rate sucks. Why do you issue so many tags when no one buys them. There is not enough public land left to kill 1500 does vote to increase the deer population

Deer populations are way to high. The deer are removing many age classes of our forest resources to a point they will not recover and the habitat is removed off the landscape in every township in Adams Co.

Hello, I both archery and gun hunt in Adams county. Last year was honestly the worst year I've ever had in seeing deer. Neighboring property owners also expressed the same results. Thank you.

What is being done about the out of control wolf populations? I have no issues with there being wolves, however, they need to be managed like everything else, not just left to increase indefinitely.

I would like for the DNR to explain why they developed a central forest region when many land owners are deforesting the land. I don’t see the benefit. This would be a good topic in an DNR post.

Suggest limiting crossbow licences issued during peak rutting periods or shorten the hunting season for them. The accuracy and distance for crossbows is becoming more equivalent to a firearm.

To many wolves along with to many tags you can't even sell them all but you guys just issue more quit trying to make money for the DNR and represent your fellow Hunter reduce tags.

Cdac members must be the only people seeing deer. Time for a change get rid of committee, and get a new one. There are no deer to many tags harvest success stinks. No holiday hunt

My Son stopped hunting due to not seeing any deer. Hard to grow the sport of Hunting when this happens. You just don’t see deer much anymore. And I might give it up also

The antlerless harvest should be increased. It was a mild winter and there are more deer then I have seen since in a decade or more. There are deer everywhere. Harvest them.

The dnr is running the numbers of deer down to low. They also need to bring back backtags and registration stations. They are destroying the safety and traditions of hunting
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>171</td>
<td>For the love of God whatever you do don’t introduce a no hunting period before gun season that is taking away prime hunting time for many who have limited time to hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>172</td>
<td>Seriously we need the opportunity to harvest antlerless on private land. We respect the deer population and rely on the meet. It is a safety issue, it is for the kids.</td>
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<td>173</td>
<td>If we don’t manage and grow the population for the families that own and enjoy the land you will see more people joining deer Management groups and doing it them selves.</td>
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<td>174</td>
<td>We don’t work for you. You (the DNR) work for us (hunters). Shutting down antlerless hunting if needed makes sense. Shutting down buck hunting is totally unacceptable.</td>
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<td>175</td>
<td>Time for new committee this one doesn’t listen, there are no deer on the woods quit issuing tags. Even though this unit does not have one No holiday hunts anymore</td>
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<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td>Thank you WDNR for all you do. I appreciate what you do for the states resources and wish you were funded more appropriately for the tasks you are given to do.</td>
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<td>177</td>
<td>I also hunt south of STH 82 there are to many tags in both the forest and farmland units in Adam sees county no one sees deer anywhere I oppose a holiday hunt</td>
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<td>178</td>
<td>To many tags we don’t even see one deer, sick of filling this out and no one follows recommendations Eliminate all holiday hunts everywhere deer need a rest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179</td>
<td>No holiday hunt!! Why do we issue more tags buck to doe ratio is perfect 1 to 1. Harvest goes down population goes down and you issue more tags!!!! Why???</td>
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<td>180</td>
<td>I would to see the annual deer season by extended to 15 days. Also make it a requirement that bucks have a brow tine or at least three points on one side.</td>
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<td>181</td>
<td>Less public land paper company has sold a bunch or it was turned into potato fields to many tags especially on public. No holiday hunt in farm land unit</td>
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<td>182</td>
<td>Keep the 9 day deer hunt. Don’t make it 3 weeks. That’s too long. Just going to create an opportunity to kill more deer that don’t need to be killed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>183</td>
<td>Wolves are abundant from Colburn pack and have pictures of them. Deer numbers are lower on my land and surrounding land quite a bit in last 3 years.</td>
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<td>184</td>
<td>Hunted in this unit 4 years I see fewer deer every year, next year I can’t see fewer because I didn't see any hunted all 9 days 5 days all day</td>
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<td>185</td>
<td>I didn't see any deer during the hunting season and very little deer signs. I really think that the deer herd is getting depleted in the area.</td>
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<td>186</td>
<td>There has been several different wolves from the Colburn pack on and around my land on a daily basis and deer numbers are lower due to this.</td>
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<td>187</td>
<td>I’ve rarely seen any deer during past rifle seasons. In both instances I hunted in my pine tree ground blind that my grandpa made for me.</td>
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<td>188</td>
<td>please shoot fewer doe, return deer hunting to the good old days, more deer are needed to restore hunter numbers plain and simple, thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>189</td>
<td>Question about feeling overcrowded. Bow season is just fine. Gun season is packed and can be very frustrating. Welcome to wisconsin.</td>
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<td>190</td>
<td>Cut for harvest in half the number of coyote kills is alarming in this area or to many to maintain herd numbers at this current qoutta</td>
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<tr>
<td>191</td>
<td>Why do you keep issuing so many no one sees any deer anymore. Going to sell my property and go where the cdac listens to the people</td>
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<tr>
<td>192</td>
<td>No holiday hunt to many tags, I fill this out every year and look at results committee never follows people's wishes. Reduce tags!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>193</td>
<td>I would like to see private/public land designation on the tags go away. We shouldn't have to buy separate tags for each land type.</td>
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<td>194</td>
<td>There are no deer in this unit anymore own 120 acres of land and hunt public land. The deer are gone to many tags are available.</td>
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<td>195</td>
<td>Our hunting party has seen a significant increase of hunters over the past three years on the public sector of Adam's forest.</td>
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<td>196</td>
<td>Plenty of wolves in my area. Been seeing them for 20+ years. Just had a pack of 5 wolves on my trail camera two weeks ago.</td>
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<td>198</td>
<td>Too many tags not enough deer my brother who hunts south of STH 82 says to many tags and don't have a holiday hunt</td>
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<td>199</td>
<td>Please work hard on bringing back a wolf management season to help with the high numbers of wolfs in Adams county</td>
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<td>197</td>
<td>Please let deer herd in this area grow. Eliminate all these extra hunts. Need also stronger control of predators.</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>Way too many does particularly in the area by the prison. Bucks are completely non-aggressive the last 2 years.</td>
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<td>201</td>
<td>Baiting is not allowed but happens often screws up the ones who abide by the rules FYI or just let us all bait</td>
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<td>202</td>
<td>Please keep the September crossbow season open!!! If not it will effectively end my deer hunting in Wisconsin.</td>
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<td>203</td>
<td>There should be no difference in management units, ie, forest/farmland. Each county should be it's own unit.</td>
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<td>204</td>
<td>There should be lower or free permits to individuals that own land but that land is not permanent residence</td>
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<td>205</td>
<td>Please issue less tags my kids already don't see any deer. Committee vote to increase the population</td>
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<td>206</td>
<td>Need to quit killing does we should only 500 in this unit because the wolves kill the other 2200.</td>
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<td>207</td>
<td>Please issue less tags and the deer population is in the basement. I support a buck only season</td>
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<td>208</td>
<td>My father almost lost his thumb from de-cocking crossbow, would like to see the use of airbows.</td>
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<td>209</td>
<td>This is the first year we’ve seen and have multiple pictures on trail cameras of wolves.</td>
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<td>210</td>
<td>There is still too many deer in this area. The damage to crops and forests is prevalent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td>Promotion of deer predators in last 20 years has has significant impact on deer in woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>Hunted quite a bit, saw very few deer after initial archery season, even on camera.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>The wolf population is growing rapidly in this area and it needs to be addressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>214</td>
<td>Consider bumping up available archery doe permits for Buckhorn State Park area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>All the deer are dead to many tags, to many wolves never hunting again see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td>Way to many tags with very little deer on public lands that are dwindling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>To many tags to few deer to many special hunts like the holiday hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>Private lands good deer numbers Public lands poor deer numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219</td>
<td>one tag per license and don't just favor private land owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>We have more wolfs in our area than I would like to see!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>only say that theirs fewer deer around waller's pond area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>Adams County should be in the Farm Zone not Forest Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>Need to control predator populations including wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>Please do NOT delete the September crossbow season!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>I trust department to make good recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>As a land owner ether or sex should be allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>To many tags, there are no deer in this unit no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>Please leave the gun deer season at nine days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>Let's increase the population lower the quota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>I think your public quota is far to low!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>Increase deer population issue less tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>232</td>
<td>Leave the nine day gun season as is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>To many tags get rid of holiday hunts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>Please stop having so many doe hunts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>The deer population seems low to me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>Need a wolf season back in place!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>237</td>
<td>To consider the use of airbows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td>To many tags there are no deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>239</td>
<td>8 guys and no one seen a deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240</td>
<td>Go back to hunters Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>241</td>
<td>No more tags BUCKS ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>242</td>
<td>Get rid of the wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>243</td>
<td>Bring back tags back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>244</td>
<td>Kill the wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10913</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

21 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 4
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 7
   - I hunt in this unit: 19
   - General interest in this unit: 3

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 19
   - Bow: 9
   - Crossbow: 3
   - Muzzleloader: 3

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 3
   - Average: 30.53
   - Maximum: 60

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 1
   - Mostly Private Land: 3
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 12
   - Mostly Public Land: 2
   - Exclusively Public Land: 1
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 0
   - Not too crowded: 2
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 4
   - Somewhat crowded: 5
   - Very crowded: 7
   - Not applicable: 0

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 7
   - Fewer: 7
   - Same: 3
   - More: 3
   - Many More: 1
   - Unsure: 0

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT :</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>1 18 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>VALID NOT VALID Unsure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I have hunted the Island since the early 1990's, and have seen the population get extremely high, as it did in the last 90s and early 2000s, and fall to a level that no one in our camp can recall in 2019, going back to the 1960s. Its not just one thing pointing to low deer numbers. Increase in predators numbers, primarily bear and coyote, has been taking a serious toll on the island, and based on your numbers, are killing more deer than hunters are. Leaving a deer shot with a bow overnight is not optional, because by morning coyotes or bear will have eaten it. Loss of quality habitat is another major concern. It has been over 25 years since a storm of consequence has blown down enough old growth to regenerate the Forrest. Very little if any logging has occurred over the past 25 years. Beaver populations have exploded, especially in and near the State Park and on MIWP land is causing loss of deer habitat and destruction to both public and private lands. What if anything is being done about the predators on the island and why aren't their effect on the deer herd taken in to consideration in this presentation? If its up to hunters can we go back to deer/bear combo licenses. Why are there no active Forrest Management Plans on Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve owned property or on private land that is in the Managed Forrest Crop program? New growth forrest are essential to a healthy deer herd and ecosystem. The numbers from 2015 to 2019 show a steady decline and these are the lowest deer kills in 30 years. Instead of assuming there is something flawed in the numbers, take everything in to consideration, spend some time in the woods, and you will soon realize it doesn't take a wildlife biology degree to figure out there are far less than 500 deer on Madeline Island.

I believe we have too many out of state hunters hunting on Madeline Island, our out of state license is too cheap. I came across on Sunday afternoon last season, and 6 trucks, each having 2 people min came off of the boat and all Minnesota plates. I have nothing against out of state hunters but they are there the majority of late bow season and opening weekend of gun season. Their comment was that for the cost of license and ease of accessing land its better than Minnesota. The added pressure throughout the season by these additional hunters force the majority of the deer into private property where we cannot harvest them. Many of these private landowners are not on Island (seasonal) and there for we cannot get permission to hunt. Predators are also a huge problem, bear and coyotes are hurting the herd. You can take a trip around any block and have a great chance of seeing a coyote if you look hard enough. Looking at the numbers you showed, I can all but guarantee more deer were harvested than what was registered. Our deer statewide have too much pressure on them and we do nothing to help these majestic animals out. We add more predators, add more seasons and allow too many hunters-- talk about stress. I never saw a buck in the woods last season throughout archery or gun season for the first time ever. I am not about the kill, but do enjoy seeing animals and I went several days not seeing a deer. I am hopeful we can some day go back to the week break between bow and gun season state wide, and have better plan of predator control on the Island. Also, bring back the back-tag and a better registration process. The phone call is a bit of a skewed process. Thank you.

Thanks for the video presentation. It was a very good explanation of a unique hunting unit and herd dynamic. Your understanding of the unit, it’s deer population and hunting culture has provided me great confidence in the continued management of the island deer hunting. I’d like the opportunity to view this information every year as I am not able to travel to the meeting in person. Thanks again!

Thank you for recognizing Madeline Island as a unique biosystem separate from the mainland. This is a unique outdoor opportunity and I appreciate that is is being cared for in a thoughtful manner.

I have no hard numbers for this comment. However I have noticed a increase a big increase in the bear population and I would say that I have seen more wolves during the deer season as well.
If there will continue to be a limit set of antlerless bonus tags available for purchase, it would be nice to limit the number per licensed hunter.
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

312 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 106
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 97
   - I hunt in this unit: 286
   - General interest in this unit: 62

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 276
   - Bow: 135
   - Crossbow: 117
   - Muzzleloader: 88

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 26.81
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 95
   - Mostly Private Land: 48
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 47
   - Mostly Public Land: 39
   - Exclusively Public Land: 52
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 2
   - Not too crowded: 19
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 39
   - Somewhat crowded: 31
   - Very crowded: 88
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 88
   - Fewer: 91
   - Same: 85
   - More: 31
   - Many More: 11
   - Unsure: 6

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone…
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit…
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"…
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted…
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID 135  NOT VALID 152  Unsure 25

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year…</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants…</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions…</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)…</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer…</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer…</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer…</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species…</td>
<td>2.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy…</td>
<td>2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit…</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)…</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020  Ashland, Northern Forest
I have hunted in Ashland County for over two decades on my land and adjacent public land. I am a PhD level scientist and I find the data presented very interesting. The situation on our property may be different than the remainder of the county. In the 2000-2010 decade we averaged sighting 8-15 deer per day per hunter although given the winter grouping of deer many of the same deer were likely being seen by the various hunters. From 2000-2005 that number plummeted and from 2006 to 2018 we have not seen a single deer on our property during the 9 day gun season. For several of those years when there was fresh snow we didn’t even cut one deer track. Last year one hunter saw one deer (doe). I bought the property specifically to have land to share hunting with my kids and nieces and nephews. During the first decade we cultivated several hunters. None of the second decade kids continued since - hard to keep their interest with not even seeing a single deer — none seen by our seasoned previously successful hunters either. We have discovered based on tracks and wolf sightings, a wolf den adjacent to our property on public land. We have literally seen more wolves than deer on our hunts in the last decade. Other than more flooding than usual there hasn’t been other significant changes to our forest that I am aware of. For whatever reason the property doesn’t at all serve the purpose I bought it for - “deer camp” for the next generation. The only reason I keep it and keep “hunting” is as a tribute to my late father-in-law who recently passed away and shared this family dream with me. Please make decisions that bring some deer back to the Glidden area although it is almost too late for our next generation. Thank you!

I've been hunting in southern Ashland County (Butternut area) since 1994. In 1998 I purchased property. At our peak we had 12 guys in camp in the late 1990's / early 2000's. We've had some good years and some and some poor years, the last 6 or 7 have been terrible and we are down to two guys, myself and my son. The rest no longer make the trip up because its just not worth the time and money to have a poor hunt year after year. From 1994 - 2012 I ether killed or had the opportunity to shoot a buck every year. I usually hold out for a nicer racked buck. The only two years in 25 years of hunting the entire 9 day gun season I did not see a single buck were 2015 & 2019, since 2012 I've only shot one buck in the 9 day season and general deer sightings are way down. The only reason I continue to hunt in Ashland County is because of tradition. I would like to sell the property to buy land further south where hunting is better but there is not much interest and the price is low because there are not many nice bucks and the deer hunting is poor. In the area of my property there is not even close to enough bucks to satisfy the hunting pressure. Before season I might have 4 or 5 spikes / forks and an occasional small 8 on camera and usually by mid week most of them have been shot by the neighbors. I also do not have a large doe population, usually 3 or 4 and the last few years very few fawns. After the poor season last year and the reports on the bad winter and a lower population I cant find any rational to support having a doe harvest on private property.
To the WI DNR- STOP!!!! With the doe tags PERIOD!!!! There are no deer to shoot!!!! Put an antler restriction on spikes and forks for at least two season and see where we end up. Keep this simple guys. Majority of hunters want more deer. The equation is very simple: breeding takes place in the fall i.e. the rut. If We shoot does that are possibly bread you just knocked out two to three deer possibly. You don’t say you want to “increase” a herd and the propose doe tags. You guys make no sense. More deer equals no doe tags given out anywhere!!! Public, private, youth hunt, disability hunt, veterans hunt. None means none!!! For years now I/we have been asking for this. Surveys, CDAC meetings, more surveys, Emails ect. You guys just don’t friggen listen to us. You put this stuff out to make us feel better (surveys) and then do what Wellenfang and Naas want while they go count there pathetic elk herd by Clam Lake. Can you sense the frustration Yet!?!? Start listening to us! This land supported a healthy deer population back in the 90’s and 2000’s but then “CWD” was introduced to sell more tags. Then your wolves reproduced like rabbits and yet they are still “protected” what is going on!!!!!!?????? Stop doing what you want and making this complicated with biology, numbers, statistics, and most of all Masters and Bachelor degrees!!!! Listen to the hunter for a change because everything you guys are doing ISN'T WORKING!!!!

The Cdac voted to increase the deer population in Ashland co. This is not rocket science look at the results so far. 1. The last two deer seasons the harvest has been down .2, The wdnr admitted we have had some sever winters.We know sever winters mean deer lose. 3, A deer study by QAM showed that 57% of the deer population in Ashland Co. have been taken by Predators. 4, After years of the wdnr talking about all the deer in the marenco Valley NO ag tags were given out. I find it interesting that last year when the wdnr appealed to the NRB for doe tags Ag damage was one of the reasons for tags but yet NO Ag tags were given out. 5, I remember a few years ago a guy bring to the Cdac over 25 surveys from businesses in Ashland Co.. ALL in the survey said the lack of tourism was due to a lack of deer and Quality Bucks. We now want 500 tags all on private land . So what does that do for the out of the area hunter who can't hunt private land . 6, Even the Ashland Co. forester voted for no tags. That has to show there's not a browse problem. Anyone that spends any time in the Ashland Co. forest can see all the cutting and habitat that has been created and still a lack of deer sign (rubs) and deer in the winter cuttings.. Stop having doe tags start building the deer numbers up. This is not rocket science. The facts are there.

Based upon my observations, I believe the Antlerless harvest for 2020, for Ashland County, should be less than 2019. As a result of the multiple major snow events in late November, Deer in the deep woods areas of the County, were forced to resort to their woody browse - starvation diet, much earlier than usual, and expend a lot of energy in doing so, because of the snow depth. This is of course was compounded by the predator load in the deep woods areas. (Timber Wolves, etal.). In the agricultural areas of Ashland County, (mainly portions of Ashland, Marengo, White River, Gingles Townships), the Deer numbers seem quite high, the predator load is much lower, and some Antlerless Harvest, is probably warranted. In the heavily wooded Townships, Deer numbers do not seem to have improved much at all, from where they were in 2013-2014. The one size fits all management for an entire county is very unfortunate. When Ashland County was comprised of multiple units, (Unit 6, Unit 28, etc.), antlerless harvests, could be much more target specific, based upon cover types / habitat types. Higher antlerless harvest quotas in Units w/ a lot of agriculture, and lower antlerless quotas in deep woods areas Units, etc. Alas, that horse has long since left the barn....
Prior to 2019 it appeared the deer herd may be rebounding from the low points it was at, but this was not the case. I am generally up there from mid-spring to early December and it was apparent the deer herd was way down before the hunting seasons started. I have approximately 175 acres located within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and saw fewer fawns in the spring and fewer signs of deer throughout spring, summer and fall. The deer population is down. One suggestion I would make is not to base the deer population on Ashland County as a whole. The farming areas of Ashland County do have more deer then the forest areas, that is obvious just by taking a ride in the car and seeing where the deer are during the non-hunting times. I am trying to get my grandchildren interested in deer hunting, but with literally no deer being available to them it is hard to keep their interest. We need to grow this herd back to what it was in the late 90's; let the antlerless deer go for a while, that is the only way it is going to come back. I would not be opposed to limiting the season in this area for a few years if it helps to bring the deer population back up.

Last year I saw many more deer personally and on trail cams. I believe the late season date and the bad weather held down the hunter success ratio. The ratio unduely influenced the discussion of overall deer numbers. I believe private land numbers are higher than the numbers in biologist and county committee discussions settled on (I listened in on the committee discussion). I feel the antlerless permits are low if anything, and want to support local businesses by having the numbers of permits 500-750. As an aside, I do not support youth hunts. Youth are best taught to hunt in camp with their dads, grandpas, moms, uncles, etc. during the regular season. If people are too selfish or lazy to take their kid during the regular season, they shouldn't get a break by expanding their time in the woods in the name of supporting their kid. Sorry, I am a traditional guy aged 65. I learned by hunting with my dad when I was 10 in the cold and snow. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Certainly not sitting in the warm woods trying to beat others to the stand and then sitting at home twiddling my thumbs in my pajamas when the real hunting (fun) happened.

I have hunted on public land in Ashland county for over 25 years and the number of deer sighted has dropped considerably. I believe we do need to be able to regulate predator populations to assist with herd growth. I am a supporter of wolves in Wisconsin, however I also believe they need to be controlled, and numbers managed appropriately. In addition we need to review the bear hunting policies, including increasing hunting quotas as they can be devastating to the deer population as well. In addition I can support a reduction in antlerless permits if that will help increase the deer population. However, it is completely inappropriate to allow those permits to be on private land only! I am not advocating a split according to the percentage of public vs private land, but would suggest that of the proposed 200 antlerless permits for 2020 it should between 50-75% private and 50-25% public. It makes no sense to have Bayfield county allowing 2670 public land permits vs 3000 private land permits and Ashland county allowing zero public and 750 private.

Hunted in DMU for 22 years (4 years observing - 18 years shooting). Over that time, the I have seen a drastic decrease in the deer population. I believe this was mainly attributed to 3 factors; 1. Mismanagement of Herd - Earn-A-Buck & Excessive Antlerless Tags, 2. Hunters taking advantage of Anterless Tags, and 3. The uncontrolled spread of Wolves. #1. Is being asked by the CDAC in this proposal. In order to right the wrong of years past, the heard needs time to grow. I believe eliminating antlerless tags will helps combat this problem as there are other factors besides hunters reducing the numbers in this DMU. #2. Non-Issue if tags are not issued. Hunting community just need to understand and support this decision. #3. Needs to be the States #1 priority. I understand this is a Federal issue, but the states numbers are strong enough to support a controlled cull as successfully completed during our one slotted season. Correcting this issue will also help other species, such as elk, increase in population.
I feel there needs to antler restrictions put on Buck harvest. Everyone enjoys seeing an antlered animal, even the old person driving down the road will pull over to see a beautiful antlered animal in the wild. Killing immature bucks can take away from mature buck development. There are many states that have antler restrictions related to harvest. Recent studies have shown Wisconsin to have fallen based on the quality of the deer harvested throughout the entire state. I believe that the state can balance quality and quantity. Please consider antler restrictions throughout the state. Wisconsin for many years was known for its quality whitetail hunting, now quite frankly has fallen and is being surpassed by other states. This is simply sad and is a direct relationship to poor deer management. Predation is a key factor, this includes human and animal predation. Please figure it out so we can get QUALITY and quantity deer hunting back in WI.

Please log more!! That’s all we really need to have better hunting. There is no food - imo- other than the yellow gold piles that began the destruction of Northwoods deer hunting traditions. I’m glad I don’t have any kids to introduce the the Northwoods hunting traditions, because they’d think I was crazy after their first year of hunting 8 days and seeing 3 deer. I don’t think we need the high numbers of the 2000’s, but what we have now is tough hunting...to say the least. Why is it that the county and private forests in our area have 5x the deer as the CNF in spite of having just as many wolves? They sustainably harvest them. Period! When I started hunting the CNF, there was logging every winter. Big cuts, little cuts....all different locations peppered around 20 square miles we call “home”. The logging going on these days is a literal joke!! Not even close to the same scale! But we had deer!

Have hunted and/or trapped in Ashland county for 30 years and have seen deer populations fluctuate from record highs to where they are now today on the public land which will always happen, however I feel that better habitat would definitely help deer numbers on the public land and would increase their populations with more logging, creating new growth and would help other species too. Also predator populations have become, what I feel, to high as I have see multiple bear, bobcats and wolves the past few falls along with a coyote population that has returned after not seeing much sign of them for a number of years. I think predator control of some form needs to be accomplished to raise deer numbers and since the DNR can really only control bear and bobcats at the moment I feel more tags could be issued to lower there numbers without putting their populations at any risk.

The deer numbers in my opinion have flat lined for a few years maybe a very slight increase. I like that we have had very few doe tags and virtually none on public land. I think we’re on the right track with few doe tags but I think we need several more years of this. A recommendation I’d like to make and see implemented is one buck tag fill with weapon of your choice. If the concern is selling tags then raise the price of the deer license to cover the difference. The buck population has grown some but the mature buck population is terrible. Too long of seasons,crossbow hunting which is extremely devastating on our deer herds and technology has made us to good at hunting. It’s past time to address these issues. My other question is why can’t we change certain issues and try them as a trial for 2-3 years then review the changes.

I was unable to hunt the last two seasons, but the year before, there was finally some sign of deer making a comeback, in the wake of the decimation of the first decade of the 2000s. It sure would be nice to get back to the glory days of the 1980s, when a still-hunter could get a Choice tag (and, therefore a reasonable chance at getting a deer) every other year or so, without the over-harvesting which followed. I’m willing to defer semi-regular antlerless opportunities, or anything close to it, if it means building up the herd to at least move in that direction. I don’t want to have to feel like I need to hide in a tree over a pile of food to get a deer, but the low numbers and buck tags have meant a long drought, and I’m not getting any younger.
Wolves are not endangered in Wisconsin. They need to be removed from the federally protective list so Wisconsin can open up a yearly wolf hunt. My camp saw more wolves than deer this last gun season. I don't even waste my time to scout for bow season anymore because there are few deer in Ashland County. Also, I would like to see an Antler Point Regulation...minimum of 3 on one side. The harvest is already low, why not enforce it now and in 2-3 years we can see an increase of bucks and larger ones! It's been 18 years since I shot a buck with my rifle because I was waiting for something bigger. People should not be shooting spikes and forks, let them go so they can grow. If someone is in dire need of venison, they should get a doe tag.

I believe fawn recruitment is very low with many mature does with one fawn or none. I have monitored our area with trail cameras for at least a decade or more and believe 2019 buck sightings on camera were significantly lower than both 2017 and 2018. My cameras are up from August till the end of November. While over all Deer numbers look to have risen since buck only it is only a marginal rise. Predication and winters are preventing a more positive rebound. Lack of deer sightings by many have in my opinion increased the road traffic and road hunting in our area greatly. The amount of vehicle traffic in the national forest was the highest i have ever seen and you know vehicles traveling at very low speeds during season are not sight seeing.

I have not seen a buck in the forest while hunting for the past 5 years. I use to have 10 guys at my Clam Lake Cabin for 5-9 days of hunting, I now have 1 1/2, without much interest. The 5 years (I believe) of having an antlerless hunt several years ago depleted the herd. An average of 330 deer per year were registered in Clam Lake, half of those were your bucks. The DNR's mgt was deplorable. Baiting must stop, PERIOD!!! Deer are now completely nocturnal. When I put out trail cams the deer I get are all at nightly. 1:30am is peak. I never took a deer under 8 points. Today, I do not need to kill one but I would like to see a couple if I am in the woods 10 hours per day. Yes, we still hunt hard.

There was much better hunting 30 years ago with no wolves and a lower bear population. Even then there was not a high population of deer. Why any does are allowed to be shot is beyond me. In 5 days of hunting I typically saw 4 to 8 deer 30 years ago. If you saw a buck there was a good chance it was a nice one. About 8 years ago with the high wolf and bear population we did not see or shoot any deer. In the last two years it seems there is a slight come back in deer but still not back to the old population. Once again let's severely limit any shooting of does and let the population come back. I suggest an increase in bear permits and getting back to hunting wolves to control that population to the published desired limit of 800.

I grew up in Wisconsin and left when I joined the military. I spent 26 years in the Air Force and continued deer hunting in Ashland County most of those years. I own land in Ashland County and it is always a highlight of the year to be with family and friends for opening day. I have utilized a forester to develop plans to improve the deer habitat over the years. I am a non-resident and hope deer licenses for non-residents do not get overly expensive like they have done in many other states. Hotels, gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, and sporting good stores all benefit from out-of-State hunters. Please don't raise the price of out-of-State deer licenses as it may make the entire trip up north unaffordable.

It would seem many people on this CDAC are just concerned with hunting horns, not management of whitetail deer. The few reasonable folks on the CDAC are overshadowed by the outspoken buck hunters...the average hunter just wants to hunt deer during decent weather (not such a late season hunt) with a fair chance at shooting ANY deer. It doesn't need to have a certain number of points or a certain sized G-2 to satisfy....Yes weather was tough on our deer herd this winter, but lots of feeding has pulled a large number of our deer through. plenty of deer out in the field right now. I think the numbers are screwed up because there are no tags needed and call in registration is a joke and not being done by many.
This is just a replay of the past few years and nothing changes. The numbers are too low in the southern forest areas, too high in the farm areas, yet nothing is done about it. Winter is longer in the forested areas too. Yet that's ignored. (Case in point 2 years ago with the late snow and emergency phone meeting you had to change the final meetings results) People that own acreage will hunt for that reason alone. Those that don't own land won't come up and hunt due to the lack of deer in public hunting areas, and no doe opportunities as well. This will not change until the deer numbers are up, and people see decent sized bucks again. We are not going in that direction at all.

Number of deer sightings was getting better from 2016-2018. Deep snow and predators hurt going into 2019 and took a step back in number of deer seen. Back in early 2000s too many antlerless deer permits were given out for too many years. That in combination with more predators in wolves, cats etc... made the 2010s very slow, boring and uninspired. My son has rarely seen a deer and has been hunting for seven years now. Loves the woods but loves seeing deer in the woods even more, losing hunters up there. The people up there that blame it on wolves are full of it, they are only part of the decline, their is an imbalance from our management based on all factors.

I think all the deer hunting rules you have had over the years should stay the same!!! The only thing in Ashland county I would like to see is less antlerless deer shot... from the time i started hunting to now the deer population doesn't even seem comparable. Over the past few years when you started to limit the antlerless deer shot it seems to be bringing the population back up slowly but it seems to be heading in the right direction now atleast. I say no does. The population down south seems to be a lot higher than up here. Possibly only a junior doe hunt. All in all I think the population in deer in northern Wisconsin is way low compared to 15+ yrs ago.

The number of deer harvest numbers have dropped dramatically over the last 15-20 years. I understand there are many factors for this happening however this has effected the number of hunters, that come north to hunt and effects the small businesses in the area when no one wants to come north to hunt anymore because they don’t see deer. This also has a effect on trying to get youth hunters involved with deer hunting. When taking youth hunting I feel it is important for them to understand they may not always have a successful hunt but they need to see a deer once in awhile to stay interested. As of now many a are seeing few deer if any at all.

deer are abundant in my area. people need food security. venison is a healthy protein source, and adequate harvest lowers our risk of seeing CWD here. forest health, understory, and habitat for other species is degraded by deer overpopulation and heavy browse on my property. the predator i am most concerned about is my fellow man. i deal with more trespass problems and unauthorized ATVs than i do coyotes, much less wolves. humanity teeters on the precipice of climate catastrophe and societal collapse not to mention pandemic and weak dull “leadership” and i have little hope we won’t drive off the cliff together chasing the big bucks.

It’s time to eliminate baiting and sitting in heated shacks and call yourself a "hunter." It’s time for the new generation of so-called hunters to learn how to do something besides sit over a bait pile. They should rename it shooting season. The biggest buck by far near me was shot by a 70+ year old grandpa out of his house because he couldn't help himself because that is the "way I was brought up." The poor deer don't have a chance anymore to get to 4 to 5 years old. Shut the entire season down every other year for bucks to give them a chance from the "hunters." On the off years the can hunt coyotes!!!

my family and I hunt west of Butternut in the national forest for 45 plus years and since 2010 we have seen less deer annually. We hunt all 9 days in gun season and several days with bow. We believe the causes are too many wolves and too many antlerless tags earlier in the decade that the herd has not recovered from! We also feel we need to go to a 1 buck per year tag or antler restrictions to protect younger bucks and also keep antlerless tags at 0 for several years until the herd recovers! We also need to keep the pressure on our politicians to delist wolves and renew a hunting and trapping season again!
There are areas in the county where doe numbers are fairly substantial. The early heavy wet snow actually provided some poor browse for the deer with the tops of spruce trees breaking off. I found at least two predator kills in my woods which was once again hammered of browse. None of us can be sure how the snow depth and poor nutrition source will affect the fawn production so that has me more concerned for the longer term. Still, I think enough permits need to be available for private landowners as the majority of them know what taking too many means and what taking not enough means.

Less rules brings simplicity, which makes people much more interested in participation. I understand why parents tell me they are not interested in our outdoor activities anymore because there are just too many rules to keep up on. Also we have an abundance of predators in Ashland county, especially bobcats and wolves. In my 50 years of outdoors I have never observed so many predators with my own eyes. I hope the snaring rules can relax some also. The trappers I have talked to in the western states have very little issues with snaring and have much less restrictions than we do.

After 46 years of hunting in Ashland county, I have seen a lot. I will make this very clear the hunting and (hunting tradition) was much better before all these special hunts (antlerless and holiday and youth hunts) and last but not least before all the wolfs came back. We need to go back to tradition including helping the local establishments by requiring to stop in and tag your deer. And the youth hunters should not be toating guns in October, you go out on opening 9 day season and freeze your rear end like we all did growing up. Thanks for this opportunity.

No antlerless harvest should be allow in the Ashland Forest Zone! No youth, disabled, or military antlerless authorization at all. If deer herd populations are a priority then everyone should be held to promoting more deer. Private landowners should not have any antlerless if there property borders national forest except for farmland crop damage. Private property in the middle of the forest with no farming on it allows the private individuals to harvest but the hunter hunting the public forest next to private cannot harvest antlerless.

The 2019 season was terrible compared to 2018 season when we actually saw a few deer for the first time in a long time. Our winters and predators take way more deer then we plan. I understand in some parts of Ashland county the snow isn’t that bad and it is agriculture which supports a better herd then we have in southern Ashland county where the wolves, coyotes, bobcats and bears are way over populated. The youth hunt should be canceled as it sends the deer k in Nti a nocturnal pattern. If it wasn’t for baiting we would never see a deer!

I believe that as a Wisconsin resident, we should qualify for bonus antlerless tags. We are quite picky when it comes to harvesting an antlerless deer, and only do so when necessary for the meat. I’ve heard that they’re is a proposal to extend the rifle season and eliminate muzzleloader season all together. I don’t think this is a sound move. Those of us with muzzleloaders enjoy the additional work that goes into a harvest made while using one. There are many long standing traditions that would be ruined if too many changes are made.

I think a moderate antlerless tag availability for this unit is important. The bucks only status which was present over a number of years greatly affected the number and quality of bucks seen in the area of Ashland county that I hunt. Many of the hunters in this area are meat hunters which led to the buck population and quality of antlered deer to drop dramatically. I think a moderate number of antlerless tags will allow for a sustainable deer population while allowing the buck population and quality a chance to improve.

I spent more time hunting in Bayfield county only because of the fact that they offered more doe tags. We need to go back to the way units used to be structured. I would drive past dozens and dozens of deer in Ashland county just to get to Bayfield county. There aren’t a ton of deer deep within the forest but that’s the way its supposed to be. Hunters who complain about the lack of deer anywhere in Wisconsin are either poor hunters/outdoorsmen or lazy. The DNR wildlife biologists and foresters need to be listened to more.
Last year was the first time in numerous years that I was able to purchase an antlerless license. Ever since you took away the antlerless tag that came with the archery license all we see are does. I don’t hunt for antlers. I hunt for meat. I’ve had to go quite a few years without harvesting a deer. The amount of does I see while in my stand I don’t think there is a shortage of them at all. I think you should give the antlerless tag with the archery license like it used to be.

Instead of worrying about changing the seasons and worrying about out of state hunters. Worry about the deer herd. Put a 3 point per side restriction. For everyone. If you open up antlerless to the youth the adults will be shooting them anyway. And I think the done needs to really get out and look. Northern Wisconsin right now has very poor hunting. Put some real restrictions out there. If you say no does then all the little bucks get killed. Put a restriction on the antler point.

I am not at all sure of the reason/logic of issuing doe tags to only private property however this came about I completely disagree with it. Ashland county has vast expanses of public land which many people hunt on in this state where they purchase license and pay taxes yet when it comes to this issue it appears that no consideration is given to that. This situation is just plain wrong! It may be done that way in Texas but last time I looked my license said Wisconsin on it.

I hunt predominantly in the south/south western area of Ashland County. Public and private. Our deer numbers can barely maintain from one year to the next! I would estimate 80% of our fawns are taken by predators. Our age structure of bucks is terrible! An old buck in this area is a 3 year old! If you can even find one! More bucks are being harvested by crossbows than regular bows, this is another negative on a herd already struggling with numbers!

Having spent many years in this DMU I feel that the higher antler-less deer population heading into the brutal winters there the better with hope that percentages carry through. Yes, there will be loss due to predators and over population in the deer yards, but that is nature at it’s work and is blind to whether it has horns or not. One buck can support the herd many times a year; one doe can only support once per year.

I would like to know the size of buck shot. This is partly due to many years of only small bucks being seen/shot and therefore unable to grow for trophy hunting. I believe this has an impact on the hunters outlook for each year. I have wanted to see a minimum point standard for bucks for at least one year to allow our buck population to mature. From family and friends they concur. Please consider and thanks for your time.

As a hunter, the years only get worse and worse, trying to see a good set of antlers is like seeing Bigfoot nowadays. Not saying hunting should be that easy but, I don’t think you should be able to shoot does and a buck should at least have 4 points on a side. That way it gives these deer to grow longer then 2 years. No one wants to shoot a spike or a fork unless they need the meat. We just want the numbers back up again.

I dont think the numbers represented for population are very accurate. Since I've owned my property I have seen a decline in numbers significantly. I have not bagged a deer every year, sometimes many consecutive years. I have cameras up and every year, less and less. I dont think wi. Dnr are doing a good job at all. Many friends of mine are going to hunt elsewhere. Another state. I thinking I may as well. I may sell.

I think in the winter deer yards where the loggers are working the wolves move in and take a lot of the deer. When the snow is deep in the snow belt regions it has a large effect on the number of deer that make it. They seem to take most of the bigger bucks and fawns. I do understand that other predators take their share but, since the wolves were reintroduced there definitely are fewer deer. Thank You

I travel 4 hours 1 way to my cabin in Ashland County. Last fall I crossbow hunted 4 weekends and gun hunted most of the 9 day season. During those times in the tree stand I saw a grand total of 0 deer... Our gun hunting crew of 16 saw less than 20 deer combined. I’m not sure where all the deer have gone. Is it severe winter or predators that have caused the numbers to drop so significantly?
Please stop killing the does. The antlerless hunts need to be put on hold for a year or 2. I go up there every year and barely see a deer track during gun season. I've never been so disappointed in my life and are considering quitting hunting up there because of the lack of deer. I hope that things will get better because I would like to have my relatives enjoy heading north to see deer.

The hunting is so screwed up around here I will never buy another hunting license in Wisconsin and yes I am a landowner you people got things so screwed up not even funny and now you want us to help you figure it out all I got to say to you is look what you have done in the past in the stupid stuff you done lately I will never hunt another deer in the state of Wisconsin as long as I live.

I saw more wolves and wolf tracks during 2019 then I have ever seen hunting in the past 29 years. Our group has also been finding a significant amount of wolf kill deer carcasses. It seems to have been increasing over the past 5 to 10 years. There has also been less clear-cut logging in the acreage that I hunt so I feel there is less easily accessible food/cover for the deer as well.

Back in the late 90's early 2000's we would see maybe 6-10 deer on opening weekend every year we never observed anymore than those numbers, but since about 2005 those numbers have declined to 0 deer from 2008 till 2016. From 2017 till last year the population has been coming back but 2-5 deer seen per 3 to 4 day hunt so keeping the doe quotas low and predation to a minimum is crucial.

I see plenty of does where I hunt private but we do not shoot them. Trying to get the heard stabilized as predators are a problem here. I ALSO FEEL NON-RESIDENTS SHOULD BE CHARGE THE SAME THAT THEIR STATE CHARGES US FOR HUNTING THE SAME GAME TO BE TAKEN. $350 for us to hunt deer there then $350 for them to hunt deer here. Sturgeon spearing should not be allowed by non-residents.

The CDAC group is a joke. Comprised of all big track property owners who don't care about public land because they never have to hunt it. Of course they are going to opt for antlerless only for private and non for public. And even some of the people on the council don't even hunt! This state needs to go to either or tags. One for now, one for gun, no no bonus tags.

Why doesn't Wisconsin move to allowing each hunter to harvest 1 buck/year, with whatever weapon they choose. Also please do not change season dates for hunting. If that happens you will have 1 big year when rifle hunters harvest a lot of bucks during the rut and pay the price for the next 10 years. The only reason seasons would change is political motivation.

The Ashland antlerless proposed quota of 200 deer is reasonable using the provided data. The winter was quite severe in 2019 with snow depths of 10 inches or more during the gun deer season. To accomplish a population increase I would be in support of a buck only season, although for hunter education a youth antlerless hunt would be great to hold still.

I am concerned about the spread of CWD, I would like to see a statewide ban on baiting/feeding of deer. I would like to see an earlier start to the Deer gun season, up here the weather plays a major factor on the time spent in the field. too cold or too much snow. I would like to see an opening like the neighboring states of 15th of November.

Deer numbers are very low in Ashland County. Did not see a deer during gun season. There should not be any antlerless hunts for a few years inn Ashland County. The herd is at very low levels. I own 200 acres in Ashland County and see very few deer all year and have very good habitat for deer. The past 5 years have been very poor for hunting.

You can't possibly determine deer population where I hunt, the camp 13 area totally wooded. I've seen a increase in the deer population over the last 4 years. I think that the antlerless permits should be split giving people that don't have private land hunt a chance. I have not been able to harvest a doe for years because of no permits.
I've hunted in northern Wisconsin my entire life. Started hunting at the age of 12 with my grandfather and my father in the early 70s. Times were tough what did your question was there. And look forward to caring it on with my children. But after the last few years and lack of deer management I've hunted my last time in Wisconsin.

I think just as important as managing the deer population there needs to be a balance in the predator population. There should be a limited hunting/trapping season for large predators such as wolves, which I believe are overabundant. I think the bear population is in balance, but is bordering on over harvesting of this animal.

I want opportunity to harvest deer where I pay to hunt. I have gone too many years without harvesting deer and don't like the future opportunities the DNR is providing to us hunters. I only have a short time left to hunt and would like to enjoy the experience better than dealing with all your perceived necessary restrictions.

I know this is a legal subject but the predator issue i.e. inability to appropriately manage the wolf population in the Northern Wisconsin is a significant problem. Reintroduction metrics have been met and its time to provide the opportunity for hunters to manage the population like we do with other game animals.

I haven't seen or heard a single deer in 5 years of hunting at my cabin out of the 8 years I've been hunting. Really wish I could shoot my first ever deer with horns instead of a doe just for meat cuz that's the only thing I saw the first 3 years I hunted. I had no choice and took a shot because I needed the meat.

We need to greatly decrease the wolf population in northern Wisconsin. They are killing way too many deer. This winter alone, I personally witnessed a wolf taking down a deer on 3 separate occasions. Prior to this winder, in my 20+ years of traveling up north, I have not seen a single wolf. We need to fix this.

Our camp is moving into our 5th family generation. All but one under age 54 gave up on hunting because there are no deer in the woods and the one only hunt 1.5 days. The deer are gone mostly to wolves, the few that remain hang around corn feeders. It is truly a pathetic situation.

I am not that happy that in Ashland county will only give doe tags for only private land and only for juniors. If you are going to give them does the you should at least hand out some doe tag to public land to. Me has a hunt I don't hunt on private land and I am hunting for meat to put in my freeze.

In the Clam Lake area, snow reached 18" around the first week of December and stayed above that until around the 13th of March. Positive note was the number of days below zero wasn't bad. If the goal is increase the herd, why are you allowing antlerless tags. Sounds like a DNR money maker scheme.

if there is a problem w/ too many deer in the Ag section of Ashland cty, maybe you should split the county. i'm in the national forest and the deer and fawn numbers are way down. there are several issues. wolves are the worst, then bears, then coyotes then the last few harsh winters really hurt.

I am glad to see that deer managers believe the numbers should increase in these northern counties. I would like to see more years of "no doe" seasons, except for first-time young hunters. I would also like to see more attention paid to reducing the predator numbers. Thank you for trying.

I hunt the Chequawagon. Habitat is still a major concern. Even with a bit of an increase in logging in the forest, the overall maturity of the forest is a concern. While forest age structure balance is important more logging would benefit many species not the least of which is deer.

I am a firm believer that mans over harvest of antlerless deer and the un management of predators has drastically diminished the deer population in the forest. I am completely against the extended rifle season in northern Wisconsin and believe it would only hurt the population

My only opinion/comment would be we need to do what we can to help bring the deer population numbers up. (especially antlered numbers seem way down). Here in northern Ashland county the long hard winters and large wolf population have the deer numbers way lower then normal.
If there are to be antlerless permits for practice land, there must be an equal number for public land. NO landowner hunts only on private property. They all hunt a mix. They hunt in the public woods but I can't hunt on their land, and they shoot does in the public forest.

Large increase in number of predators present. Poor forest management for deer species. More logging is needed. Increasing amount of potential poaching on public land (private land antlerless tags filled on public land). Too much detrimental recreational vehicle traffic.

This unit still struggles to maintain deer numbers. Been here 25 yrs. way to many predators. Tough weather, long winters. Need to work at increasing numbers again for few years at least. Saw very few bucks last year, all were young bucks, mostly 1.5 year olds.

The formula for the deer population is flawed for Ashland county. The northern half is much larger than the southern portion. Anterless tags should not be allowed in the south. The county needs to be divided into more units to address each areas deer population.

Public land in Ashland is about 45% and private land about 55%. But for the last two years and now proposed year private get 100% of antlerless tags. It only seems fair that at least 15 - 20% of the tags should be available in the public area.

I personally feel that the southern part of Ashland county has less deer then the northern agricultural part of the county. Should consider going back to the old party permit tag. When four hunters could harvest only one antlerless deer.

I think the deer number still need to be increased in the county and even the junior license holders should not be authorized to harvest antlerless deer. They should be taught responsible game management right from the start. Thank you.

In the Area I hunt there is still a large population of Older Adult Doe who restrict the young deer from obtaining their share of nourishment. Incresing the number of antlerless permits should still be a tool for growing a better herd.

permits look about right for me. I think their should be some thoughts on bucks three or more points on one side for couple years. In last four years 80% of the bucks shot in area were forkes or less. Need more breading deer.

Saw more predators than deer during rifle season 2019. Buck quantity and quality has declined in the past 3 years. Ban deer baiting and feeding statewide and actually enforce it. Wolf harvest. Antler restrictions.

Zero antlerless tags means ZERO, no matter who you are. What a great opportunity to teach our young hunters about conservation and wildlife management by not allowing them to harvest does and explaining to them why.

The amount of wolves in our area is underestimated. We have had wolves for years but they were never as visible as they have been the last two years. This past season I saw more wolves than I did deer.

In 2019 my group of 4 hunters saw more wolves than deer. Some days a pack of 6 and 0 deer!!! The DNR must in my opinion, take management of wolves away from the USFW and get our herd back!!!!!!!!!

I have 40 a acre and can't get landowner tag but have too many does I need to cull some but tags are gone so fast, I need to take 3 or 4 of it but can't get a tag for one. Add for tags back.

Make hunting attractive for hunters. If you keep up your pace of your perceived control, hunters will be giving their desire to hunt, as your rules are getting to hard to follow.

Having just purchased land on Ashland County, I am very concerned about the wolf population, and when the D.N.R. is planning on controlling them more efficiently!

WOLFS and coyotes are a real problem seen 5-7 daily. Should open wolf season and cut there numbers down. Several different spots always predators around.
I think anterless numbers would be ok for youths only. I would like to see one or two years where adults have to harvest a buck with 8 points minimum.

It’s time to increase the antlerless harvest. Why should we continue to increase the deer herd for the predators (wolves, bears, bobcats and others).

TOO MANY PREDATORS!!! Deer numbers continue to decline on both private and public lands. I’m a logger and avid outdoorsman, I see it first hand.

There are way to many wolves and bears compared to the deer population. The elk cause way more damage to my land then deer have ever caused.

I would be okay with the Junior anterless quota of 200 allowing only one anterless permit per junior resident of that DMU per calender year.

I believe that there are to many does in the area and/or not enough bucks. I don't know what could be the reason for this but am concerned.

Still very little deer sign in the forest. Not enough logging to improve habitat. Would support youth hunt only having lotto for anterless.

I think it’d be great to take antlerless out of the equation for a few more years. Also put a point restriction on to 4 per side

I spent my vacation time hunting and saw one antlerless deer the whole time, saw lots of wolves though. Very discouraging

Severe winter conditions that started in November lasting into spring, no wolf control, poaching and the use of crossbows.

It’s not right that all the antlerless tags are private land only, considering the large amount of public hunting land.

I hunt the entire gun season all day, every day. I saw no deer in 2019. I hunt near Spillerberg Lake and Morse.

Deer numbers are low do to people hunting at night and way to many predators between wolves and coyotes.

We see so many wolves. Open the season back up and give out more tags. We see more wolves than deer.

Deer are just starting to recover don’t need any doe permits, keep crossbow season same as before.

The Lack of Deer numbers overall for this DMU are VERY evident on both Private and Public land.

Take doe permits off keep the crossbow season same as before increase nonresident license fees

Need to reduce amount of predators, wolf #s are too high they need to be reduced.

I witnessed a lot of Wolves, I feel that is one reason for not see many deer.

Please follow the guidance of DNR professionals and Ashland County Forester.

Harsh winters and wolves have take out the deer population in the county.

Like some other States, we need to impose a minimum antler size on bucks.

Open wolf season! Too many wolves! We need to manage both populations.

the deer herd is significantly affected by wolves in the area I hunt.

I hunt the public land please give out some doe tags for public land

We need a wolf hunt. There was much more sign of wolves then deer.

State should open up wolf trapping and give out more bobcat tags

Please do what you can to support a wolf season in this unit!
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>366</td>
<td>Very few deer left in Ashland county. No doe should be shot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>367</td>
<td>Buck to doe population is very bad!! Easley 20to1 here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>368</td>
<td>Allow the hunters in Ashland County to harvest Wolves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>369</td>
<td>I saw 2 deer all season and I’m about done hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>370</td>
<td>get rid of the wolfs there killing all the deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>get the wolfs and coyouts out of here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>372</td>
<td>Too many wolves. Too few bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>373</td>
<td>Do something about the wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>374</td>
<td>Need more antlerless tags!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>375</td>
<td>The wolf must be delisted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>376</td>
<td>Reinstate wolf hunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10915
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

487 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 274
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 92
   - I hunt in this unit: 443
   - General interest in this unit: 81

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 417
   - Bow: 223
   - Crossbow: 170
   - Muzzleloader: 142

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 24.37
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 244
   - Mostly Private Land: 94
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 51
   - Mostly Public Land: 21
   - Exclusively Public Land: 30
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 23
   - Not too crowded: 67
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 32
   - Somewhat crowded: 48
   - Very crowded: 22
   - Not applicable: 4

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 111
   - Fewer: 144
   - Same: 163
   - More: 53
   - Many More: 7
   - Unsure: 9

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Because the number of antlerless permits set is always less than the number sold, increasing the number of permits set is meaningless in the current hunting environment. Some other incentive must be used to entice hunters to purchase and use at least the antlerless permits set. Many tactics have been tried to accomplish this with limited success. The one tactic that has been successful in other states is to have an additional early rifle season the week before the traditional 9-day rifle season. This option is not available in Wisconsin due to a recent state law changed initiated by Senator Tom Tiffany and sheparded by him through both houses to successful passage. This law had no scientific basis for enactment and was opposed by both the DNR and hunters. The motives of Senator Tiffany in proposing this law is unclear, but scientific data supporting such a law is totally lacking. The law must be rescinded to allow the DNR the option of setting an extra earlier season—the best option to increase the deer harvest as seen in other states. An earlier week is generally warmer with less chance of heavy snowfall. Deer hunters are anxious to pursue their sport and would most likely avail themselves of this early chance to get into the woods and hunt. The rut is in full swing so deer movement would most likely be very high, and both the antlered and antlerless harvest would likely be enough to reduce the deer overpopulation in CDAC where herd reduction is a stated goal. Logic and common sense dictate that this law prohibiting an early season be overturned. Furthermore, uninformed, single-issue legislative meddling by senators and representatives of this type in natural resource must be discouraged in the future. Leave natural resource management to professionals with degrees in their specialty. Legislators have proven time and again that the laws they propose are almost always for selfish reasons to placate some wealthy influential constituent (who happens to be a significant donor to the legislator’s campaign). This is the worst reason imaginable to enact a natural resource law.

I have hunted deer in Barron county for 30 years now. When it comes to public land I can honestly say that I have not seen the number of deer that I have before. I hope that you lower the number of tags for public land. I have also hunted private land for that amount of time to. I can honestly say that I have not seen the number that you used to see when I first started hunting. I am sure you want to lower the number of deer on some of the private land. It’s up to us the hunter to manage the deer heard also. We can not leave it all up to you. I wish that we had a 4point restrictions like they do in Missouri. We could have some quality deer like they do. I hope the DNR raises the prices for out of state license across the board. Especially the price for bonus tags for out of state hunters. When I go to Minnesota it costs me 90 dollars for extra for tag. Here is my cell phone number. 1-715-931-7703 my name is Gary Anderson. I live in the poskin area. If you would like to ask me anything else. Or talk about things pertaining to the season feel free to call me. I will say that it's sad to see us loosing hunters the way we have the last few years. The biggest frustration for alot of people Is the lack of seeing deer. So they always say why should I stay hunting if I don’t see anything. Thank you and have a wonderful day.
Online aids

379 This isn't directly related to deer harvest goals but does have an indirect relation. The river systems in many areas flow through private land (both sides of the river). We've encountered many seasons where people have floated the river in a canoe or jon boat and then shoot at deer as they are exiting the river or even standing on private land. I've called wardens before because I've witnessed floaters shooting at deer that were running up river banks and then they never followed up on the shot to see if they even wounded the deer. We've recovered deer that were shot by river hunters that actually came into our property and died right next to us and no one ever got out of their boat to check for blood. We have found dead carcasses on our property with bullet wounds that we couldn't salvage as well. I would like to see a regulation prohibiting shooting deer while they are traversing a water system that has private land on each side of the water system which in effect would eliminate people from floating through private land and shooting deer that they can not or do not follow up on (not to mention the ethical dilemma of trespassing).

380 I bowhunted barron co last year As I have in the past and was amazed at the lack of deer last season. I hunted the new auburn public grounds and only saw 1 fawn in several trips. Hunted yellow river by cumberland several times, saw 3 does in one trip and nothing else the rest of the season in 5 different spots, saw a few bears, which I think killed off the deer. Hunted a small parcel just east of rice lake and saw 2 does and got chased out by a group of howling coyotes(or wolves). This is the general consensus of everybody I know that bowhunts around barron co- no deer, let alone shooter quality bucks. I would shoot anything more than 4 pts, but have not even seen anything that big in years. I'm pretty sick of finding tree stands, blinds, tripods, cameras and other misc hunting gear left out on public grounds, I see that as littering and don’t understand why the dnr allows it, most unmarked, but even marked ruins the experience. I found multiple blinds that were left out, probably shredded by wildlife and the owners decided to just leave them instead of cleaning up their mess. Pretty soon I'm going to just start taking them.

381 Over all deer numbers this spring are on a par or slightly higher than last spring. I am a bit surprised by the large numbers of doe, fawn (last years) groups out in the evenings, this probably reflects our very mild winter. I continue to wish for a state wide ban on baiting of deer. CWD is beginning to show up just to our south, so a baiting ban will likely continue here at least. East of highway 53 where deer numbers are overall lower still has some pretty nice pockets of deer this spring so I don’t expect splitting the county into partial northern forest will accomplish any real results that mother nature can’t take care of. We started shooting does on opening weekend three years ago, and more does in general as younger hunters joined our group, surprisingly we kill as many nice bucks as ever and see similar numbers of deer during gun season. At our camp we could afford lower deer numbers as browse damage is a problem, almost impossible to grow any oak without deer exclusion fences. I thank the council for the time and effort they’re putting in and I think the deer metrics are are great tool.

382 I think your plan is messed up for barron county. I believe the county should be devided into 2 sections perhaps HWY 8 being a dividing point. I see many (lots and lots) in south barron county I understand there is more private and posted land in that area and I don't think it gets as much pressure as the north part does with there being more count land available. but I don’t think its right for the north part of the county to have a poor deer herd because the south land owners just collect crop damage and don’t allow the herd to be hunted. I own 40 acres bordered by county forest and in the past few at least I have noticed the amount of deer dropping I have trail cams in the woods and there just isn't as many deer as I should be seeing. Last fall hunting season I seen very few hunters and my trail cams showed very few deer. This has been getting worse and worse every year yet hunters are allowed to go out there and shoot 2/3/4 deer and go home. So far this spring I have 1 doe and 2 smaller deer It looks like another bad year!!!! Maybe I'll just quit like it seems others have.
I hunt in both Barron and Dunn counties and I feel that it is absolutely absurd that Barron county is put into the same category as Dunn county. The deer population in these 2 counties, at least the land that I hunt, isn't even close. If I had to choose to hunt one of the counties solely off of number of deer I see per hunt I would choose Dunn county hands down without even having to think about it. When I decide that it's time for me to harvest a doe I go to Dunn county because it's way higher odds I'm going to see deer, might not get an opportunity to harvest but I'm going to see deer. I've had numerous hunts in Barron County over the last 5 years where I sat for minimum 4 hours per hunt and didn't see a deer. I haven't harvested a female deer in Barron county in over 10 years because I don't see the number of deer in Barron County as I did 10 years ago and currently as I do in Dunn county. I remember growing up when I first started hunting, Barron County was almost as good for hunting as Dunn county but still wasn't quite as good. Again, now it's not even close.

Thank you for all the effort put into keeping the hunting #s in perspective. I believe that issuing 2-3 tags on public land would be beneficial to reach a more targeted goal. Also extending into a Holiday hunt, and extending the archery/crossbow season would be beneficial. I also wonder if promoting a positive response between the Private and Public hunters would be welcomed. We're all in this together. Couldn’t help but notice that an area of public land last year got totally boxed out by private hunters. My small family of 3 hunters cannot afford land so we hunt public land. We do however understand the importance of support of community and maintenance of the deer herd. So when we pick an area to hunt, we also provide to a local charity, eat at local restaurants, buy hunting ammo and supplies, and stay at local hotel/motels for the season. We are safe, courteous, and well seasoned hunters that care for the animals and people. Thanks again

As long as people are allowed to congregate deer on private lands through baiting and feeding we will always... * run a high risk of disease exposure and spread. * have an over abundance of deer on private lands as opposed to public lands. * foster a hunting experience that will vary greatly between public land hunters vs private lands. * create artificial over browsing in localized areas. * cause an increase in car deer collisions in areas where artificial food sources are placed. * continue to see a drop in hunter recruitment caused by taking the challenge out of hunting. * continue to see a decrease in lands/wildlife open to hunting as people feel an “ownership” to the animals they feed. * continue to see a decrease in the natural fear deer should have which causes an increase in negative deer/people interactions. GET RID OF BAITING SND FEEDING AND DEER FARMING AND MOST IF YOUR PROBLEMS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

I know deer population can vary across a county and it is difficult to decide upon regulations that can encompass an entire county but I can say the area I hunt does not see anywhere close to the number of deer that I used to see. I hunt in the former zone 23 which is east of hwy 53 but south of hwy 8. In this area it has become a greater struggle to see deer with regular occurrence while hunting. I do bow hunt and gun hunt and in general I have become accustomed to only seeing deer every other time I’m in the woods. It wasn't that long ago that I used to see a lot more deer. When I see year after year the committee recommending decreasing the population and more tags being handed out I know I won't see the deer rebound in my particular area. I have not been shooting any does in the last few years as I did not want to take another deer out that could produce more for the area.

I am wondering if the DNR/CDAC know what the true carrying capacity is for the available deer habitat in Barron County. I have hunted both the eastern portion of the county and the western portion. I have seen a definite difference in the number of deer from east to west. I stopped hunting in the east part of the county due to fewer deer sightings. It makes me think that the public forest land in the eastern part of Barron County is being managed for timber harvest instead of wildlife habitat. In the western part of the county where I hunt now, I have seen deer almost every time out even though the numbers I see are fewer in recent years. The amount of agricultural land in this area is higher and seems to support more deer. The CDAC needs to reevaluate the number of antlerless tags to recommend. A 10% reduction in the numbers, especially on private lands seems more reasonable.
We should be able to take a deer by any way we choose. By selecting the correct license to take one. When I hear complaints about people not seeing deer it is time to change spots. Period that all it takes. I’ve done that several years and deer change things up also to avoid people. We should not punish a hunter by people blaming each other like for example crossbow people take more deer and that’s why were not seeing deer. I know people who missed deer by every way of taking a deer. Let’s not take choice away! How to take them. People get stuck in their ways by sitting in the same spot year after year. It’s easier to take a deer with a rifle than any means with a crossbow and compound following close by. Keep season and quotas the same and tell people to move around!

I believe the season should change. Add a one week season at the beginning of November while deer are in peak rut. Hunters will see many more deer than they do during regular season, especially regular seasons that start late. Seeing more deer will likely result in shooting more deer to help get population to desired levels. And seeing more deer in general motivates hunters who are "on the fence" about deer hunting because they may see so few deer late in the month which is caused by lack of deer daytime movement post-rut. Besides the season at the beginning of the month I suggest having another one week or 9 day hunt at the end of the month. Antlerless deer quotas and tags allowed can vary each year as the desired deer numbers are obtained or not.

As a new resident of Barron County I was taken aback by the large herds of deer that I have seen in the Prairie Farm Area. One night on 3 and 1/2 ave we saw over 70 in 2 massive groups. We also experienced a large amount deer loss in the garden, I will fence this year, but we were unable to harvest an ear of sweet corn off of over 400 linear feet of sweet corn and we found the deer even ate tomatoes and tomato plants loosing about 200 plants, we were not able to harvest green beans as well from our 300 linear foot planting... there was heavy brouse to our apples and other fruit trees and bushes. If there is an additional season I would plan to hunt on it due to my commitment to hunt with the family group during traditional gun season in Polk county.

Have earn a buck as an option, not does only, new hunters exempt from earn a buck due to fact they had no chance to harvest an antlerless deer the year prior. Majority of people will only harvest a few deer per hunter due to expense of processing or work of processing my family has a five deer limit on processing at home, hunter numbers vary from two to three. Last year was two bucks and two antlerless one hunter in military and only hunted four days due to limited leave. Have antlerless tags good for multiple counties private land in farmland zones, I hunt in three counties and so do many folks, also friends who visit to hunt a weekend don’t select that county for antlerless hunting because they only hunt that county a few days.

Since the elimination of buck check in and metal tag system, year after year the average buck age and antler size has diminished on the 1,000 acres of private land I hunt. I believe with such a loose system for checking deer, specifically bucks, more bucks are being taken in my area and less does. While friends use to come in from out of state/town to hunt "trophy" bucks, they are now choosing other options in other states. These were the guys that would bring business to the locals and have to kill a doe to hunt a buck and helped me manage the deer population. Without a tag system for bucks, I believe hunters are abusing the laws and killing all bucks and not doing their part in managing does and the overall deer population.

While Barron Co has some public lands the majority is private and ag lands which typically are adjacent to the the public lands. I see a disproportionate amount of antlerless on these public lands w/ very limited ability to harvest while in plain sight of private land where they have much more opportunity at the same deer. As is, private land owners are getting nearly 4-1 doe tags. These same antlerless are as much on public but go to the private ag for browse and food source. Would be great if public hunters would be better able to help control the population by increasing public antlerless tags as well. It is very uncommon in Barron for private land owners to open their land for doe harvesting in my experience here.
2019 was one of the worst years I have hunted, didn't see a lot of deer and they were acting different, we do have wolves and coyotes in our area, was that the reason? Also, too many bears, one day, did not see any deer, but did see one bear!! I hunted more days than I ever have, with no success, took grandkids out 2 different days, no deer, so they were not interested in going out any more, I really believe deer are getting smarter but it is not a lot of fun to sit most of the day and not see a deer. I strongly disagree on the no baiting law, it does bring in a few deer and that is what I wanted my grandkids, to see deer and get interested, but it's hard to keep them interested when you see nothing!

Thanks for sharing the data gathered about Barron County. I wish deer hunters in WI understood how much of an impact deer can have on an ecosystem when populations get too high. Micromanaging the deer herd for the sole purpose of seeing a lot of deer and potentially harvesting more is not good science. I wish Joe Public would see how such strategies ultimately decrease habitat for not only deer, but other wildlife as well. Everything is connected and most hunters need to quit whining about how the herd is managed. Trust in the people that have the schooling, experience, and expertise to manage our natural resources on a sustainable basis. Bar stool biologists need not apply.

I own forested property surrounded on 3 sides by cropland. I have also been on 10+ parcels looking to buy land in the DMU. Deer browse decimates the native plant community over the winter, pushing selection for invasive and non desirable plant species. Buckthorn, prickly ash and elderberry have dominated the understory of several of those parcels, some even had very little herbaceous growth under those. Having no predators in the area allows the deer to sit in the woods and destroy the forests in our DMU. Until we have large predators in the area I fully support all increased hunting efforts. I plan to harvest my limit. It's good for tourism and good for our local forests.

I am a 60 year old female that grew up with a father that was a avid outdoors men. Not only is maintaining the deer herd important, but I believe growing to learn what the woods and what is in it and how it survives makes a good hunter. We have been told we have too many deer, but we sure see less than we used to. With hunting of course comes all the family traditions that go along with it. We as a family have been doing our traditions for over 40 years. Times have definitely changed, maybe some new changes for our hunting needs to be tried. It's not as though they would have to be permanent:) Thanks so much for giving us the opportunity to share these things with you!!

Good Morning I totally support the early season Youth Hunting program, however, I do not support it becoming a way of life. We cannot have all of these seasons. Please give some consideration to making the Youth Hunt a "1 and done" experience. That being, once you kill a deer as a youth hunter in the early season, you now become a 9 day hunter like the rest of us. This season has become a source for illegal hunting. That season changes the archery deer patterns and does not give the youth hunter a realistic view of how Wisconsin hunts deer. Seems to me, if the DNR is as eager to kill anterless deer, why not make the youth hunt an antlerless only season?

I see a lot fewer deer than I did 5 years ago but there is a lot of private land that doesn’t get hunted. The public land gets pounded opening weekend pushing deer into surrounding private land. The hunting success on the public land near me is low for the number of hunters, could be due to several factors but even after season the numbers are lower. I think the mild winter should help with fawn survival. I don’t think the predation is a huge factor yet but probably is going to be within another year or so due to good wintering conditions and lack of hunting. I appreciate the online survey option being offered this year.

One thing you should look at is putting up and leaving tree stands on county land during the season. I am going to be 65 years old this season. It is to hard to back pack a portable tree stand in and out every time I want to hunt. It is no different than leaving an ice shack out on the ice all season. I know several hunters who have stopped deer hunting because you the DNR make it to hard on the aging hunters. So please let us put up a portable ladder stand and leave it through the deer season on public land. So we can walk in quietly and get in the stand without spooking all the deer in the area. Thank you.
If the population is so high Wisconsin really needs to allow Barron county and others facing to extend the gun season to a 2 calendar week season instead of a 9 day season. It's a fact that gun harvest rates are significantly more impactful to population control than now harvest rates. Additionally, it has been unfair that for decades now hunters have enjoyed the luxury of hunting through the rut while gun hunters have to wait until the very end of the season to get their turn. If you want to bring balance to the deer population and equity to the hunt for sportsman extend the gun season. Plain and simple.

I saw two deer, 3 bear, and 4 coyotes on opening day. My brother and a friend both shot deer and before they could recover them the coyotes got to them. There is no real effort to control predators. This bothers me but the most disturbing thins is the Kaz movement to exclude some hunters from hunting his deer during prime rut period. There should not be so many limiting issues coming up to each year. If the goal is to decrease the deer population lets do just that but with balance. This fight between hunters must stop. I feel it's time for science to rule and not politics or special interests.

I my opinion, the land that is hunted in barron co. Is very much private. You can give out all the antlerless tags you want it's not going to affect the population on private land. The land owners need to shoot the deer and most that I've talked to just don't care if they shoot any, they don't need the meat. Its not like it was 25 even 15 years ago, people don't hunt like they used to. Less driving deer, now people just sit and hunt their own land. That equals less deer movement and less deer shot. Giving more tags won't help. Anterless only seasons only makes hunters mad. Good luck.

The poaching in our area have become an ever-growing problem. Night hunting, trespassing, road hunting are all up. We had plenty of deer in summer. Perhaps 4 or 6. By hunting season, there was one small doe left, which of course we didn't shoot. Perhaps some of our county has a high population. But not around Arland and Prairie Farm townships. I'm going to take license plate numbers this year. We've been reluctant to turn people in, but it's gone far enough. My husband was almost shot by road hunters north of our 40 acre woods where we hunt.

I hunt public land in the Northeast corner of the county and the wolves have basically wiped out the deer herd vs 20 years ago. I have two kids that I am trying to introduce into hunting and it becomes very discouraging for them not to see anything. Likely they will stop hunting altogether if this does not change. I don’t expect there to be deer all over the place but it is frustrating when I know this same land used to have so many more deer. There are dramatically fewer hunters in this area so I know they have not contributed to lower numbers.

I have owned land in Barron county for 3 years. The deer population is higher than other parts of the state and we selected land in the county specifically so we would have a better chance at harvest deer on our property. We have been fortunate to harvest several deer each of the two hunting seasons we have owned the property and would oppose efforts to substantially reduce the size of the herd. While some reduction seems to make sense esp. given the desire to limit disease, we hope to continue to have successful harvests for years to come.

There is a huge difference in the amount of deer on the east half of the county compared to the west half of the county. The west half has a much larger number of deer than the east half. The deer harvest number is not accurately reported due to call in/online registration. This type of registration does not work in a state with 600,00 hunters!!! No one at the DNR is listening to landowners but the biologist’s have any easier job now...good for them.

DO NOT extend the bow season. To extend and yes I know you are not going to do it this year. However it is something that is on the table. That would be a JOKE can there be a POORER way to control deer numbers than using a bow. Look at how much time they have to hunt now. EX: they start their season in September and go to the end of December four months minus a couple of days for the t-zone and rifle season, wait I forgot they can hunt those season can’t they. So again it is 4 months to shoot deer and they want more please.
I feel that East of Rice Lake should be included in unit 18. West remain in unit 22. Unit 22 is too large. Also it was unclear last year if one could use their rifle doe or buck tags for the muzzeloader season. Also is there a way to find private land owners willing to post or accept applicants to hunt their land? Seems to be a major task and time consuming challenge finding a potential land owner to ask permission to harvest from there land. Also, I have been seeing more Black Bear than ever in units 18 and 22.

I would recommend an every other year earn a buck season, hopefully this would keep a check on the antlerless deer population while possibly bringing back a better buck population. I am seeing far more does than bucks and I’m retired and spend most of bow season and all of rifle season in the woods, more bucks means keeping the younger hunter in the woods, they have the mentality that they have to shoot a buck in order to get praise from their friends, it’s not important to get meat for the table.

Too many Private Land Owners are not allowing hunting on their property, or at best, hunting the land themselves and harvesting 1-2 deer, resulting in a large number of unharvested deer being able to stay in a "safe zone" for the entire rest of the season. Public Land Owners should have to open their land use to hunting beyond their OWN hunting use, to help reduce the number of unharvested deer. Either that, or if it is farmland, they should lose their right and ability to claim deer damage.

If there was an increase statewide to license sales for resident and non resident each county could to help aid in CWD registrations a program to have your deer tested provides a credit back to the license purchase or option to donate that credit to ongoing CWD research for Wisconsin. Additional option to donate testing credit to conservation programs for land to be enrolled into easement access for public grounds not used or as accessible, wetland enrollment, pollinator, etc.

CWD is a hoax to try to eradicate the deer population the reason the harvest numbers are down is because the DNR has made it way to East for the poachers to continue doing what they do no back tags makes it hard to turn violations in to the authorities the DNR are more interested in giving out fines for people feeding wildlife then controlling violating hunting use to be a family get together now its a joke nobody wants to hunt because of the lack of control of the violators

try to increase herd alittle back to some years past. unless habitat is solely agriculture deer density is quite a bit less. No holiday or extending into january hunts. If need to harvest some antlerless have a 4 day hunt in October which includes the youth hunt during same time, don't need a seperate time for a youth hunt that way. With increasing predators especially bears killing more fawns we need to increase densities to provide better hunting and seeing more deer.

I would like to see a buck management program that would increase the age of bucks harvested. Example - only bucks with 3 or more points on one antler may be harvested. I understand this would initially reduce buck harvest numbers for the first year of the program, but by year two the kill should return to similar numbers as there would be more mature bucks to shoot. MN and many other states are trying this with great success. Thank you for taking suggestions!!

I think owners of 35 acres or more should get one , maybe two antlerless tags,free of charge. With today's computer systems you can keep track if the people that recieved them are using them or just have them to keep other people from being able to get one and the animals numbers not reduced. PETA MEMBERS (example) In other words the people that are feeding them. So if they dont show a kill in two years , they shouldn't get free ones anymore.

I am an advocate for quality deer management (QDM). This philosophy highlights the importance of harvesting antlerless deer and not harvesting young/immature bucks to improve the chances of harvesting a mature buck and to increase the buck:doe ratio. I would love to see a change in harvest policies such that a buck must have at least 4 points on one side to be harvested while at the same time also promoting the harvest of antlerless deer. Thank you!
I liked the number of licenses that were issued for the 2019 season. I hold onto my buck tag for an older deer so some years it is not used. On the land I hunt the population may be getting a little high and causing more damage to crops than many would like. I’m more worried about diseases in the herd because my family eats venison year round. I would purchase extra antlerless tags to keep the numbers down if that was the goal continues to be.

Such a small part of the county is land that the DNR can actually control and the overall deer numbers are extremely low on public land so I don’t understand why they want to decrease it anymore. If the deer numbers are high on private land maybe you should find a reasonable way to get those numbers down without completely destroying the public land. I also feel you should charge a fee for doe tags. The holiday hunt is a bad idea for the county!

Please lift baiting restrictions. It makes no sense. CWD is passed through deer poop and then into plants. Deer poop in the spot where bait is placed makes zero sense in try to control the spread. I can take you up on our 40 acres in the spring I could show trails upon trails that the deer use that have have solid deer poop on them. I have read many articles that show baiting does nothing in spreading the disease.

In the future would be nice to tie in wolf population and predation numbers. While we haven’t seen wolf on camera yet at our place in Cumberland we are starting to hear others talk about it seeing them. It is something that will need to be watched as it could be an outside influence on deer population that is not being considered. At least not in these numbers that we have seen in this presentation. Thanks for sharing!

Hunters need to stop shooting all the yearling deer. The hunting parties on surrounding properties seem to shoot anything that is deer-shaped, regardless of size. We’ll never see trophy deer as long as they keep shooting all the little ones. It’s hardly even fun anymore when you see guys dragging 90-100 pound white tails out of the woods. If they want to shoot small animals, they should focus on the growing coyote population.

Where I hunt, which is about 10 miles northeast of Chetek, the deer herd is abysmal. The population has been steadily dropping for years. At dusk when I used to see many deer in the fields I only see a few if I am lucky. During rut in my journal I used to see 30 to 40 deer in the week starting on Halloween. I now see 4 or 5. I have moved around some in that area on private and public land but the results are still the same.

Quit trying to change and/or extend the hunting seasons. Keep the bow hunting season as is, and keep the traditional 9 day gun season starting the Saturday before Thanksgiving and ending the Sunday after. WHY do you think these seasons need to be changed? Its been that way for many years, for many reasons and it has worked well. I believe in the youth hunts, but the Doe only season should not ever happen again.

2 friends and I have purchased land in Barron county, we have worked out tails off to make our 66 acres a deer haven. We have been hunting archery (vertical) the immediate area, public and private for many years. In our specific area, we definitely have a very large doe to buck ratio. We plan to do our part to hopefully lessen the Doe population. I am very impressed at the view of the Wisconsin DNR.

All in all, I feel that the DNR has us taking out WAY too many antlerless deer. The population of deer is so much lower than what it used to be. I do not feel that the DNR is doing a good job of managing the deer population. In fact, I think humans need to back way off of trying to manage the population of any animal. It isn’t our job. I do enjoy hunting, but we have taken the deer almost out. Not good. Shame!

I think with kids of all ages being able to shoot a deer while hunting with a guardian we no longer need the youth hunt. In our area it just seems like the youth hunt is just opportunity for the parent to shoot a nice buck out of season. Make this a doe only season if you think we need it. This hunt interrupts our bow season. I have 10 grand children (ages 4-16) and we don’t need the youth hunt any more.
I strongly support the antlerless harvest recommendations. There are so many deer out there! I have cannot grow trees in my woods without tree shelters. They are ravaging my flowers and shrubs. I have concerns over vehicle accidents. I predict even if they shoot the quota there will not be a big change in the deer population. Also, with CWD knocking on our door, population management makes sense.

From what I have read in the charter the CDAC is to gather public opinion. I would hope this survey and the other Surveys that are filled out will be taken into consideration. We seem to see in years past, it seems that the whatever the wildlife manager and forester carry way more weight in the decisions then the public. I hope in the future we the public have some say in what happens to our herd.

DNR has suggested an earlier deer gun season before. But turned down by hunters. Michigan starts on Nov. 15th, regardless of the day it falls on. This year we were post rut. Cold and deep snow up north. Deer not moving. Deer very nocturnal. Earlier hunt would be more enjoyable. Hunters would stay in the field longer and harvest more deer, rather than killing them on the highway with our vehicles.

We need to consider alternatives to increase hunter numbers, for example reduce the non-resident license cost to 2 times that of residents. This would increase the kill AND boost the economy. A non resident with a couple of 18 year old kids faces a massive bill to hunt in WI, when he does not start the kids hunting here they will not consider WI later in life. KILL MORE DEER!

Hello, I hunt in the south west corner of the county. We have seen a lower number of deer in our neighborhood. I have spoke to my neighbors and we have all came to the conclusion we need to stop taking anterless deer to increase the herd. We have been able over the years to fill our tags but last year and from what we see in the area we are not going to fill the tags.

While hunters in Barron county understand the need to not bait due to CWD, this change over the last season has had a dramatic effect on the hunters I know. Many hunters in the area reported seeing little to no activity during active hunting hours. If the goal is to decrease the deer population in Barron county, baiting needs to be allowed, if even in minor amounts.

Deer populations in Barron Co. have declined a significant number since 2014-2015 in the area I hunt. Predators (coyote, bears, and wolves) can confirm seeing all three in the area with documentation have drastically reduced the herd. Wolf coyote and bear populations need to be regulated/ hunted more to reduce the amount of damage they have done to the herd.

The Southeastern part of the county near New Auburn, Chetek, have very few deer. West of Sand Creek area the numbers increase significantly. Two free doe tags is simply unsustainable in the Southeastern part of the county! 5 hunters on 150 acres saw three deer all season. A doe and two fawns. We had 10 free does tags and we never pulled the trigger!

The county needs to be split. The eastern half has very few deer vs the western half. We have been telling the board this for years. They do not hear what the people are requesting. This is why participation and hunting is disappearing not only in Barron county but throughout the state. Hunters want to see deer while hunting.

Plenty of deer around. Browse lines very evident. Would like to see more hunting opportunities available to those who choose to partake - Holiday hunt, extended bow season, etc. Not saying I would participate, but see no reason to limit the opportunities to those who would - especially since the harvest goals are not being met.

Barron County is not all crop land. The NE portion is mostly woodland and has a smaller deer population. Treating the entire county the same way is not an effective way to control deer population. There are already metro units in other counties, why not separate some of the units where the entire county doesn't fit the mold?

Don't like extra hunting seasons. They take away the the traditional "hunting season". Which in itself has been like a holiday in WI and we are loosing it. You travel around later in the week during season there is very little pressure. So the people would have time to make a harvest if they wanted to without adding seasons.
The way of hunting has changed dramatically in the past few years. Being that Barron County is mostly private land and most landowners don’t give permission to hunt. The deer aren’t getting pushed around so people don’t see as many deer during the hunting seasons. Mainly during the rifle season.

I feel that the landowners with 25 plus acres of land of which 20% is planted with agricultural crops, should be allowed a land owner permit to harvest a bonus deer on their property. The 50 acre thing doesn’t work for me because I only have 40 acres. That said 50% of that land is crop land.

I hope we will continue to be able to bait for deer if possible. This should increase the percentage of success for hunters, and hopefully continue to avoid overpopulation. However, I support using the best evidence for decreasing CWD spread, if or when that evidence becomes available.

Take into consideration the wolf, bear, and coyote predation. I’ve found several in the spring last year. Lots of winter kill in winter 2017/18. This year I’ve not found as many, but have not got out as much. Something to consider on the amount of antlerless tags that are available...

Please maintain crossbow use through the duration of the archery season. I personally have used it as a very effective method of introducing my sons to hunting, no recoil, longer season, close shots. It would be a major step back, in my opinion, to reduce crossbow hunting.

I don’t think that the state should raise the cost of a nonresident license. Many family members who live out of state, now have begun to rent land for hunting rights in their home state, when they use to hunt in Wisconsin and contribute $ to the Barron County economy.

Get rid of deer farms and all others which create risk to wild life population, ie CWD. Seems like this group has a lot of say in how it is managed. It is not right that public has to pay of arrogance of a few that insist on raising these animals for profit.

I oppose restricting crossbow hunting. It has allowed my daughters to bow hunt. If restrictions are considered I do not think they should apply to youth who may not be able to use a vertical bow, or to older people who may struggle with a vertical bow.

Not sure if anyone else in Barron county has the same thoughts but this year I have seen an increase in the wolf population on my trail cameras on my private property. Maybe it has to do with myself not seeing as many deer as I normally do?

Hope we can bring the herd back to what it once was. We enjoyed way better years ago. I can remember going out shining deer with my dad and we would see tons of deer on the fields. Now you would go and shine deer it isn’t anything like that.

Our 90 acres of recreational hunting land is hunted using management practices of harvesting mature bucks & doe. I don’t believe additional doe only seasons are required in our area of Barron County at this time. Thank you

I am doing the survey for the hell of it. Nobody pays attention to what we say anyway. The only thing that gets the attention down in Madison is if we stop buying licenses. One more year of seeing no deer and that will be what I will do.

In Barron county for the past 2 of the 7..we saw very little deer. The only buck we saw was incredibly small. I would like to see better management of deer by not given more tags to kill does based on the volume we were seeing.

There needs to be more bear tags gave out to hunters. As a farmer I see more a lot more damage from bears then I do deer. In the square section that I live in last fall there were 5 bear killed. All in deferent fields and woods.

There needs to be more bear tags gave out to hunters. As a farmer I see more a lot more damage from bears then I do deer. In the square section that I live in last fall there were 5 bear killed. All in deferent fields and woods.
Hi, I believe that the 2019 harvest kill decrease would have to do some with the online registry, I myself find it easy to forget to register deer. I believe that there are a lot of deer that may not be getting registered!

I believe that less out of state licenses should be sold. People that live in the state that hunt public land have a hard time sitting in a spot without groups of out of state hunters doing drives right through the same area.

The deer herd declined steadily over the years and no one seems to care. The extra tags are bought and filled by people just giving deer away. I don't think the DNR is really in touch with the hunters or deer herd numbers.

Increase out of state license amount, unless the hunter owns land or property in Wisconsin. Decrease the total amount of tags given out. Take wolves of the endangered list. Make a bounty for coyotes and wolves.

Would like to see bow hunting open from mid-Sept until the end of the year or early January, with no closures for youth/gun. I hunt private land with bow only and could care less about extending the gun season.

Shorten bow season. Move gun deer season to earlier week or create blocks of days that can be chosen like turkey hunting. Traditional thanksgiving week needs to be changed. To many distractions with holidays.

The deer herd in most of Barron county is over abundant. Herd numbers should be lowered to maintain a healthy population. I would like to have a stable healthy deer herd for my kids and grandchildren to hunt.

There has been a significant increase in predators of deer...which seems to cause a problem of deer moving on to another nearby area without a predator than the number of deer eaten by the predator.

I am an out of state landowner, I pay my taxes and such just as much as a person that is a resident landowner, when will us non resident landowners get some sort of break on the price of our tags?

I do not agree with extending the traditional gun season by 9 days. I also do not agree with eliminating bow season the week before gun season. This is typically some of the best hunting!!!

For Conservation Patron Combination Licenses allow two antler tags and four antlerless tags for the 2020 crossbow/bow season providing for a better chance in the decrease population hoped for.

We need to split the county. We the public have the only thing that will make people listen to us and that is stop buying licenses. Money is the only thing that will get Madison attention.

Wide spread storm damage had a significant affect on hunter access last fall and likely changed the patterns of deer as well. I would expect this will result in a higher harvest this fall.

I propose being able to purchase a buck tag and doe tag for muzzleloader hunt, instead of how it is now that if get one during gun hunt I cant go muzzleloader. And would increase revenue.

The deer numbers are higher and kill numbers are lower because majority of people dont register deer anymore. Bring back registration stations that could double as cwd testing locations.

Too many hunters and too few deer. Probable cause is multifactorial: too many deer harvested, too many hunters, deer population has not revived since decimation a few years ago.

I’m afraid that CWD isn’t being taken seriously enough. More needs to be done to ensure that we have deer to hunt for future generations. Start by banning high fence deer farms.

Shouldn’t we try to keep numbers up. If you take kids hunting and they do not see any deer day after day. We are not going get them into hunting. Not a hard decision to make.

We as hunters have more than enough time to shoot a deer if we what so making longer seasons and giving out more tags will not change our views. Thanks.

Number of permits issued isn’t the issue. lack of hunters. i could be issued 20 permits but it doesn't do any good if I can only use 1 or 2 permits for my venison needs.
I think Non resident licenses should be cheaper for family members that live out of state. When my Grandchildren get older they will not be able to afford to hunt.

Can we split the county? I am filling this out again this year. I hope next year more thought will go into what the public wants!!! Not what Madison wants!!!

Same every year. The deer Are not plentiful. Why do you Think people Are not Hunting. Split County as asked before.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved. Continue doing the great job you have always done and vote for our environment and those that enhance it.

I am not going to hunt this year I haven’t seen much the last 5 years and it is time to save my money. The herd just isn’t as large as you say it is.

I would like to see the public and private anterless tags changed to JUST plane anterless tags and not specifically have to be used for either or.

We need to increase deer herd. When I hunt public land you don’t see anything. I asked the other hunters and they say the same thing.

I hunt in both Barron and Polk county I would like an anterless tag that could be used in either county. I own land in both counties.

CWD research and mitigation should remain the highest priorities for whitetail management in Wisconsin and throughout the country.

Believe current licensing and deer seasons are good. Don't recommend changes to Archery, Crossbow, Rifle or Muzzle Loader seasons.

Way too many tags given out. I feel every two years or so no tags for antlered deer. Way too many SMALL bucks being killed.

I am opposed to the extended "holiday" hunting season. Concerned with what it would do to the deer population in our area.

I agree to keep 2020 deer hunting quota the same as 2019. A separate doe season is not needed in this unit.

stop killing all the deer the DNR is wrecking hunting and its foundation that it was built on. no youth hunts

I was out hunting everyday of the season and I didn’t see a single deer, many other hunters had this problem

Monetary offense for any deer feeding. Keep deer numbers at or lower than current to have a healthy herd.

We are seeing less deer on the east side of the county. We still are hoping you can split the county.

This is sad. I am ready to stop hunting if this is the way you are going to manage the deer herd.

More seasons=good. Limited Draw for antlered tags and allow more pressure on antlerless. My 02.

We have more than hunting reducing our herd. We need to go with bucks only for 3 years.

Please simplify the licences, why cant we have buck tag, doe tag, and bonus license

Limit native American poaching Have a wolf season Have more intensive Turkey hunts

Way too many crop damage tags are issued. Let the hunters have a chance at the deer!

There aren’t the deer numbers on the western side of the county you think there are

if we want lower deer numbers because of very mild winter extend seasons.

The wolves have wiped out the deer population on the public ground

Please reduce the amount of anterless tags are being issued.
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>502</td>
<td>I know this is beating a dead horse but split the county!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>If you want antlerless kills need to threaten earn a buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504</td>
<td>Leave season’s as they were in 2019. No holiday season!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505</td>
<td>I would love to see the holiday hunt in Barron County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td>I think there is way to may bonus tags given out!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>507</td>
<td>Reduce the crossbow permits back to handicap only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508</td>
<td>It’s good the way it is right now. Thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>509</td>
<td>no more than 1 buck for the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>CWD control. More testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>511</td>
<td>Bucks only!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10916</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bayfield, Northern Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

789 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 270
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 254
   - I hunt in this unit: 737
   - General interest in this unit: 163

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 698
   - Bow: 347
   - Crossbow: 259
   - Muzzleloader: 226

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 27.05
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 159
   - Mostly Private Land: 105
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 150
   - Mostly Public Land: 99
   - Exclusively Public Land: 217
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 7

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 17
   - Not too crowded: 108
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 106
   - Somewhat crowded: 133
   - Very crowded: 198
   - Not applicable: 9

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 195
   - Fewer: 251
   - Same: 228
   - More: 83
   - Many More: 21
   - Unsure: 11

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Antlerless Quota is...
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 62 677 50

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? 417 297 75

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for Bayfield, Northern Forest

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
Addional comments Regarding the 2020 Bayfield CDAC Antlerless Quota

Thank you for the opportunity to further outline my opinion regarding the preliminary antlerless quota for the 2020 deer season in Bayfield County. Below I have outlined my observations and opinions of deer hunting and deer management in Bayfield County as someone who has deer hunted near Drummond for more than 50 years. I reviewed the recently posted 2020 Bayfield Deer Metric Report, viewed DNR Wildlife Specialist Todd Nass’ on-line presentation, and was one of the 27 “public” individuals who participated in the 8 April telephone conference. I am led to ask some questions about the future goals of deer management in the County. While the CDAC is focused on the 2020 recommendations I believe they must also be looking well into the future if deer hunting in the County, especially the quintessential Northwood’s Deer Camp experience, is expected to continue. The numbers in the metrics report and from Mr. Nass’ presentation in my opinion do not support the further reduction of the herd in Bayfield County, especially considering my observations in the national forest found in the southern part of the County.

Most of my deer hunting in Bayfield County since 1969 has been done in the few sections of land between Drummond and Lake Owen, although our group has occasionally hunted other parts of the national forest around Drummond just to see if the “grass was greener”. It wasn’t and we always seem to come back to our traditional area where we have had success, that was until the last 10 – 12 years. This area has continuously been hunted by individuals from my southern Wisconsin community since the early 1900’s, making me the fourth or fifth generation to enjoy the sport and fellowship of a Bayfield County deer camp. We are hoping to convince another generation to continue the tradition, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to persuade them to join us. One of the major reasons is the lower quality of the hunt as documented by reduced siting’s and harvest since the mass “kill-off” of the early 2000’s. It is my hope that the committee understands that by my calculation the majority of deer hunters in Bayfield County are not residents of the county and many, like me, drive hundreds of miles to hunt. We expect a high quality hunt and the reduction of the Bayfield County herd is preventing that from happening. I don’t believe our voice is being heard by a committee comprised solely of County residents. That is not your fault, but rather it seems to be a rule regarding the structure of the CDAC’s that don’t allow folks like me who only rifle hunt in Bayfield County to belong to Bayfield CDAC. Let me outline some of my thoughts from what I read in the 2020 Bayfield County Deer Metrics Report and watching Mr. Nass’ presentation:

- The 2019 total harvest for Bayfield County declined to 62% of the 2017 harvest. The buck harvest declined similarly. Mr. Nass did a good job of outlining the double whammy from the historic impact of the late seasons on harvest numbers and the snowstorm impacts. However, the first four days of the season had exceptional conditions with relatively mild weather, calm winds, and fresh snow. The majority of deer are typically killed opening weekend and those numbers were lower compared to previous years from reports I recall, which dampens some of the logic for the loss of the last half of the season.
- The report’s data show that while 55% of the deer range is considered public, it only provided 42% of the kill. If it is assumed hunters are somewhat evenly distributed across public and private land the success rate is significantly lower on public land. Yes, it is more challenging to hunt public land as heated blinds, natural field edges and travel lanes, crop fields, and long-term baited areas are uncommon in the public forest. But could it be that simply deer numbers are lower on public land because of over-harvest and predator pressure, especially in the national forest?
- The reported data show that the period from the late 1980’s to about 2008 Bayfield County had a much higher harvest, and therefore a proportionally larger herd. Was this increase from the low harvest numbers of the 1970’s due to more abundant food from younger browse, milder winters, less predator pressure, or inadequate antlerless harvest? Regardless the herd increased and the total harvest averaged in the range of 8,000 – 10,000 animals (6 – 7 per sq. mile), with the buck kill averaging around 4,000 (3 per sq. mile) over this 20 year period. Then came the early part of the new century when a decision was made to reduce the herd by the generous issuance of antlerless tags and special seasons. Following that slaughter a seemingly new norm has been established that appears to manage for a herd size that supports a harvest of bucks in the range of 2,000 – 2,500 animals (1.5 – 1.8 per sq. mile). Hunters have been forced to see their potential to see deer and harvest a buck decreased by nearly 50% in the past decade based on buck kill decrease over that time. Is this the “new normal” that hunters are expected to accept? If so, it is not something most support.
- The success rate for bonus tags on public land in 2019 as shown in the report for Bayfield County
was 21%, or about a third lower than previous years when it’s typically been 30%. It leads me to wonder if those that purchase them are bad shots, were hunters waiting until the end of the season to harvest a doe and got snowed out, are not filling them earlier with a bow to ensure meat in the freezer, or are there simply substantially fewer deer on public land than what DNR managers estimate. - The reported data show the Post Hunt Herd Abundance numbers for Bayfield County dropped by over 25% since 2017. Was this due to increased hunter harvest, predators, or the severe winter of 2018 – 2019 when heavy snow went late into the spring? Mr. Nass modified the 2019 number upward in his presentation to the CDAC, but still it shows that the “reduce the herd” strategy is working, to its extreme I might add. The goal to “slightly” reduce the herd has been accomplished. The adjacent counties of Ashland and Douglas are each showing a similar reduction in their Post Hunt Deer Population estimates. The herd in those counties decreased 22 and 24% since 2017, respectively. Interestingly both Ashland and Douglas County have an increase the herd strategy, which doesn’t seem to be working. It makes one wonder if non-hunting factors such as predator kill, winter severity, and perhaps unknown disease are more significant in terms of the number of deer on the landscape. - If in fact deer are so abundant in the county there should be numerous Ag. and nuisance complaints. These numbers have been insignificant for several years and apparently where a complaint is made a shooting permit is issued to address the problem. - The concern that there are high deer numbers and are causing too many car-deer collisions is noted in the report. Mr. Nass’ report showed the Bayfield County Sheriff’s numbers were about twice as high as the DOT numbers. I’ve hit four deer in my nearly 50 years of driving, one on Highway 63 just south of Drummond. Admittedly it’s not a good experience. However, when one compares the relative Post Hunt Abundance numbers for 2014 and 2015, which were about 18,000, it seems to have little relationship to car-deer collisions as in succeeding years car-kill numbers were similar and deer numbers were higher. The number of post hunt animals was nearly double in 2017 and 2018, showing over 33,000 animals. I believe relatively inexpensive gas, good roads, and an increasing desire for an outdoor experience equals more miles driven and increases the opportunity for a car-deer accident. - I am surprised by the hunter deer observation numbers. Depending on the survey type hunters recently report seeing between 0.43 and 0.74 deer per hour. Of course these could be the same animal wandering about the forest in its normal habitat, as there doesn’t seem to be the hunter numbers anymore to move animals. We hunt roughly 10 hours each day opening weekend. I’d wet my pants with excitement if I was seeing 4 – 7 deer per day and I guarantee I would not feel compelled to write these annual missives to the Bayfield CDAC. My buddy sat on my Dad’s stand Saturday through Monday this past season, for about 28 hours total and saw zero deer. There was a reason that was my Dad’s stand, as he seemed to harvest an animal every year and it was his for opening weekend. Where are all these deer hiding in the national forest? Based on my review of the data presented in the 2020 Bayfield County Deer Metrics Report, Mr. Nass’ presentation, my observations of deer numbers throughout the year near Drummond, and the CDAC 8 April meeting discussion I offer some thoughts and suggestions regarding the antlerless harvest quota and overall deer management for Bayfield County, which I respectively submit to the CDAC for their consideration: - It is now appropriate to change the Bayfield County deer management strategy from “reduce” the herd to “maintain” or even “build” the herd strategy based on the current post hunt population estimate. The herd has been more than “slightly” reduced as originally intended in 2017. This would be immediately accomplished by reducing or eliminating the 2020 antlerless quota. I believe Mr. Nass clearly implied deer numbers have been reduced more than intended and states in the discussion portion of the 8 April minutes that further reduction “will likely be unpopular by the public”. Long-term hunting quality will continue to suffer and the future reputation of Bayfield County as a quality hunting destination will suffer, resulting in significant social and economic consequences. - If it is determined that an antlerless quota is needed it should focus on where the deer are located, i.e. the farmland that is of course mainly private land and the county forest according to the local forester. Quotas should be lower in the national forest, which has declining deer habitat. Bayfield County Forestry Department reports show that 28% of the land in the county is in the national forest, whereas 18% is in the county forest. Unfortunately such flexibility for managing public forest land does not exist in the CDAC program. There is clear frustration among the Bayfield CDAC members that they do not have the flexibility to manage their county as they see fit by making geographic or habitat-type
adjustments. -The committee should recognize that something beyond hunter harvest is substantially affecting deer numbers as shown by the 2019 post hunt numbers. The observation that deer numbers are declining in Ashland and Douglas Counties shows that even under a build the herd strategy deer numbers decreased in 2019. Mr. Nass discussed the 2019 – 2020 winter severity (WSI = 102), which is very severe and actually started before it first calculation date of 1 December. While he stated the deer he saw looked healthy this early spring, I question the reasoning to abandon the very severe WSI value interpretation and select an ambitious quota for 2020. -An interesting comparison can be made between Douglas, Bayfield, and Ashland Counties, which each have 50 – 55% public land (mostly in public forest), active privately-owned agricultural areas, and similar landscape and weather. The Bayfield CDAC continues to recommend a 60:40 private:public split for antlerless tags. The 2020 proposed quota of 1500 antlerless will result in 2250 and 2000 tags for the private and public land, respectively when corrected for hunter success rate. What are the adjacent counties recommending on their land? In 2019 Ashland County offered zero tags for public land and Douglas County allowed 31% (250) of their tags on public land. The proposal for 2020 in Ashland County is a quota of 200 on private land and 0 on public land. Douglas County will not have an antlerless quota if their preliminary recommendation is accepted. -The comparison of quotas between the adjacent counties begs the question of why the recommendations are so different. Bayfield County adopted the reduce the herd strategy in 2017, being the only county to do so north of Highway 8. Both Ashland and Douglas Counties selected a build the herd strategy. It seems that much of the reason by the Bayfield CDAC for selecting the higher quotas has to establish a smaller herd size on public land because of forestry management considerations. This is mostly due, in my opinion, to the zealous recommendations from the county forester, which actually represents a bit over one-third of the public land. Looking back at the CDAC minutes from August and October, 2017 when the strategy of build the herd was changed to reduce the herd the forestry representative made both the preliminary and final motions to reduce the herd, which were then approved by the CDAC. The forester also made the motion to set the 2000 quota for 2019. At the recent 8 April meeting he made the motion to have a quota for the 2020 season and in the discussion prior to the vote lobbied for an even higher quota than what was eventually accepted. He wanted to reduce the herd by 4% rather than the accepted 2%. It is very apparent to me that his influence on the decisions of the CDAC favors a significant herd reduction that will only further result in the decline of hunting quality in the county. His input, in my opinion, overwhelms that of some of the other members who don’t wish to speak against the forestry industry that is undeniably important in the County. I appreciate the economic significance of the forestry industry in Bayfield County, as clearly the county forest is a “working forest” and is managed to provide economic return to citizens. However, based on my long-term observations there has been little timber management in the national forest, especially that which would support deer management. Over-browsing can be detrimental to forest growth, however the one-size high quota for public land does not fit equally on the both the county and national forest. The forestry representatives in Ashland and Douglas County CDAC’s do not take a similarly aggressive approach and seem to appreciate that there is a balance between browse damage and deer hunting quality and opportunity. -A huge component of deer hunting that the Bayfield CDAC is overlooking is the consideration of the social and economic factors that are impacting hunter participation and local economies. There was very little discussion of the economic impact provided by hunters during the 8 April meeting. I have observed a significant decrease in hunter post-hunt activity in Drummond over the past several years, especially since in-person registration was discontinued. The minutes show the tourism representative had “No concerns” when he had the opportunity to provide it during general discussion. The current CDAC must be forward thinking with respect to how their decisions will impact the future of deer hunting in the County. There appeared to be no consideration of what the deer season and hunting will look like in ten years. There will be impacts because of the depressingly low hunter success, loss of the social comradery that comes from a successful hunt, and the loss of tens of thousands of dollars that will not be spent at bars, restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses. -I applaud DMAP member Tom Erickson for speaking up about the negative impacts of extensive baiting, which in my opinion allows deer to become nocturnal and have a smaller range. It is important to have such comments in the public record, even if not popular with some. County CDAC’s should have the ability to write and pass resolutions for DNR,
Conservation Congress, and public consideration. As an example the ability to divide the county to address deer distribution concerns would allow for local authority to better manage the herd. These would likely require a special approval or variance from the Natural Resources Board. Why not develop resolutions on issues like baiting and sub-dividing county management for the NRB as advisory suggestions, so that group can gain a bit of the pulse in the County. If we can vote on how many bluegills one can keep on a specific lake in Vilas County, as was recently shown in the DNR Spring Hearing Survey, why not have a question about deer baiting in Bayfield Co.

The high antlerless quota for the past two years has frustrated most of the hunters I talk to around Drummond, both locals and non-residents such as myself. Recall that the survey that was taken after the 2019 preliminary recommendations were published asked the general question “How would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC in this unit”. Of the 275 respondents 57% said it was too high or much too high. Only 15% said it was too low or much too low. Considering this opinion I am wondering why the Bayfield CDAC ignored the majority of their constituents and supported a reduce the herd strategy if only 15% of the respondents wish to continue to reduce the herd. The 2020 preliminary recommendation continues to ignore the majority of public input.

Finally I think about what deer hunting has meant to me over these past decades from the time I first attended deer camp as a wide-eyed high school sophomore, put in same small cabin with men who fought in WWI. I have grandchildren entering hunting age. I would love to be able to pry them away from their mothers (my daughters) to experience quality deer hunting in Bayfield County. Kids these days have so many distractions and if we are to encourage the next generation of hunters in Bayfield County we must improve the quality of the hunting experience. Recognize that if myself and the other 60 – 70 year olds in our deer camp, and the several other camps in our Drummond neighborhood, are not replaced you won’t have hunters to help control the herd, spend their money at local businesses, or for that matter buy licenses. The Wisconsin deer hunting experience will disappear, at least as I’ve enjoyed for over 50 years.
Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the following topics:  Thanks for listening. BAN BAITING STATEWIDE CROSS BOWS TRADITIONAL ARCHERY (Do Not invalidate archery tags during gun season) GUN DEER SEASON BONUS TAGS, STOP SELLING THEM PREDATOR POPULATION; Spring Bear Hunt and over counter tags for a short time MAKING MONEY VIA LICENSE SALES Bayfield County and the National Forest area is a diamond for the State of Wisconsin and it's people. What has happened over the past decade is very disappointing with regards to the mismanagement of the deer herd. Not only the deer herd but the general fish and wildlife management overall has been atrocious. Last year was the worst year for deer hunting that I have seen in decades. It was not because of the snow fall or the late time period of the hunt. It had mostly to do with the CDAC's decrease the population goals over the past decade. I don't understand why you want to kill all the deer where there are few deer to begin with. There are not that many deer in Bayfield County. I will say that near farmlands, south of Ino, or Mason/Benoit country, there are numbers of deer because of the farmlands. But there is not an abundant acreage of public land in those areas. North of US Hwy 2 that is mostly national forest. There are very few if any farms. It's mostly vast areas of big woods. There are not many deer in those areas! That is where all the public land is, and that is where all the people from down south go to drop their bait piles and claim their spot. Now if private landowners want the population lowered on their property then so be it. But what happened last year was all about money in my opinion. That's what it had to be. The DNR banned baiting in 52 counties and then sold 9000 bonus tags for Bayfield County! What the heck! I have never seen so many hunters in the woods in my LIFE! You can't do that! Every person from down south where baiting was banned traveled to the National Forest lands and dropped a pile of corn. Shot everything that walked. Bambies..lots of them. buck fawns/doe fawns..it didn't matter. If it was brown it was down. The numbers of trucks on the fire lanes was insane. I have never seen anything like it. What is tremendously sad is what our state has done for the deer hunting tradition as a whole. We have generations of hunters who believe they cannot kill a deer without a bait pile on the ground. That is so sad. It is pathetic. Please BAN BAITING STATEWIDE! BAN BAITING STATEWIDE!! If we worry about CDW then BAN BAITING before it comes. It was unfair to ban baiting in 52 counties and sell 9000 bonus tags up north. That was very unfair to us that have hunted in that country our whole lives. I have never seen it like that. Trucks and hunters were everywhere. The sad part about the baiting is that people come to the area, drop a pile of corn, and then claim that whole area as "their stand." They will claim 300 acres. Citing that they "have a stand in there." It creates bad blood, on public land. People in general are very good about it, but there are those who will literally get in a pissing match with you, trying to claim public land as their spot. It's ridiculous. I know that money drives everything. It's sad. People talk about hearing the public, and wanting to do the right thing for the deer herd. Their actions say exactly the opposite. If we take money out of this equation, then the decisions on the deer herd would be obvious. Stop baiting. Stop selling thousands of bonus tags. The questionnaire that was put out in April raised some valid points, but some of the ideas that were asked don't make sense to me. For instance; why would we want to invalidate an archery tag during the gun season? What if someone wants to bow hunt the rut? Say on lands that are private and not open to rifle hunting (metro zone for example). Now they cannot hunt the rut! That is dumb. Also, for those people who want to hunt with a crossbow during the gun season. Why is that so bad? I don't understand that at all. Now if you want to make money I have a few suggestions to help make money and help the deer herd population in Bayfield County. I don't know who does the estimates on the Bears and wolf population but the vast majority of the public will tell you there are way too many bears and wolves. Open a spring bear hunt. Let people buy tags over the counter for 2 seasons and then go back to the draw system. Charge more for the over the counter tags. People will come from all over to kill a bear in the spring or fall if they can plan the hunt knowing they are guaranteed a tag. Bear hunting in the spring would be a burst of economic growth for the locals. Tourism would start coming. Take an example from our neighbors in Canada. Guided spring bear hunts run anywhere from 1000 to 2500 on average! People fill those resorts up trying for spring bear. People would skip Canada (hassle at the border, travel etc,) and they would come to northern Wisconsin. It would hurt nothing to pause the draw system for a couple of years, charge more and offer spring and fall tags over the counter. Bears kill a lot of fawns and take a lot more deer than most people think. The wolf. Well we
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know is a difficult topic that involves de listing etc. But we need to keep fighting for that. There are way too many wolves. I see their tracks. Lots of tracks every deer season. I hear them. I see the kill sights. We all know how they kill deer/elk/whatever they can. Coyotes also. The coyote population is very high as well. I don't know if there is some way to make them worth something on the fur market. Maybe offer a bounty on them for a year. Just to get the population in check. That would help. Crossbow hunting: I think it should be limited to those with injuries (note from a doctor), or people over 60 YOA. These young guys run out an buy a crossbow, don't practice, and then wound deer left and right. It's crazy! They have never hunted before, or very limited hunting experience and they get a crossbow and now they can go shoot at a live animal. If you can't change that law, at least increase the price of a crossbow license. Charge residents 100 dollars for a crossbow license. They won't bat an eye at that. Hell they probably spent 2K or more on the weapon. They for sure will spend 100 dollars to go and wound a big buck. Also, charge more for out of state hunters. We are WAY BEHIND in that respect as compared to other states. What are we waiting for? The non resident hunters will still come to Wisconsin because they have dreams of bagging a northern Wisconsin giant buck. This is another way to make money. I appreciate that we have been logging the national forest in Bayfield County, cleaning up the wind storm damage from a few years ago. I have friends that hunt south, between Clam Lake and Loretta. There is very little logging taking place in that section of the National Forest. Logging produces so much needed food to support the deer population and the elk herd. Start a logging program that benefits the deer herd. Rotate the logging operations so we have different aged slashings in different areas of the forest. Logging makes money. Finally. Get rid of the cormorants on the Chequamagin Bay! They are nothing but fish eating "black death." Not even native to this country. Canada allows hunters to shoot them. They know that their fisheries cannot support those birds. The Bay used to be a mecca for jumbo perch. Much like Devils Lake ND. Now there are hardly any perch left in the bay. There are tens of thousands of those birds chasing fish in rafts. It's unbelievable. The break wall is nothing but cormorant nests. tourism for Ashland, Washburn and Bayfield would flourish. People would come from all over in the winter to ice fish jumbo perch. If we had any. Thank you for listening.
Northern forest land cannot be managed the same as the more southern forests/timbers in reference to deer populations because the winter weather and lack of agricultural feed / browse for the animals is not nearly as plentiful. You want to stop the CWD in the state STOP baiting! Same principle as COVID-19 social distancing. I grew up on the farm and every year we vaccinated our animals because ANY time you have animals/people confined or gathering you increase your chances of infection and disease. This is not rocket science! Stop pandering to the video hunting world and do what is right for the deer population so that we can preserve it for generations to come. Southern MN where I used to hunt is a complete disaster now over CWD. You don’t need or want it in the northern forest. I have hunted Bayfield county since I was 12 and I am 54, I have never seen too many deer in the woods. We had a good population back in 2005 to 2010 but we have slaughtered it. I was in favor of the 21 days season, because bow hunters get too long and rifle hunter season too short. With today’s job and work force harder for people to get out in the woods than it was 30 years ago. Longer season would give rifle hunters a few weekends to get to the woods and an opportunity as some rutting bucks. Bow hunting has changed with cross bows and compounds and so the season should change. They are as accurate as a rifle but they are the only ones hunting the rut and now with baiting have the best chances as mature whitetails. Extended season would allow for opportunity to reduce numbers and allow more young people who are in the work a day world to get to the woods. If you look at Northern MN and Michigan UP both provide this opportunity because the hunting is more difficult and the numbers are always lower on the population. I have a cabin in Northern woods and with the amount of money I pay for all to hunt there it is ridiculous but we do it because we love to be in the woods. Don’t have to kill everything to hunt but it is nice to see some deer once in a while. Last few years in clover township have been horrible and with the bad winter weather this year numbers will be down. Stop killing the does and fawns. We have more wolves and bears than down south and they take their toll on the population as well. When we see more of them during deer season than deer then there is a problem. It would be nice if the state offered one resident license to those of us paying resident taxes on our lands. Small pay back for all we spend up there in recreational money and taxes. I would make it a minimum requirement of 40 acres and the owner’s name would have to be on it. Iowa does this but they charge like a 2.00 fee and call it free. Silly people. Free cost nothing. But it is a benefit. There are too many seasons already. We don’t need more seasons for Juniors to hunt. They should be hunting with dad and mom during the regular season. That is how you learn. As a former law officer I witnessed too many times that the Junior season is just another opportunity for adults to hunt early and put a kid tag on their deer. Make the season long enough to accommodate all ages and be done with it. Lastly, I am a bow hunter and a conservationist. I have planted thousands of trees on my property and I can see that the population is so low now that the browse is near minimal. I fight the deer population to grow my trees but I still support increasing the population because it is the right thing to do for the deer, hunting, predator animals and sight seeing. I bow hunt with a recurve and I believe that the season is entirely too long and there should NOT be a season after gun season. Let the cross bow / recurve and compound people have their September to November season and be done. Then gun season and muzzleloader if necessary. Do away with the baiting 100% before we destroy our whitetails. We should learn something from down south! And hunting is not hunting anymore. NOBODY walks, just sit over a pile of corn and shoot out the window of their tree house. That is NOT hunting. That is no different than feeding the cattle on the farm and shooting one for food when it comes to the bunk for corn and hay! Come on we are better than this!!!! And we cannot adjust the deer population because of traffic accidents. People have to live in the animal world up in the northern forest. If you don’t like it they need to go to the city. The majority of sight seeing people love to see the deer and animals and we should not be killing them off but finding ways to make the herd stronger and greater and utilize that as a way to bring in future hunters, sight seeing folks for both the deer and the predators. I could have shot a small spike buck last year but I passed him up. NOT because I am too proud to shoot a spike but because it was the ONLY buck anybody in my 8 person hunting party that saw a buck in 8 days of hunting. We used to see at least 2-3 a year. For the amount of money spent to build a cabin and outfit all for the hunt and pay the licenses it would be nice to at least see some deer each day. Used to hear some shooting from time to time. I think we heard maybe 24 shots all season. I quit hunting in northern MN because the wolves and winters killed the deer population so badly and
they mismanaged it terribly. I invested in Wisconsin near where my grand father and my mother were born and raised. Let us not destroy it here too!!!!!!! I will say that I appreciate the fact that the state of Wisconsin has NOT jacked up the price of licenses yet. Please continue to be hunter friendly this way. MN is now raising their prices and Iowa has been just plain stupid about it. Turning it into a money hunt not a deer hunt. Lets keep the tradition of deer season going by keeping our licenses low, consider one regular license for non-residents per a 40 acre track and maintaining some sense of a deer population for the hunt, the predators and sight seeing folks to enjoy. I hope you listen! God bless!!!
I have not been a supporter of the decision to reduce the deer herd over the past 3 years. In my opinion, the deer herd is being decimated in the area we hunt in around Drummond by management practices that put the food that the deer eat naturally in the forest as more important or having a greater value than the deer themselves. I understand the concept and importance of habitat, but I also know that at there used to be clear cuts and selective harvests in the area that we hunt that profoundly helped boost the deer seen during the season. I understood at the time that this practice was intended to mimic the natural clearing of the forest that used to take place through naturally. The big clear cuts mimicking the naturally occurring fires and the smaller clear cuts and selective cuts approximating the natural blow downs. While very beneficial to the wildlife, at the same time, these management practices were effective in supporting the local lumber and pulp businesses. The wood also generated much needed revenue for the park system and the increase in wildlife brought in hunting and bird watching enthusiasts that supported the local businesses. There have not been any clear cuts or selective hunts in the area we hunt near Drummond in many years. The little that has been done did not benefit from a controlled burn to clear out the slash and more accurately mimic natural processes. The voices of those who spend time in the woods and see first hand the impact of management practices and predators on the deer herd are valid observations, and do not deserve to be declared “false” by those who are chartered to manage resources. This is not educational, it only serves to repress and frustrate those who, right or wrong in their statement, sincerely want to contribute. They end up asking themselves why is it that all the studies are designed by people who seem to only be able to present information that supports the agenda to reduce the herd, and those same parties appear to be actively repressing those with a contrary belief. The impression I get is that the outdoors observations of the interested public only seem to be of value if these public observation and opinions can be used to support the reduce the herd agenda. The presentation I just listened to left me with the impression that the only time the information offered by the interested public is sited as a source is when the observation supports the desired conclusion. I do not understand why Bayfield county persists in reducing the deer herd, while at the same time, the counties around Bayfield county do not feel the need to decrease the deer herd. Why is the data used to decide to increase or maintain the deer in those counties never offered as a basis of comparison to the decision to reduce the herd in Bayfield county? It is not objective or even good science to ignore bodies of data like what the surrounding counties may have used to support their decision, and only consider and present the data that can be used to support the "reduce the herd" conclusion you want to promote. I have a friend who has repeatedly submitted his research on the subject of the deer heard in the area where we hunt in Bayfield County. He is a research scientist and his research is based on facts just as valid as those in the presentation. He asks questions that I would think would naturally be considered as worthy of consideration in any objective research effort, but there was no evidence of such consideration again this year. It is also frustrating, and a little suspicious, that here is never any data what so ever presented that might support any agenda except "reduce the herd". I know from my own experience that those who conduct research are supposed to have an obligation to report all the outcomes of the research. However, it seems the research conducted for Bayfield County only ever supports the "reduce the herd" agenda, while the adjoining counties seem to have access to data that does not allow them to come to the same conclusion. Finally, if you want to see oak regeneration, you should take a walk with my friend, the research scientist who keeps submitting his observations of the national forest near Drummond. There are so many oak saplings on most of the oak ridges and valleys where we hunt that they look like a thicket. The whole area shows little to no evidence of browsing activity. Also, I would like to see some research that considers the impact of continuous baiting on deer habits. I am not talking about attractants; I am talking about long-term piles of deer food. Another study that should be considered to determine the impact of the many acres of deer food crops that are planted on private land are having on the habits of the deer herd. The impression is that bait piles and food plots have encouraged the deer to bed down all day and feed at night. If true, that would have a big impact on hunters seeing animals in the woods and having the opportunity to harvest one.
I have been hunting public land in Bayfield for 3 seasons since moving to the area, and have had success every season. I’ve seen a very reasonable number of deer for the amount of time I put in hunting (I hunt full days, sunrise to sunset, on weekends and weekdays when I use vacation time to hunt, and I do not bait). That being said, I did notice a significant decline in deer activity at the end of October 2019 due to the severe change in weather, when temperatures dropped into the 20's with windchills even lower. The weather pattern shift appeared to really shut down the deer movement, and I expect hunters that hunted only short periods of time would misinterpret the lack of visible deer movement for an overall lack of deer, which would be very incorrect. I’m not sure why, but I did see a significant increase in the number of other hunters on public land last fall, particularly earlier in the archery season compared to previous years. Perhaps it was due to the sheer number of antlerless tags issued giving out of area hunters the impression there were significant deer available for harvest, who knows. The end result was a diminished hunting experience due to harassment by other hunters in the form of passive aggressive notes on my vehicle's windshield, and other hunters setting up much closer than would be considered courteous. I very much support the proposed antlerless quota number for Bayfield county, as it should hopefully accomplish the goal of reducing the deer population by a reasonable amount, and a slight reduction in the number of available bonus tags will hopefully reduce the number of out of region hunters that sometimes bring poor attitudes into the field. I hope the CDAC will not be swayed from the very reasonable proposed quota by a vocal minority that is against management of the antlerless population in Bayfield county. Each spring for the past 3 years I have shed hunted and turkey scouted the areas of Bayfield county that I deer hunt in the fall. Each spring I find several winterkilled fawns, but I have yet to find a winter killed adult. Clearly there is mortality that could be captured and utilized by hunters in the fall. Additionally, the lack of fresh or even old shed antlers supports my fall and winter observations of a hard skew in the buck-doe ratio in the county, likely due to many consecutive years of buck only harvest in the past. Because of the skewed buck to doe ratio, it is doubly important to have antlerless tags available to give hunters interested in meat a chance to take a deer, instead of waiting for that much harder to find buck. I harvested an antlerless deer in Bayfield county last fall, and hunted all the way through until January end of archery season. I saw dozens of does throughout the seasons, but only a half dozen bucks. The deer population where I hunt (which is a forested area of public land) is significant enough that there is damaging browse occurring on the understory hardwoods regeneration, which has been nipped and browsed to the point that the saplings have become stunted and shrubby in form, with short stubby limbs that snag on hunting packs and hang on deer stands being hiked in daily. In March, while shed hunting a timber sale that was active this past winter, I observed and photographed more than 50 deer in a single part of the timber sale. The local deer population, despite a lack of agriculture, made it through winter in very good shape. One of the deer I observed in that many dozen-sized gathering of deer was a very small fawn, yet it clearly survived until I saw it in late March. I sincerely hope the CDAC will fully support the proposed antlerless quota, as well as continuing to support CWD prevention measures in Bayfield County. I very much appreciate the continued efforts of CDAC and local community members to prevent the spread and establishment of CWD in Bayfield County, as I hunt for meat and want to feel safe and secure in my attempts to harvest wild protein.
I timber hunt walking into the wind the Raspberry, Sand, Flag, and Cranberry river areas. I have no opinion on the harvesting of wolves one way or the other and will not run my dogs on one even though my wife wants to shoot a legal one someday and full mount it and place it in her law office as I have seen them and their tracks since 1971.

Last year was the first time in 5-6 years I cut a human track on Monday from the weekend. It takes me 10 hours now being dropped off in the predawn hours now to hunt the canyons 4-5 miles as the crow flies to a road I hope does not move during the day. Last year I climbed into a dead fall I have found and prior to shooting time had a doe come by with two wolves followed by three more wolves seconds behind in the Cranberry. Had two on the other side of the Sand rim on Saturday most likely trailing the doe and fawn that had come by. Saw one more stair down 4 does and a tiny buck on Tuesday during the blizzard. Our cabin on the historic Cranberry had 4 does and 7 fawns in the alfalfa field I planted in front of it from mid summer right up to the blizzard before T day. I have 30 game cameras on our land still running today and the 6 that were on public that were removed Tuesday prior to T day. I have only seen one fawn this year in the food plot with the four does as darkness falls on the land. Cameras confirm a disappearance of 6 fawns. I found several parts of bone while shed hunting the flag river wildlife area in the last few weeks spending 30 hours shed hunting the southern slopes. Yes there are deer in downtown Cornie, but the number hit bottom a few years ago and have not rebounded and the wolves look nice and fat on the cameras again this spring. You can walk miles in and around recent past cuts and where once the deer were thriving they are no more. Hunting pressure from the Barrens to Port is 10% of what it was in the 70s but walking and stalking I should cut tracks and jump deer near recent slashing and they are just not there. You will find them near the orchards or where they yard up as we flew 6 missions this winter into and over the deer yards we know of this winter looking for numbers and they are no longer like they were. If I sat in one place like most do, this could be understood as the woods ages, but when you walk and stalk and the tracks are not as they were perhaps an air survey buy the CDAC members with open minds in the pressing need. Our family has been hunting in the county since just after the great depression and dad started in 1941. He cherished the land and the deer and loved Ruel, Poncho, and Bremell as men and a friends but would be very sad hunting today if alive. you will always have your hot spots, but the numbers are down still at near historic lows throughout the timber slashing like the great die off in the 70s where teams were flying hay to no end to try and save those herds from the days of yesteryear. Food is so plentiful near the recent cuts yet the herd fails to regain the greatness of days gone by. My children no longer care to hunt, and grandchildren find no excitement in the big NINE day season at all. My wife has got three bucks in three years out of her handicapped stand but that is all she has seen in three years, three bucks running the ridge from a husband who can still cut county almost as good as Boone. she will be done in a few years, and me, so long as I can walk the wind in my face will continue. If any of you are firefighters or EMTs, one of these days during deer season if I fall hopefully you will find my carcass on a ridge no doubt as where else to fall than the wild of Wisconsin's Final Frontier.
Disappointed, but not surprised sums it up for me. CDC has been a great thing for the majority of the state's hunters and individual DMU's, however, the Bayfield Co. CDAC committee and wildlife expert(s) have been out of touch with the reality of the deer hunting experience and deer population in Bayfield Co. I was one of 27 very interested hunters who listened to the telephone conferenced CDAC meeting for Bayfield Co. earlier this month. The 2020 goal setting meeting was an opportunity for some trust to be gained after the 2017 decision to reduce the herd, but it was squandered. The biologist pointed out that with a herd estimate of aprox. 28,000 this year (down about 15% from last year) the herd was now at goal-maybe even slightly under goal. Throw in extreme wolf predation and a severe winter over 100 WSI and more than likely an even lower population for 2020. So the CDAC goal was met! Good thing, right? Well, not exactly. The committee was then told that 1,500 antlerless permits would translate to a further 2% reduction in the herd. The committee jumped all over that. So meeting a goal means nothing? I thought the purpose of setting a goal was to get to the goal? Not only was the 2017 decision to reduce the herd a very poor decision, they throw salt on the wound each year since with their approach to further decimate the herd and turn a tradition of quality hunting into distant memory. The committee didn't even want to lower the public land antlerless quota where the deer herd is extremely low. I'm not proposing deer numbers like the 1990's and early 2000's, but the herd is and has been much smaller than we have been told since the severe back to back winters in 2013 and 2014. Some observations: *I was amazed at how few questions the members asked about the metrics. Many of their questions were procedural. *Why does the wife of the biologist get a vote? She was a tie breaker (5:4) for both votes concerning quotas. *Those foresters on the committee sure are after blood. So Bayfield Co. is the only county in the northwoods with some sign of deer browse? I see no problem with browse in the public areas I hunt and I have great photos to show red oak and white pine regenerating in amazing numbers in old clearcuts. *It would have been nice to get more information and anecdotal observations from the DNR LEO, but he seemed disinterested. *I also heard erroneously from a committee member that the reason that we stop seeing deer a week before gun season is the deer are all bloated up from all the corn dumped in the woods?! That did not come from the biologist. That's a relief because more than a few of us hunters in the area thought it was because there just aren't a lot of deer around and went more nocturnal due to baiting disturbing the woods and deer patterns/behaviors! *A WSI over 100 is severe and it was not a winter north of HWY 2 with 18” plus a few inches! It was 30-40 inches from Thanksgiving on and a much greater impact than central and southern portions of the county. Yet deer were reported to be in great shape. This past winter makes three severe winters in the past seven years in much of the county. *How little predation was considered, but I guess that is not a surprise given that the herd must be trimmed further per committee. The ONLY positive out of the ordeal, brought up by a committee member, was that perhaps some counties could in the future be divided into smaller, more similar deer habitat to aid management. I would love to see north of HWY 2 all the way to the lake be it's own unit.
I have to say that I feel this is one of the most mismanaged units in the state. I do agree that parts of Bayfield County may have a larger deer population like in the agricultural areas, but in the northern most parts of the county along the lake shore the numbers are terrible. 2019 was the first year I did not bow hunt in northern Bayfield county since 1995, and the first year in 37 years that I did not bow hunt in the state of Wisconsin. I chose to go to Iowa so I could see deer again. I bought a tag in Bayfield in case I finished up early in Iowa but ended up spending the month in Iowa and had the best hunt I had had in many years. I gun hunted and saw one buck and no does. I don't say this to put that in your face, because I feel sick that I have to abandon an area I love to enjoy hunting again. This year will be the same, but I won't even buy a tag in Wisconsin because I am going to Missouri because I truly love to hunt and see deer. I have a beautiful cabin up in Bayfield which takes 5 hours to get to from home, that I always planned on moving into when I retired and now I don't even hunt there. I spend 5 weeks of my hard earned vacation every year, and have for years just so I can walk in these beautiful woods, but now I know that is a waste of my time, money, and vacation. My son and I keep 15 cameras in the woods spread over about 10 miles looking for deer, but to no avail. The few fawns you see in the spring on camera are gone by late summer thanks to the predators. If anyone would have told me 10, 15, or even 20 years ago that hunting in northern Bayfield County would be what it is today, I would have called them a liar. Nobody in my hunting group from 1995 to 2012 ever used bait, but we could not see deer so we started to bait in 2012. Now as deer numbers dwindle we can't even see deer over bait. Very pathetic, I never thought I would become a baiter, but when the buck sign disappeared we had to do something, especially when your trying to get your 14 year old son to be interested in hunting and see deer. Bayfield County is a large county, with both agricultural and forested land. There is no reason that the county can't be split into 2 management units and until that happens the northern forest hunters will suffer. I really hope your committee gets there act together, otherwise you are going to continue to lose good, ethical, law abiding hunters such as us. I have worked with the DNR over the years on things I have come across being that I am always moving and for the amount of time I spend up in Bayfield in the fall and its just hard to believe that they do not push to make a change. We don't need to see a lot of deer every day but some would be nice. The whole story is just kind of sad, but we can only hope that it will turn around some day. If it doesn't shortly, I will sell because owning a deer camp where no one wants to come and hunt anymore and believe me there are many other camps which are feeling the same way. I sure hope you reconsider your actions before your stuck with only the criminals up there, like the ones who broke into my cabin last year, which is the first time in my 25 years as well. Thanks for your time.
First of all its ridiculous that we have a 3 year plan to decrease the deer herd in Bayfield county. At best it should have been to maintain, if not grow. If there are more deer in the farmland areas of the county, then the dang county should be split up into 3 sections. Where I live in Bayfield county has been low on deer population for years. I'd love to see numbers like back in 2008, but I'd be happy with 2012, but I just don't see deer like I used to. And GUESS WHAT I'm a better, harder hunter than I used to be. And I have more trail cameras out than I used to have, I pick up less deer and see less deer, bucks especially. SIDE NOTE: Why heck is Todd Noss lying about the gun season snow fall? We didn't get the season ending snow fall until the saturday evening, essentially only cutting the season short by 1 day. We got a foot of snow before thanksgiving but that clearly is not season ending. A foot of snow only ends a lazy persons season, I was out there. What a huge lie in that video!!

NOTES: IF there has to be does tags, should be no more than 500 quota and sell only 2000 total tags. I understand to have more and better bucks we need to shoot does, but we need baby deer to be born and survive to have more deer, period. -preditors play a big role in our deer herd now and its getting out of control. I have so few fawns make it to 3 months old, i have 400 acres aross a couple miles areas so I know what the heck I'm talking about. If we are not going to control preditors like with do deer, then we need to shoot less does. I don't mind some wolves but there are TOO MANY. Same for coyotes and bears -I've done logging, i've done bedding, I've done food plots and water sources on my property, and guess what, it really hasn't changed anything because the deer herd just isn't big enough. What is the point of owning land and improving it if you can never reach your goals. People say move around, find/follow the deer, HELLO, I have, my properties spread that far. -Especially after a winter like this there should be no doe tags, if they didn't die from starvation(which they might not have so much), they were pretty easy prey for most of the winter for wolves and coyotes. I think the deer that survived are in ok shape but know wolves and coyotes were running on top of snow by end of december. I like to see older class bucks, but I love the meat. My sisters and friends like to have meat so we'll shoot a young buck too, but why can't we have both readily available. Why do I always get looked down upon because I want to shoot a nice buck. I don't feel like this CDAC ever listens or cares about the hunters concerns. Year after year, the majority of attendees and comments call for less or no doe tags, and year after year I hear calls for doe tags by 2/3 of the council and nothing ever changes, not even compromises. Its almost a joke. I'm way tired of the forestry, there are plenty of trees out there, I can show you where to find them. Same for agriculture, if farmers have problems let people on your land to shoot deer, problem solved.
Hello, I have spent over 60 days hunting both private and public lands this past fall, and around the same amount of days each year over the past 10 years. These are my opinions and observations based on that time in the woods. I think that Bayfield county can not be managed as a single unit. The agricultural areas of the unit like mason and ino hold tremendous amounts of deer when compared to the public lands to the north known as the “barrens”. In my experience bow hunting and rifle hunting both agricultural and forested public land I have found the differences in deer population between these two types of areas to be staggering. How can these vastly different areas be managed under the same rulings and result in quality deer herds? There are very few deer in the northern national forest, I have had game cameras in multiple locations spanning a 20 mile radius in the barrens (northwest of big rock campground) and documented just 10 different does from early August 2019 through January 2020. My cameras in the southern part of the county have had 80-100 different does on them in that same time frame. I just think that this county is to different ecologically to be managed the same throughout its entirety. Many other states manage big game by region, mountain range, or type of land with great success. Why are we not doing that? I also believe that if antlerless tags are given out going forward, that they only be for private land. This way the deer population can be controlled where it needs to be controlled, on the private agricultural lands of the county, not the public forests. If you give antlerless tags for both public and private lands, public land hunters are going to shoot antlerless deer from the already decimated herd in the northern forests of the county. I believe this because public land population densities are low and hunters are less likely to see a deer, let alone a buck. Because of this, the few does and young bucks that are still on these areas of public land are going to get killed at a higher rate, resulting in smaller herds and less mature deer. As far as deer browsing red oaks and causing damage to the forest, I just have not seen it. There are not enough deer in the areas I have seen with have red oaks to have any effect on the future of the forests. I also think that there should be a single buck tag for each hunter. Not a bow buck tag, a gun buck tag, and whatever doe tag that may or may not be available that year. Just one tag will force hunters to choose one buck instead of two, which will enable some of the younger bucks to get older so we can have bigger deer in the future. This states (northern portion) problem with hunter recruitment is both lack of deer that are accessible to the public and lack of quality deer on that same public land. I don't think giving hunters 2 buck tags and countless doe tags each year is going to fix that issue, instead it's going to make it worse.
My name is Mark Winkel. I live in Door County but have hunted Bayfield County for the past 40 years. I solo tent camp and deer hunt on public land. I am providing my name and County of residence because I do not wish to be accused of hiding behind a veil of anonymity. As a young man I looked forward to the WI Deer Gun season with an anticipation that rivaled Christmas. Camps would reopen, Motels and bars would fill, and extended families would reunite. One could just feel the excitement in the air. Over the years we did have some lean seasons due to tough winters but nothing was ever as bad as it is now. I travel long distances along the backroads or through previously productive public lands and scarcely cut a deer track. I no longer go hunting with the expectation of even seeing a deer. Perhaps that is why my children quit hunting years ago, and my grandsons are likely to never follow in my foot steps. It was with a sense of sadness I listened to the recent Bayfield County CDAC meeting. WDNR Biologist Todd Naas provided what appeared to be an optimistic overwinter deer population estimate that was down only slightly from last year. Little deference was given to the winter severity index which measured over 100 in most areas, placing it in the severe category. Mr. Naas acknowledged some potential winter loss, but reported the deer he was seeing looked "really good". I can only wonder if the deer that Mr. Naas reports seeing are cabin deer like those of the Barnes and Delta areas which have sought refuge there from an out of control wolf population and are fed during the winter by the property owners. It was with disbelief I noted that Biologist Naas's own wife still sits on the Bayfield County CDAC as the Vice Chairman. Never in my 32 years as a (retired) Law Enforcement Officer did I ever see the wife of a Plaintiff serve on a jury. I guess the appearance of a fair and impartial hearing are not important in Bayfield County, or are just ignored out of fear of being labeled as politically incorrect. I was stunned at the speed by which motions by the stakeholder representing Forestry were made to reduce the already depressed deer population and were quickly passed by Vice Chairman Sandra Naas along with representatives of Agriculture and Transportation. The only group that didn't seem to have a stake in this meeting was the hunter who is relegated to pubic land. I love hunting Bayfield County. When I’m up north deep in the forest, I don’t feel that I left home, but instead I am home. I have always taken pride in the fact that I am a hunter and not a killer. I harvest and utilize only the surplus the land has to offer. I can no longer in good conscience pull a trigger or loose an arrow one of the few remaining wild deer that still roam there.
Bayfield County is unique in the difference between ag land and dense forest. Our county NEEDS to separate the two the best they can and make these decisions based on that. While I am glad we have an input the survey is skewed as each answer I gave doesn't necessarily fit each part of our county. Public vs private is a good start but physical boundaries should be drawn on maps do the best you can it will not please all. I hunt both private ag land and public dense forest. It is night and day difference on populations of deer and understandably food sources as well. However, I see a population in the ag lands that is quite heavy and a poor doe to buck ratio. I support antler less tags in these areas. In the big woods the population of deer is sparse and not to the levels it was when I hunted as a kid which got me hooked on the sport! When you look at other states they have areas where units are quite small based on the habitat and populations of that area as they can be quite different from one to the next. Bayfield county would be fairly easy to divide up that way. I do see a predator problem in our county as well and I fully think that our county officials need to voice your citizens concerns to legislation and help that cause. I'll leave it at that. Our county used to produce several trophy bucks each year and consistently. I know several avid hunters who have expressed my same concern and who have, like me, started to travel outside of our county to have a better chance at chasing trophy whitetail. This was not the case years ago our county was a magnate. I know there are several factors that are part of this based on winters, food, stress, pressure, etc but I would like to see our county have a goal of making this part of their plan. I would support a point restriction for antlered deer for ADULT hunters. I think youth should have the chance to harvest any buck so kids can get hooked on the sport and keep our group of outdoorsman strong for generations to come. Currently, I see several disappointed youth hunters because the chance to see deer in the forest outside of ag land can be very low especially for young non experienced hunters to get into the sport. Please do something different than we have been doing. I've seen our county's deer hunting go to hell and not only is there hunter frustration but our local economy has taken a hit due to it. I hunt here out of convenience and my love for the outdoors but travel out of our county several times a year to have a better hunting experience! Thank you and I look forward to how everyone's input is taken and I strongly hope that it is considered in your decisions.

Another part of the deer management puzzle that I believe needs to be addressed, is the impact of the Archery/crossbow season on the antlerless as well as the buck harvest. I hunted deer with a bow in the 60's & 70's with a recurve bow and Aluminum an cedar arrows. The deer harvest was accomplished from 25yds or less with success contingent on many hours spent in a tree or deer stand, freezing and trying to stay flexible for the "one opportunity". The technology of the 90's and 2000's has brought extremely fast, hard hitting compound bows that can be held at full draw with 30-50% of draw weight for several minutes, and rifle accurate and fast cross bows that come complete with telescopic and red dot sights that extend killing shots reliably past 50-75 yds. at a moments notice. The season for these arms reliably includes both the "Batchler Bucks" period of deer movement, as well as reliably the height of the deer rut. Also running these seasons right up until the day before the firearm season, results (by personal observation) in the high-tech harvest of 2 antlerless legal deer just before the firearm season, and additional harvest via firearm several days later, by the same hunter. There is a very good chance that these antlerless deer harvested, were in the early stage of having just been bred. You do the math. These facts are not lost on the large number of firearms hunters who see 30-40% of the deer activity that they observed just 20 years ago on both public and private lands. If your individual history goes back more that 20-30 years, your opinion of loss of observed deer activity increases. I conclude this dissertation with the observation that a number of hunters I know have become frustrated with this "reduction" of deer herd that continues with the 2020 quota recommendations and the resultant less observation of deer in the field. So frustrated that some have just "hung it up". We all know that the ramifications of loss of hunter activity is far reaching to the herd, the economics of the state as well as meaningful conservation practices. Most hunters I know do not focus just on the harvest, although that is meaningful, but the excitement of the wildlife observations. By viewing minutes of the boards meetings, it is glaringly obvious that many recommendations are voted on with some members having no comment. I would encourage every member of the council boards to express a comment with a vote, people are watching, and care.
I listened in on the CDAC meeting. I have several takeaways. First, even though I disagree with some of the comments and conclusions I appreciate the work the CDAC puts in and I thank them for sharing the knowledge and information they have. Second, there is a huge disconnect between what the experts say and what is observed in the field—at least in some parts of the field! For example, I doubt any of them have spent as many Falls hunting deer in Bayfield County as I have. I know this for sure. Deer sign is WAY down in our area, way down. There use to be rubs, scrapes, trails in good numbers in our area. Last year I did not see a single deer, a single rub, maybe 1-2 scrapes and no well used trails. I know what the experts say, the deer are there, they were bedded because of the late season, etc. I call BS on that one. I walked all over the area on fresh snow early in the season between the two forks of the Flag and hardly cut a track. And I walked thick crap as well as the new cuttings. When I was a kid I saw 10-20 deer a day up there, I have not seen 10 deer in the last 5 years of gun season and I know that land like the back of my hand. Third, I recognize there could be a few explanations for this. The woods are clearly full of humans all year round now, never was true 40 years ago. Bow hunters, atv'ers, pulpers, hikers now fill the woods nearly 12 months a year. Bear and wolves are much more common, etc. Lots of commotion. Moreover, hunters are way lazier and if they can't get somewhere in their atv they don't go. Few wander the woods like the old DeMars gang, Skrit gang or the Isaksson's gang did years ago. Consequently far less deer movement. However, I cannot discount what the experts say about over browsing in certain areas, ag damage, etc. Like I do, they believe what their eyes tell them. But I think the problem is that Bayfield is too big for a one size fits all deer structure. Southern Bayfield County is much different than northern. I strongly suggest that we divide the county in north and south and manage each differently. I think this strategy would be a smart move politically, economically and socially. I recommend you consider it.

I think the quotas are alright for doe there is enough to get out and shoot one in a day or two for the most part. I heard more wolves this year than past years. But there has been more Turkey sightings as well. A couple topics I disagree on that I've heard are a "grace period week before gun season", "not allowed to hunt gun season with a bow", "Exteded gun season" I feel like the regulations and season dates are perfectly fine just the way they are. Having a grace period just takes away the rut for a bowhunter, I mean really?? I can guarantee this will deter the attracting of non residents and tourist hunters and a decrease in sales will be seen once again as well as ultimately push more deer because the gun season will be extended. The bucks need that time after the rut to recover. More bucks were killed than does in 2019 so that would equal even more bucks being harvested. This will harm the deer population for years to come. The laws that are established now are perfect for a bowhunter and caters well to gun hunters. As far as crossbows go they are basically a rifle anyway(I work at an archery pro shop also). That's where the gun hunter vs bowhunter debate comes in. Crossbow laws in MN are perfect and are regulated correctly. In WI it's basically a free for all. And when you introduce a bunch of crossbow hunters that are taking deer like a rifle will then there is tension between the groups, now its bowhunter vs crossbow vs gun hunter. Regulating no crossbow use in october I can agree with but it should be regulated to be more strict. Not allowing to let bowhunters hunt during rifle is ridiculous. I hunt in WI because of this reason! It's awesome that I am allowed to hunt all season with my bow and a huge attraction to me as a hunter when looking for states to go to. In conclusion, extending the gun season while moving it closer to the rut and having a grace period taking away the rut from bowhunters while prohibiting bowhunters from hunting during gun season will hurt the deer population for years to come. The laws, regulations and season dates should be kept the way they are forever they are perfect as is and attract more hunters to to state of WI.
I don’t believe you truly understand how the affect of poor deer hunting pours over toward the economy of Bayfield County. My father has hunted there since he was a teenager. He is now retired and no longer buys a deer license but chooses to stay at the cabin while his sons go out and report no deer sightings. In my 20 years I have watched a thriving small town turn into a ghost town. There is no reason to visit and a good deer hunting opportunity carries over to other seasons. Lakes that had many people ice fishing become desolate. I took a few buddies ice fishing last year and had the lake to ourselves all day. Stopped at the bar for food and saw five locals in there during the prime snowmobile season. Deer hunting is a large revenue generator and the DNR has succeeded in destroying that with the introduction of wolves and their very incorrect population numbers. We used to have to drive around to find spots to make deer drives and now go anywhere because there are no hunters. They have left the area and probably never to return because the future of hunting is so poor. I myself have a son and choose to take him hunting in another state as to keep him interested in hunting. If he were to sit in a stand for five days as I have and see three deer only because you kicked them up on the way to stand, I am sure he would give up a passion I love and never carry that over to his children. I don’t expect my opinion to go very far. I only pray there are many with the same opinion and someone finally gets how you are choking out the economy up in the Northern zones and hurting many people. Poor decisions seem to be the norm and I for one am about to hang my blaze orange hat on the cabin wall and save myself the out of state fees for something else that makes more sense. Maybe we should start to have all hunters refuse to buy a license for a couple years and teach you how poor decisions lead to a major lack of revenue to keep your programs afloat. Sounds painful? Ask some of the business owners in Bayfield how they feel!

I have hunted Bayfield County for 50 years, bow/crossbow, gun and muzzleloader, north to south, public and private land. (I’ve hunted many other counties and states as well.) I don’t know where you’re getting your information, deer numbers are down. PERIOD. Opening 4 days of 2019 gun season, 2 days public land, 2 days private, dawn to dusk all 4 days, NEVER leaving stand during daylight hours, saw 3 deer total (one day), doe and 2 fawns. (All on the private land, think about that, ONLY 3 deer in 20+ hours of sitting during the first part of the season on private land surrounded by 1000's of acres of other private land, lower pressure, the deer herd should be thriving, it’s not! AND that was WITH BAIT down, if we go to without bait it’ll get worse.) Muzzleloader season, saw 1 deer in 3 days of hunting. Too many predators, some harsh winters, TOO MANY antlerless permits. The driving idea of over browsing of the forests is ridiculous. In reviewing the comments last year, 90+% of respondents want LOWER antlerless permits and yet the CDAC in Bayfield County continues to IGNORE the overwhelming public sentiment. Bayfield County CDAC doesn't work. It's just a DNR/Forestry Dept. shill and membership is skewed to DNR & State employees. Public input is generally disregarded. Frustrated hunters are quitting. Recruitment of new hunters is poor. Hard to get excited when you sit for hours/days and see nothing. We’ve taken to putting our "young guys" on our best spots hoping they’ll have some success and stay engaged, it’s not working. 21 hunters in camp last year, 3 deer. WHY are the Bayfield County CDAC antlerless recommendations SO MUCH different than surrounding counties in NW WI?? Do you think the deer are sneaking in "over the Bayfield Co. border" in the back of semi trucks when no one is looking?? CDAC is doing hunters a disservice and bending entirely to the wants of a few forestry and DNR with their own agendas.
I appreciate the opportunity to provide my input towards establishing deer season quotas. I’m a meat hunter, exclusively gun hunted for the past 34 years in the western UP in the heart of the snowbelt. In Bayfield county I only bow/crossbow hunt early as well as late season. Winter kill is isn’t anywhere close in Bayfield county as it is in the western UP, but predation is significantly more over in Bayfield county as there is an extremely healthy whitetail population. I feel Bayfield county is a premier whitetail hunting area, but I also have a hunch the population is much too high, therefore winter yards are being overbrowsed and disease could spread rapidly if some of the herd is initially affected. I for one never filled my buck or doe tag in 2019. I do enjoy some sport to my hunts regardless if my main pursuit is providing table fare for our family. The reason I did not harvest either a buck or doe was quite honestly was it was not sporting enough... I could have logged probably 2-3 kills every hour that I hunted based on the opportunities presented. I don’t consider hunting fun nor challenging if literal herds of deer converge upon my hunting area every time I go out, this I set my own personal goals for bucks and does alike and those opportunities never presented themselves. Again, I feel there was way too many deer in 2019. The past couple weeks this spring I’ve driven around western bayfield county from the north end to the south. Again, I’m seeing large herds of deer browsing in ag areas, been dodging deer on US2 as well as county roads and just feel there are more deer than last year. The winter yards simply cannot sustain this amount of deer year after year and overbrowsing will be a serious issue. Thank You!

I recommend the proposed 16 day gun season. Essentially, we already have it with black powder, but muzzle loaders are slow to fire, slow to reload, and cost needless suffering and lost deer. I, personally, lost the biggest buck I ever shot at, on the 2nd day of black powder, due to a hang-fire. I tracked for 3 days, and lost the trail after snow. This would not be the case with a standard rifle with no hang-fire and fast follow up shots, and extended season. I assume it died, but I did not "register" it, as we’re not required to. Maybe there should be a separate registry for un-recovered (lost) deer, not costing a hunter his tag, and allowing them to continue hunting, if they choose. That could help determine "harvest" numbers more accurately. Secondly, I think it’s wrong to place bait in a single pile. It forces deer, potentially sick ones, to all stick their faces in the same spot. Have we learned nothing from "social distancing"? I’m all for baiting, but spread it out. Additionally, could the DNR afford to provide feed, or feed vouchers, to volunteer residents who wish to feed through the winter? This was a bad year, and I feel like deer could starve when hunters abruptly stop baiting, after the season. Personally, I fed over the winter, but could only afford so much on deer mix. It would be nice if county residents could volunteer to be supplied with vouchers for feed. Maybe I’m dreaming, but it would be nice. Third, I'm opposed to the early youth season, and any proposal to start gun season earlier. The youth season messes up the herd, and the earlier season takes bucks out before they have a chance to breed. Later would be better than earlier, from a breeding/genetics/QDM standpoint.
I've been hunting in Bayfield county for 44 years with somewhat good success. Probably up until about 10-15 years ago with trapping on the decline, limited bear permits (bears have proven to be fawn eating machines), the increased coyote & bobcat numbers due to decreased trapping and hunting. These animals are very effective predators on fawns. Plus coyotes are effective hunters on adult deer if conditions are right. Let's now talk about the wolf who's population numbers I believe are highly under estimated. Running trail cameras for many years would occasionally produce a picture of a wolf. In recent years, a trail camera picture of a wolf or wolves has become common place. But yet the numbers project there is not a huge increase in their population. I have read several articles that have been published that pretty much state that the wolf population in the northern counties has been harvesting more deer than bow and gun hunters combined. Not to mention that wolves seem to be extremely efficient at hunting down and killing the stinky post-rut mature bucks. Our area is not extremely over hunted by man. But for many years now me, my wife and our family have been practicing QDM. Letting many lesser bucks walk to see another day hopefully to grow into mature animals years later. Unfortunately, we haven't been seeing mature animals years down the road. All we are really doing is feeding the growing predatory problem. In conclusion, I would not want to be a white tail deer in northern Wisconsin these days because realistically them seeing a second or third or greater birthday highly unlikely. They have all the cards stacked against them.

Do not understand why the DNR keeps making excuses for a low kill, how about the fact that there are less deer. We hunt in an area with at least 30 deer camps, we all leave Wednesday, so that eliminates the snow storm theory. The local buck board that has over 100 hunters on it saw a kill of "1". Our records show over the last 48 years our second best opener is the late opener because the rut is over and the bucks are now hitting the acorns and feeding in the clear cuts, that eliminates the late opener theory. We don't bait but the camps that do by us didn't see anymore deer then us. Out of all those camps numbering over 100 hunters I was the only bow hunter to kill a buck. I hunted until Friday night gun and saw 0 deer. As far as the predators go, bears feed mostly on fawns, we are seeing does with there fawns during hunting season, so its not the bears. There is no recrutement of yearlings the following year. The DNR keeps making excuses which turns the public off, why don't u guys come out to some deer camps and find out what is really going on in the woods. We hunt the Barrens south of Herbster. I live in Illinois but hunt up north, obviously i am leaving some of the best hunting in north America to hunt Bayfield, i don't need to get a deer i am there for the hunt but i would like to see a deer. I truly feel u guys are doing a great job and are putting forth a wonderful effort to maintain a great deer hunting experience, just don't make excuses to why the kill is down it then makes it look to the hunter that u don't really care. Just say u don't know why the kill is down, i can except that answer. Thanks.

We need to allow more antlerless tags. Period. There are some squeaky wheels and they always get the grease. These lazy hunters that view predators as competitors for deer hunting - toughen up - get out there and hunt - afraid of a little bit of competition? Predators probably help move the deer for deer hunters - though they probably also make the deer a bit more cautious as well. Deer can handle heavy mortality rates. and antlers grow bigger when there is less competition and probably more likely to see a buck when there are more just as many males as there are females. We need to give our forests a break from deer browse as well. Also, this ridiculous draconian idea of not allowing junior hunters to harvest antlerless deer if the CDAC says zero is just stupid. We need more hunters not fewer. I am sure there are some people that game that system, but it isn't worth shutting down our only opportunities for young hunters to participate. I honestly don't care that much if the adult with the youth hunter is the one that pulls the trigger - I am just glad we are encouraging the youth to participate. Also, one of the biggest things turning people away from hunting are hunters complaining that there are no deer. There are plenty of deer - people just like to complain. And this stupid crap - people trying to remove the DNR biologist for doing the best job they can - just because we had one rough season that was mainly influenced by the weather - they try to remove a long standing local biologist - just plain stupid.
I am unsure why the management goal for this unit is to lower the population of deer within this unit? The existing population within this unit is much much lower than the historical level of deer that was supported within this unit from the 1990's. With the diverse habitat mixture of farmland and oak forests it seems that this unit could support more deer per square mile than the population goal is set for. I have hunted this unit and spend considerable time groundtruthing it over the last 30 years and have noticed the steady decline of whitetail deer population in areas that traditionally had higher densities. These areas provide adequate food, cover, water and protection from environmental factors. Higher numbers of predators such as bear, coyotes, wolves, and humans have definitely impacted the populations in these areas, but also it also appears we are mismanaging populations based on other factors and not just sound biological science. Letting specific groups, such as insurance companies, forestry groups, special interest and other outside entities that stand to gain from lowering the deer numbers, direct our management goals should not be allowed. Let biological science dictate the numbers of deer that units are managed for and allow us to continue to pursue them in ethical manners and teach our younger generation the same. If the present deer population trends continue in the northern units, there will not be any future for continuing or passing down this Wisconsin tradition within our families.

It's been pretty obvious in this county since I started hunting here in the 70's that half the hunters say there are plenty of deer and the other half say there are none. Our camps deer sightings and kill have fallen at a steady pace since earn a buck. We hunt in the Barrens south of Herbs. We had 40" of snow and the deer were yarded before gun season even ended. How can the DNR treat northern Bayfield county the same as Southern Bayfield? Its complete different habitat. "This county needs to be cut in half". U guys want to give out doe tags? 30 camps in our area that meet at our cabin did not kill a deer this year! One buck on the local buck board! We all share trail camera pics among the camps, there are 200 cameras out there and we get a handful of pictures! Don't mind the tough hunting that's why we drive 500 miles the last 45 years, but it would be nice to see a deer now and then. The DNR needs to stop making excuses why we aren't seeing deer. I love the one about that hunters are using bait and the deer are feeding on acorns. I don't bait never did, i was in the acorns!!!! I saw 0 deer gun season and bow. 5 hunters saw one deer in ten days of bow hunting, the buck from our camp was the only kill out of all the local camps for the bow season. Split the county and stop the doe tags for a year or two up north. I know u can't stockpile deer in the north but how about letting the herd up there have a chance to rebound.

Hello, I've been hunting Bayfield County, particularly in the Cable and Drummond townships, since about 2001. I have since acquired land near Cable Lake, and after sitting through the archery and gun season last year, here are my thoughts: I personally think we should be focusing on heard growth, not decrease. If anything, we need to be decreasing the amount of predators in the area. My opening morning (Gun Season) consisted of nothing but coyotes howling in a close proximity to our area, and not a deer to be seen. Less than a mile away, nothing but wolf tracks (approximate location -between Big Brook Rd and West Cable Lake Rd, Cable WI). I had cameras up for the whole year, and while there were a decent amount of deer, there's far less bucks year after year. I sat opening day through Tuesday(left just before the big storm hit), dark-to-dark, and saw the same doe and fawn each morning, and that was it. So I have a good number of hours in the stand to base my decisions and input on. In my opinion, you should release a single combination tag for each license (1 for archery, and one for gun). Your choice, buck or doe, but then your done for the selected weapon license. Basically bring back the old-school "Hunter's Choice" tag, and see what it does. This way, everyone still gets to hunt, but the herd has an opportunity to grow at the same time. Thank you for your consideration.
I have been deer hunting in the Chequamegon National Forest - Lake Owen area since 2003. Since we had the earn a buck season (I don't recall the year?) the number of deer seen by our group has significantly decreased. Our group ranges from 8 to 14 per year depending on other influences. The last 3 years we have seen less than 10 deer for the entire group total. 3 years ago we didn't harvest any deer for the group. 2018 we harvested 3 for 11 people. Last year we harvested 2 for the group of 8. We have also noticed the last few years the amount of hunters from outside the area decrease which impact the local economy to restaurants, bars, gas station, grocery stores. Lakewoods Resort and Garmish's used to be completely booked and last year they had less than 20 groups total between both resorts. This is a direct correlation to the reduction in the herd due to mismanagement. The questionnaire I'm assuming is generic for all units as there is little to no concern for agricultural damage in Bayfield county. I would support Antlered Only season for a few years to get the numbers back up. I'm also concerned with the number of Wolves that are in the area. To enlist increased Antlerless quotas, or any quota for that matter in this area would severely and negatively impact the herd. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be heard and hope my concerns will be considered.

All I can say is the deer hunting(for mature bucks) is going way down hill. There are no where near the number of big deer around. Why? I would say predators is the biggest reason. On almost all my trail cameras I see a bunch of wolves, coyotes, bears, and even bobcats! Most of my cameras are on trails or by deer sign. The reason being, those predators are after the deer. Now that is normal but not when the numbers are this high. I have more predators on cameras then 6 point bucks and bigger. That is absolutely terrible!!! No other state has them numbers or ever will. Why?? Because they sell predator tags Every Year!! I know this because I have worked in about 25 states and I always ask around to the locals. Plus I read about other states all the time. If you don't believe me just go look at the buck boards in the bars or ask a taxidermist. I was at Ino after deer season to check out the buck board and meet the owner of a bar in Herbster. He said a 138 lb buck won his board. Worst he has ever saw before. White River saloon use to have many deer from 180 to 220lbs(15 yrs ago)and the hunters success rate was close to 50 percent. Now that was some good hunting! Now the success is around 15 to 23 percent with smaller bucks. So what can You do to make it start climbing back?? Please have some one call me or email back. I have ideas!!

Not sure what county u guys are looking at but northern Bayfield has the lowest deer per square mile i have seen in 46 years. Northern Bayfield cannot be compared to Southern Bayfield! This unit needs to be split! Look at your own winter severity map for this winter, how can u manage in the same way an area that is hard hit by snow vs's an area with almost no impact? The entire country is shut down right now to stop the spread of disease. Humans are supposed to be 6' apart, but it seems to be ok for 10 deer to eat from the same 3' space of a bait pile. Isn't the DNR's job to maintain the health and welfare of the wildlife?? Then how in the world can this baiting nonsense take place with CWD in this state????? And please stop telling me from your office why i didn't see a single deer this past season. We are sick of the excuses about late openers, and snow storms, how about saying there just aren't as many deer in northern Bayfield and let it go at that. Hundreds of man hours spent in the woods by experienced hunters this year produced one bow kill buck. 0 deer gun season! And i mean "real" hunters! Not hunters sitting over a bait pile. Our camp has taken 100's of bucks since 1972 and don't think all of a sudden we don't know what we are doing! Get rid of baiting and manage this county for what it is "TWO" distinct habitat areas!
I am curious about deer repellent spayed areas in the national forest. Saw a number of signs that said deer repellent. Also saw many more hunters coming from areas that were determined to be cwd zones. They were coming here because our area allows baiting. Ending baiting is not a bad thing. Deer will go back to natural feeding patterns. Then it will become hunting again, not just shooting. Drove into a lodge by Delta this year and saw twelve deer hanging in a big tree. Two does and 10 fawns. Stop issuing so many antlerless permits. Got bitched at by a guy that owns hundreds of acres of land, yet he was hunting in the national forest and because he had a ladder stand and a big bait pile he thought he owned that piece of national forest even though I have hunted at least one day out of every season for the last 32 years in that same area. Raise the non resident fee. I hunt other states every year. Non residents are getting off cheap in Wi. Are people that are making all these decisions about the hunting actually hunting in this zone on public land?? If not they should be. I would encourage them to puts some boots on the ground in this Northern zone during the season and also walk the deer yards after the season. See what you see. Then make intelligent informed decisions on numbers.

The more I read the more frustrated I get. Why are you asking questions about crop damage north of highway 2? There are few crops north of 2. Beyond that get your heads out of the sand. There are very few deer in the northern part of the county. I don't care what your "studies" show. The results are giving you false readings. I am a professional researcher. I have taught statistics and econometrics at major research institutions. I publish in leading economics and finance journals. I know how deceiving data can get and I know that granularity makes a huge difference. Whatever you are seeing or hearing about overabundance of deer in northern Bayfield is just wrong. Get out in the woods and look for deer sign! I know that area like the back of my hand. Have hunted there for over 50 years and have seen all kinds of deer cycles. The deer are just way down and by trying to say otherwise you are compromising your credibility. It is almost laughable. I talked to 4 loggers who logged near the Flag last year. They told me that over the 4 months they were in the woods they saw '1 deer!!!!!! What the heck does that tell you? The loggers who logged the private land I frequently hunt on logged it 2 years ago and they said they hardly saw any deer at all. What does that tell you?

The mismanagement of our deer herd in Bayfield County has continued to destroy what was once considered a premier deer hunting destination in our state. One of the reasons I purchased my property and house 20 years ago was because of the excellent hunting and access to public land. I also owned a resort for many years that depended on deer hunters coming to our area and had a waiting list of people trying to find a place to stay. Lack of accounting for predators, severe winters, and over harvest of antlerless deer has created a depressing situation compared to the days of abundant deer numbers and small towns full of hunters pumping money into our local economies. Consequently, I've chosen to spend most of my time, money, and energy in other states that value their deer herd. While on an out of state hunt last year, the hotel was full of Wisconsin hunters that shared the same attitude. Decreasing license sales and declining hunting numbers seem to be a concern as my daughter and I saw 3 deer while hunting all 9 days of the WI gun season in Bayfield County. It's not a hard conclusion to make. Lack of deer results in lack of deer hunters. Please use common sense to help restore what was once a unique and prosperous tradition in northern Wisconsin.
Although we had a large snowfall during the regular gun season this past year, I was able to hunt the whole season. From what I seen north of US highway 2, the number of hunters did not go down as low as the number of deer sightings. I feel that, in the forested part north of US 2, there are many less deer than is believed. I am in the woods almost every day. I truly believe we need to address every year different and private from public differences are also to be considered. I have hunted both, and there is not only a different mentality about quotas, but private is also not accessible like public land, so therefore a whole different subject. I would like to see the 3 year proposal options be extinct. Every year should be looked at separate. Facts of numbers before estimates. Everyone involved tries to do a good job, but not all have the same interests. Our forests are changing do to soil impacts on what has been growing and what we try to grow. It will naturally change, we can only change with it. I would also like to add that, although I understand the whole covid-19 situation, I am very disappointed that this is the only way that I can add input, and not be able to ask questions publicly and have them answered.

First of all there needs to be more forest management/ clear cuts to provide feed and cover to wildlife. Giving away and selling unlimited antlerless tags is a joke. Too many hunters shooting fawns and wounding deer just to fill tags. I have watched this first hand. Call me and setup time to meet during deer gun season and I will show you. (715-570-7135). I have hunted in Bayfield and Ashland counties since 1989. Have watched deer numbers decline over the years. Hunters being the biggest problem at times do to the obscene number of antlerless deer tags sold or given away. Hunters should be given 2 tags a year use for either archery or firearm or combination. No one needs more than 2 deer. This should be about ethical hunting standards not how many tags one can get and kill. When DNR gives out deer AG damage tags force farmers to give and allow people to hunt property. In the past Nelson Seed Farms near Mason would not give away but sold to people from out of state that hunted his land. I was refused by Gerald Nelson personally, (currently White River Ag after he sold.) Yes there are pockets of high deer populations mostly in agricultural areas of these counties. But to many of the antlerless tags are being filled in the Nat'l Forest and non-ag areas.

WHY REDUCE?? For the past five years I have expressed to the CDAC great frustration about the low number of deer sightings my friends and I have had while hunting in Bayfield County. We’ve urged you to rebuild the herd. Is anybody on the committee even listening? It is truly depressing to witness the unnecessary carnage you’ve inflicted upon our whitetail resource. In my opinion, there is absolutely no need to further reduce the population on Bayfield’s public hunting grounds. As it is, predation and winter kill effectively neutralize 60 to 75% of our annual fawn recruitment. Overbrowsing? Seriously? Many of our most productive areas in the National Forest have become almost impenetrable due to dense underbrush taking over. Contrary to misinformation provided by an overzealous forester, there is hardly any appreciable browsing going on in many parts of the forest. After suffering 10 consecutive years of poor hunting, hoping for an eventual recovery, I’m at the point of totally abandoning my cherished 35 year tradition of hunting in this county. I hate to do it, but like many of my fellow hunters who no longer support your economy, you are forcing me to take my dollars and go to more promising areas of the state.

Our camp has hunted Northern Bayfield for over forty years, we usually run about a 70% success rate, several years we went 100% on our buck harvest. We do not bait and we only hunt the first 5 days of gun season. We run 15 hunters in camp that come from as far away as Texas. We average 80 deer sightings a year, both buck and doe, we hunt over about 5 square miles of mostly public land. Here are our numbers from the last 4 years. 2016-one buck harvested, 18 deer sightings. 2017-one buck harvested, 16 deer sightings. 2018-one buck harvested, 12 deer sightings. 2019-0 harvest, 14 deer sightings. 40 year average 9 bucks per year harvested, 80 deer sightings. Does it sound to you that we need doe tags??????????????????????? We already have plans with several camps in the area that none of us are buying deer tags for the 2020 season, over half those tags are none resident at $160.00 a piece. The biologist for Bayfield needs to take a trip out to the woods and the deer camps in the northern part of the county and stop managing everything based off southern Bayfield. How about no doe tags north of route 2? We also bow hunt our harvest and sightings from bow are worse then gun!!!!
I spend a lot of time each year in Bayfield County enjoying numerous different hobbies and am concerned that the deer numbers are steadily dropping. I enjoy trail cameras and have around 20 cameras out from spring until late fall and the pictures support a drop in deer numbers. The decrease in numbers could be from predators, hunters and most likely the late snowfalls of the last two winters. Each year it seems like another friend / property owner in the county decides to sell their property and start hunting elsewhere. The main reason I hear from these people is that they want to enjoy hunting with their children and if their children aren't seeing any deer they no longer want to hunt in this location. Maybe this also supports the drop in license sales. If the county was managed differently, north of Hwy 2 definitely doesn't have the deer numbers that the southern part of the county does. I have read about the lack of red oak regeneration for the last few years and this should be a concern also, but according to all the logging taking place and the size of the timber ( oak included ) being harvested maybe a different approach would save some of the oak trees.

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I have made this comment before and realize I am wasting my time; but I have time so: my area near Port Wing next to the flag river has nearly no deer. I have hunted this private property for nearly 20 years and am accustomed to seeing many deer in a day; like 10 to 15 bucks and at least that many does/fawns. Over the past 4 years that number has gone steadily down and this year I had cameras out all summer and fall and had 4 small bucks 3 does and no fawns, by hunting season that number was down to two small bucks and 3 does. I hunted three days sat. sun. and tuesday dark to dark without moving and never saw a deer. the hunters in the cabins close to me (over 20 hunters) all hunted; but hunted elsewhere; never saw a hunter or heard a shot. I am not trying to say Bayfield County does not have deer and I know the southern part south of Hwy 2 has lots, what I am saying is the northern part has almost none. As far as youth hunts, they are a joke, dads buy their kids a license so they can shoot a doe and still hunt for a buck, doesn’t work except to kill does. Wolves and coyotes and bobcats are a major problem********

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I’m satisfied with the proposed antlerless quota. However, I believe more emphasis should be made on antlerless harvest on private land. You drive through ag areas of Bayfield County and can see 40 deer standing in a 40 acre clover field. Then, drive 5 miles away into forested areas and not come across any deer sign. I believe we could log off more land. I believe tourism has been diminished due to poor public land opportunities. I believe that Covid-19 has hurt tourism to a point where hotel and restaurant businesses in the area might not recover unless there is ample hunting opportunity. It’s not just about the deer anymore. It’s about the livelihood of the people that live in the county. I believe we had a heavy winter kill. I walked through a wintering yard on Cut-Off Road in Delta and saw about 80 deer. I also saw 6 dead ones. The land was in the process of being logged because the equipment tracks were fresh in the dirt with massive snow around untouched areas. Deer were literally dropping over dead there. I would like to see 3,000 permits issued for Private Land and 1,000 permits issued for Public Land.

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I have hunted these areas for many years and have seen a significant decline in the amount of deer seen and taken during the Gun Deer seasons. Just look at the buck pools in every bar. Some places have kept a record every year since I have been hunting here starting in 1980. Deer are smaller and in less volume. Opening days during the gun deer season are starting to be pathetic. Bow hunting is a little different. Wolf population and visibility of the wolf has certainly been a factor in the decline as well. There are days when we have seen no deer on opening day. We used to see 20 or 30! Enough said on that. My major concern here is that deer hunting and maybe hunting in general is dying here in the northwoods. A 40% decline in licenses issued is a tell tale sign that things are obviously getting worse. Something needs to be done to get the heard to a level that attracts hunters to the area and maybe even produce a few trophies from time to time. I would even be in favor of a "No Gun Deer Season" or two if that’s what it would take to fix this problem. We need your help and we need it this year.
I have hunting the same 27 square miles of public land since 1975 and I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly. We used to see a bunch of deer on a daily basis and now I will bet 3 of the last 7 seasons would be considered extremely poor with little or no deer seen. We have about 10 - 12 people in our group. When you have campgrounds and bars that fill up buck pools and 3 -8 people out of 50/100 shoot a buck, that is not good. I don't understand how this unit could be slated for a decrease in population as our entire group and people we know who hunt up here believe the decrease has already taken place and only getting worse with the bad winter and the amount of wolves and wolve tracks we now see again. My comments are directed toward the public land only. You should be able to break out antlerless quotas information for private and public in this area and my recommendation would be buck only in the public land for another 1 - 3 years. When I see wolves during the daytime running in open areas in 2 of my 5 hunting days, that is a problem as I saw more wolves than deer......I wonder why!

Bayfield county should be split into two zones. The northern portion is big forest and as a result the carring capacity and deer/square mile numbers are very different than the southern farmland portion. I have hunted both archery and gun season for 12 years in the northern Chiuwamagen National Forest on public land. The last 3 years I have not seen an antlered buck off stand. I have only seen around 4 antlerless deer over this time. The number of deer on our deer camps trail cameras is also dropped dramatically over the last few years. Deer sign during the rut is almost non-existent. Wolf sights are up in our area. The combined pressure between predators, winter severity index and baiting makes the idea of taking another 1500 antlerless deer from this area crazy. The biggest deer on a buck board in our Herbster, Port Wing, Cornicorpia area was only 130 lbs. Every hunter I spoke with said the deer population in that area is struggling and the kill numbers for 2019 reflect this. Please reconsider both issuing doe permits for this area as well as banning baiting.

been hunting northern bayfield county for 49 years. own a house there this was by far one of the worse deer seasons in our camp history. 0 deer harvested 12 hunters 16 deer seen in 5 days. you say this is over populated. I think a trip up to our camp and surrounding camps should be in your future just to see how tough it is here. we also bow hunt the rut and have 15 trail cams out for much of the year. we just do not have the deer you speak off. it would be shooting our selfs in the foot if we took does and fawns from this area.the baiting of all deer should be on ever biologist mind. why are humans told to stay 6 ft apart and deer can be congregated in a 2 ft pile face to face. its not natural and probably not good for them.we spend a lot of time in these woods and are not just weekend warriors. if anyone of the council members would like to visit us and discuss all outdoor activities I would love to discuss this with them. we are the pu camp herbster most people in this area know us and our love of the beautiful Northwoods . ps. winter wasn't the best either

I am a forester, so I am out in the woodlands of Bayfield county very frequently. I see more deer browse damage this spring than I ever have. In southern Bayfield county, you cannot drive down the road without seeing deer. They are everywhere. Regeneration of oak, and survival of oak seedlings is being deeply affected. Young white pine that were above the snow pack have been decimated, with every bud tip and growth shoot browsed off. We need to drop the herd numbers significantly for forest health and for herd health. Selling fewer doe tags than last year will not somehow raise the harvest. We need to combat the "old" thinking that only kids and women should be allowed to shoot does, that a "man" would not shoot a doe. This is not 1930, yet that attitude is still prevalent throughout the area when I talk to citizens. We do not grow large numbers of trophy bucks here in Bayfield, but we do grow delicious venison by the ton. Let's focus on the value of that and change perceptions, and we will have a better tool for controlling our deer herd.
I was satisfied back in 2018 with the amount of deer sightings on private and public, I usually set out 15 trail cameras and hunt in the Barrens area, Cornucopia & Bayfield area. This past 2019 season I hunted in those same areas as 2018 and had a quarter of deer as the previous year (2018). I’m not a weekend worrier when it comes to whitetail deer, there’s something awfully wrong with the deer population estimates that’s put forth. In all my years of hunting I have never seen the population down this low. The deer are just not there, even on private property low numbers are starting to show and the thing is, is that owners aren’t shooting the deer or seeing the big numbers that supposedly are there. This is my prediction, it’s plane and simple, this 2020 Whitetail deer season, the deer harvest will be the lowest it’s ever been and will continue every year after that until you stop authorizing antlerless tags. Stop making excuses for what is not there. Until Wisconsin has some sort of control with the wolf population, well that’s another story.

Of the 15 deer in my yard over the last hunting season, only 1 was an actual White Tail deer. The 14 other deer on my property all had black up around back of legs and down sides of tail, from my experience that is black tail or some form of a mule deer of which our DNR claims the closest herd being in South Dakota. Can we harvest these deer? I had to shoot the one white tail out of the group of deer and I did make the shot and kill in 1 shot, but if they had ran I could have easily lost track of the sole white tail and shot one of the others. Why does the DNR appear to ignore the fact that in the Town of Hughes in Bayfield county we have deer other than White tail and can or can we not harvest these deer.. They are a tad smaller than the other deer, maybe 15-25% in size... And after skun out would only look like shot a smaller deer, but do not care to get in trouble if I have someone else process and one of these deer with hide easily picked out from the pile waiting for processing... Please address the other deer in our state.

I would like to see more tags made available than what has been recommended. Last year I bought 1 antlerless tag, which I filled opening morning of the gun deer season. I was going to buy an additional tag since I had multiple opportunities at harvesting another deer, but all the tags had been sold out. All the tags selling out on private and public land tells me more tags need to be issued. Also, the harvest was down last fall, which is going to make hunters want to harvest more deer this fall. Based on these two factors alone, I suggest offering the same or more tags than were offered in 2019. The winter severity index was high this past winter, but we also had an early spring with no late snow storms. All the deer I have seen in late winter and this spring have appeared very healthy, so I think the winter mortality is lower than expected. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. It was also very nice to have the presentation by Todd Naas recorded and able to view even when not attending the first meeting, unlike previous years.

"You've got to hunt 'em where they are instead of where you want 'em to be". Best advice I ever got 45 years ago. However, if you're limited to public land this is now very tough. There is a huge difference in the number of deer on private land compared to public. I believe the only way to restore the herd on public land is to allow no doe harvest on public lands for a few years, even though it will limit hunting opportunities for a while. Predators including wolves, coyotes and especially bear seem to be abundant and it seems that more could be harvested. In my opinion, baiting is the absolute worst thing for the future of deer hunting. It holds deer on private land, it interferes with other hunters on public land, It's illegal and unethical in much of the country, it spreads disease, and most importantly - young people are not learning how to "hunt". They want the deer to be outside the window of the box blind eating corn instead of hunting them where they are! There's not enough of a challenge in that to keep them interested.
The goal of decreasing the amount of deer in Bayfield Co. was achieved many years ago. The areas I spend time in are mostly remote removed from the agricultural areas and populated areas. In these areas the herd has never recovered from the days of the bonus tags. The pressure from Wolves, bobcats and bears is a constant strain. In a 9 day deer season I will cover 100 miles or more tracking and still-hunting. I will usually see more predator tracks than deer tracks. Yes, there are deer but not numbers. You can cover several sections and not see a deer track. Bring back the Wolf season! 7-10 years for a bear tag?? 11 years for a bobcat tag?? Outlaw baiting! It is the feeling in our camp and the other locals we associate with that the State of Wisconsin is no longer committed to the deer herd in Wisconsin. I have no faith that you really care about the deer or the local economies of the state. The Timber, insurance and Eco lobbies have a bigger voice than the sportsman that pay a large portion of the bills.

There are already extremely low numbers in deer population in Bayfield county. TONS of migrant hunters come up here and slaughter the antlerless population. Many of the hunters who live up here leave antlerless deer to live. The problem is not that there is an abundance of deer. There’s exponentially fewer deer than past years, and this survey suggests the state is trying to continue that slope. THIS IS THE REASON HUNTING IS DYING. There will be no DNR wildlife jobs left if we preach that it’s a good thing to keep killing all of the does. It’s clear that money is the driving force of nature since we are trying to make sure trees can be harvested, not for the sake of deer. The amount of logging in the chequamegon national forest in the past years has been absurd. That should not be the number one priority. The message the state is sending that “we need to keep hunting culture alive, but we’re doing our best to make sure there’s fewer and fewer deer every year” is extremely contradictory. That’s terrible. Be better.

Having hunted in Bayfield since I turned 12 in 1993, this is as low as I have seen the population since the first 5 or so years that I have hunted. Bayfield has the same problem as much of the rest of the state. There are significantly more deer on private lands than public. My families cabin is near Winter in Sawyer cty and I hike and grouse hunt throughout Sawyer, Bayfield, and Ashland Counties. Wherever you have a clump of cabins throughout this whole area there are more deer. I deer hunt near Marengo lake. If you drive around the lake, you will see deer everywhere. However, if you drive 2 miles south into the national forest deer sign diminishes by 75%. Predator over-population, lack of young growth forest, and continued doe harvest has reduced the deer population to a point where I have seen very little growth over the last 5 years (except in areas with a large number of small land owners). I would like to see an increase in Bear tags, de-listing of wolves and a couple years of reduced doe harvest.

I feel it is high time that the gun hunters get an even break I have hunted since 1962 with 3 years missed while in the Army and have seen the gun hunting take a back seat to all the other seasons, an archery season that runs 4 months, Native hunting that goes on all fall, A youth hunt in October, by the time gun season gets here all the nice bucks are smart enough to sleep all day long and only come out after dark or when season is over. There is so much hunting pressure on the herd that by the start of gun season the deer have been chased, shot at or killed. I don’t see any reason for a youth hunt, I started hunting when the weather was much colder and we always has knee deep snow, I started my two boys off in the 1arly 1908”s haunting and they have brought all four of my grand children into the gun season and never any of us hunt a youth season. Keep gun deer season the thanksgiving week and give us a break and change some of the other seasons to give us a fare shake at a smaller herd.
I think the new electronic deer registration had an impact on perceived harvest totals since its implementation. I know from conversations with other hunters, there are many areas in the state with deer camps where there is no cell service, internet, etc and I am assuming a percentage of hunters from these areas simply will not register deer harvested if it is not available in person. I do think these hunters probably still purchase authorizations (tags) prior to the season opener. Another observation from past experience in Bayfield County is the fluctuating wolf population. I saw many sets of wolf tracks this winter, found two deer kills in the area, and have heard packs howling in the northern areas of the county multiple nights this past fall/winter. It is my opinion the wolf population is more widespread than numbers currently show. I have also seen more deer this spring than in some previous years, which I hope will contribute to a more successful season this fall.

Overall it was a nice presentation but I have a few additional comments. The numbers are likely difficult to decipher but, after a hunter harvests a deer I believe we should ask if it was harvested below or above Highway 2. I think we can come to find a more accurate deer population/density. The number of deer in the northern half of the county are in serious danger. Many of the deer were not able to herd up in the towns like they normally do in the winter due to the severity of the snow so early this year. Walking through the northern parts of the Barrons in areas with the large acorn count you will see quite a few dead deer in a days worth of walking/scouting. I think it would be unfair/inhumane to offer a doe season on the deer in this portion of the county after the struggles this winter. The deer numbers are drastically different in the southern(farming) areas of the county compared to northern half and shouldn’t be treated as equals. Just my opinion. Thank you.

I’ve mainly bow hunted bayfield country since 1995, there was plenty of deer till the state started issuing as many antlerless permits as you wanted to buy. After a couple of years of that decision went by the deer population dwindled from seeing 8-12 deer an evening to being lucky to see one. Shining fields that you would see 50-100 deer in them went down to 10-20. I remember of counting over 100 deer along the highway between Brule and Iron River on just about any nice evening. Now your lucky to see ten. People are generally pigs when they get a chance to harvest as many as they can and that’s just what they did. Now that there’re gone they blame it on the Indians and wolves, which I believe do take a considerable amount of game but now that the population is so far down there’s not enough for everyone and predators. My father was a DNR warden in Douglas county until mid seventies and he predicted this would happen when they gave out all of the permits in this matter.

I wish I could fully understand the entire process of the decisions being made. I realize I only hunt one small area of the forest near the town of Iron River. All I can do is observe the changes I have seen in the forest and the surrounding communities. The town of Iron River during the gun hunt used to be very busy. It was hard to even get a room at a local motel. Now, most of the motels are gone and the one remaining has vacancy during the season. The amount of deer seen and deer sign has decreased steadily since around 2005. It has gotten to the point that there are very few hunters in the woods. Its used to be opening morning would be alive with the sound of guns at 6:35. Now it is mostly quiet with only a few pops here and there. When hunters would gather at the end of the day, it used to be "How many did you see?" and now the question becomes "Did you see any?" I appreciate this forum. It at least allows me to voice my opinion. Thank you.

I’m all about managing the deer population responsibly. Special interest groups should not have influence on this whatsoever nor do I care about the people complaining that they didn’t get a deer last year. Deer hunting is a privilege. If you want a deer, get your ass in the woods and put in the work. I didn’t get one during deer gun season because I’m picky. I saw a shit ton of them too. Know why? Because I actually went into the woods and did the homework. So I’ll try again next year. If there’s a money issue in regard to the funding of things like managing public lands because of lack of hunting, the real outdoorsmen need to open their wallets to protect what we love without doing special things for the "3 days a year hunters" who are complaining because of one down year where deer didn’t walk out to the corn pile they put out last night and then stay there all the next 10 days of hunting. Bunch of lazy bing bongs. Rant over.
You guys just don't get it, private or public antlerless tags are all mostly shot on public land. A majority of land owners that hunt protect their deer herds. I hunt in far northern Bayfield county were the majority of the land is public. If you drive around at dusk you see very few deer in any of the fields. If I drive say 20 to 30 miles south were there is more private land you will at a lot more deer in the fields at dusk. Also I have seen hunters that I know have private land hunting and making drives on public land. The deer numbers in far north Bayfield County are too low. It is the norm now to walk a mile or so in the woods after a snow fall in early November and cut nothing but wolf tracks. And the closer to the lake the worse the snow fall. Last year we could not black power hunt because on the last Saturday of gun season there was 45" of snow on the ground. Do you think that that much snow that early didn't kill some deer?

In the distant past, we used to see 20-30 deer per day on opening day and usually the following two days. Then hunting pressure would drop and we would see less deer. This was in the national forest south of Iron River in Bayfield County. In recent years, we have had days where we have seen no deer on opening day in the same national forest and on private land near Port Wing. This has been very disappointing. We have seen and heard wolves in the early morning hours of the hunting seasons and expect that this is part of the reason for our lack of deer sightings. Lack of hunters is another cause and it seems like this problem is getting worse given the number of licences sold in 2019. Hunting in general is dying in my opinion, in this area of the country. Maybe I should start getting exciting about the overrun of turkeys that now grace our public and private forest land and take it up as my primary hunting adventure.

I have been out looking at deer mortality from the 2019-2020 winter and have seen an abundance of wolf/deer kill in the county. I have also seen vegetation eaten at the five-six foot level to pencil size twigs. The population in my opinion can not stand another hard winter and a reduction of does both. While there seems to be an ample amount of deer in the farming areas due to feeding and the ability to consume crops during the fall and early winter, I think the forest regions are experiencing low density numbers. While I understand that wolves need to live, I don't understand why we continue to put natural deer kill (winter, predation) on the back burner until it becomes a rally point for low deer numbers. Wouldn't it be easier to look at spring numbers after each winter than to base doe permits on the previous years fall findings and therefore save the headache of high permit numbers and low antlerless numbers?

In general I have total confidence in the scientific management of this DNR unit. Disease is a primary concern for me, preventing CWD &c. is important and IMHO trumps other issues. I also enjoy the wolves and other wildlife. I feel strongly that we need to protect wolves and other wildlife even if it means a thinner hunt for me. I don't know how this enters into your model for calculating the harvest but I hope that the entire system's health is more important than keeping a vocal minority of hunters from soiling their diapers. Finally- this may not be relevant to the model but if there is a need to increase cull, PLEASE think about having a bow-only extension. Extending bow season doesn't endanger or hinder other users of public lands. Gun hunting, as fun as it is, definitely precludes other people from using their public lands and prevents people from running, hiking, and gathering firewood in safety.

Own land in Bayfield county,hunted on this land surrounding area of Barnes for 47 years , only once in the late 1970s have I seen so few deer. Woods by the thousands of acres have been cut down , clear cut and planted back to pine. DNR has not listened to hunters like me in the past many years of going to the spring hearings. They continue to issue twice as many antlerless permits as they should , local people can see this and are vocal about it because it affects local business. The group of hunters in our cabin and many neighbors will not shoot antlerless deer to try and stop the over harvest. Please reconsider why you think the 3 year plan in 2017 should be to decreased the deer heard in Bayfield county. The predators and a bad winter of deep snow will take care of decreasing the heard.Bayfield county is pour but the sale of it's forest is a short sighted plan, hardwood forest are needed for game and tourism.
I have been in northern Bayfield county for many years. The deer population we have now around the sand river deer yard is almost non-existent. The deer herd has been very poorly managed in Bayfield county. That fact of the matter is all that the management CDAC comity is doing is deterring the younger generation from wanting to hunt. No kid wants to sit in a stand to only see one deer during his/her deer season. The DNR is only hurting its self. Once the older generation is done hunt they will see a dramatic decrease is tag sales. You can ask any hunter around this area and they will say the same thing. It’s sad to see this happen but you guys don’t listen the the hunters. Only the foresters that will go look where there is a decent deer heard wintering and say they are eating all the saplings. Of course they are they spend the whole winter there. Listen to the people that are out in the woods.

I have no idea why the CDAC recommendation for this unit is to reduce deer numbers! Over the past 10 years, I have seen the number of whitetails drastically reduced, and not only don’t I ever see deer while hunting, I rarely see tracks in the public woods where I have hunted for 31 years. It is depressing! One of the biggest changes is that the only deer we seem to see when driving around are within a few hundred feet of homes, buildings, and towns. Between deer baiting, feeding, and the increasing danger of predation, the deer have definitely adapted to living in close proximity of human habitation. It gives a hunter like me, who hunts the open forest with no bait practically zero chance to ever see deer. My grandfather started hunting Bayfield county in 1931, and my father in 1963. I doubt that I will continue to hunt there much longer if things do not change for the positive soon.

The public land that my friends and I hunt in Bayfield Co has seemed more and more devoid of deer. I grew up in WI and have always hunted in Bayfield Co, and still do even though I’m now living in IL. It’s becoming less and less appealing to make the trek up there to hunt in the land I grew up hiking, fishing, and hunting in. This is mainly due to the fact that the area we hunt seems to have so far fewer deer than years past. I can't speak for all public land obviously, but it seems like the numbers don’t add up to my experience. We will hear so few gunshots opening morning, and even fewer the next few days. It used to be as soon as the sun came up it would be non-stop shooting until the afternoon. I’d ask that there would at least be no increase to the antlerless deer quota, and a reduction may be better for the hunters (both local and out of state like myself).

there has been much, TOO MUCH, debate about crossbows taking too many bucks and not enough bucks left for the gun hunter. I agree that the buck numbers in the northern counties should be increased and the ratio of does to bucks should be decreased. This will not sell more licenses, but I believe we should go to one buck per hunter per season. If the hunter chooses to harvest a buck in early crossbow season or bow season they can not harvest another buck the rest of the year. This could only work if we brought back deer tagging along with the stiff penalties we once had for not tagging a deer. Also the hunter who harvested a buck prior to the gun season could not participate in group hunting of bucks. We really need to bite the bullet and make a sacrifice for a few years to bring back the number and quality of bucks. This rule stop the fight among hunters.

I have hunted the area for over 50 yrs,spending many hrs in the forest not only in deer season but bear and turkey/grouse.I understand farm land in some places has to many deer, but your lumping it in to all private land plus nat forest.this is not right,i have seen less deer year after year on my small 35 acre piece on woods,and time in the national forest even less deer.oh ya they is also more food in the woods then there was 50 yrs ago.and for some reason why is Douglas county not shooting does,in the last 5 yrs on my property i have only seen 2 fawns,i have lots of pics of wolfs it just does not make sense that Bayfield county shoot all the does.if you have a problem on farm land then issue permits for farm land only.year after year the hunters tell you no and you keep on shooting more does.its getting that hunters have no trust in cdac in bayfield county.
once again the Bayfield peninsula took a very hard hit from winter and the over abundance of predator's, the once premier largest winter deer yard was empty due to the states answerer to numbers control the wolf, I'm very dishearten with the state Wisconsin's management approach, example! using the road kill count to determine a population estimate when most of these deer are brought to close proximity to the Hwy 13 due to people feeding the out there back door. Mother nature is very capable of managing its own numbers, what needs to be managed is the managers trying to keep them self's in a job i.e. (foresters) deer have been eating brush sense management ever came in to practice, put your books down and get into the brush and take a look around its not real complicated, if you really care about the resources take the dollar bill out of equation.

Antlerless only should be out of the question. I very much have enjoyed how the Archery seasons are setup and like that the antlerless only 4 day hunts are in December after Muzzleloader season. Please keep it that way. As far as the gun deer season, it would be nice once in a while to alternate the start of the season as to be able to hit the rut and chasing stage more often rather than hitting the deer recovery time, extended bedding from being worn down etc. I propose the start of Gun deer season start a week earlier than Thanksgiving week and allow for muzzleloader to be during Thanksgiving week every other season or every third season. I would enjoy that and I think many would. We all get jealous of Minnesota's gun deer season as they almost always seem to have their two week season during prime times. Just a thought. Please consider. Thanks.

This past year was the first year that a pack of wolves had been in the hunting area my friends and I have been hunting in for years. We had no issues with the wolves. However, all the years past the number of deer that we would see on a daily basis were substantial. Last year the numbers were significantly less. Specifically, in previous years there would be at least one to two daily that end up within 50 yards or less within our stand easily walking toward us. Last year the deer did not last more than five minutes within my site and more than 150 yards away. The evidence of their activity was significantly different as well. Every day we could see the wolves on their run as well. I'm just guessing that with this pack of not more than nine, they were having an affect on the number of deer in the area we had been hunting in.

I have hunted up here for many, many years. This is the lowest I have ever seen the deer population. I hunt and hike throughout the area and see an increasing number of predators, wolves especially. The deer population becomes less and less apparent. I see less and less deer every year and 2019 being the worst. Something needs to be done about the large amount of predators and the lack of deer. License numbers will continue to decrease because no one is seeing any deer. Please adopt regulations that mirror successful states like Iowa and Illinois. These states are known for their mature deer and that is why the license sales are through the roof. Please adopt rules to sustain and mature deer populations. Current models that are being presented do the opposite. We will be one of the worst states if this trend continues.

Thank you Todd for the video presentation and to the CDAC members for their work. I support the proposed quota of 1500 antlerless deer, as well as the 60/40 private/public distribution of tags. I continue to have concerns about the spread of CWD to Bayfield county and support actions to reduce this risk (including lower herd densities). I was glad to see the CWD self-registration stations last year and encourage that to continue if possible. I was also glad to use the carcass dumpsters made available, and encourage that to continue if possible (maybe even put out earlier for those archery hunters). Lastly, I would like the CDAC committee to explore options to eliminate baiting/feeding as these activities are not beneficial to the deer herd and can increase the risk of CWD spread. Thank you!
Our party of 13 rifle hunts the Moquah Barrens area of Bayfield County. We “still” hunt large tracts of land toward each other and usually have reasonable success with 3 to 6 bucks taken during rifle season. We hunt hard for the first 4 to 5 days of the season. This year we not only did not shoot a buck in this area but only saw one legal buck amongst our entire group, not to mention there were also very few antlerless deer sighted. The one thing we did see a lot of was wolves and wolf tracks. I also do a lot of bow hunting on private land near Herbster. I hunt with a friend of mine from California. We hunted for the entire month of November prior to rifle season and saw only 2 legal bucks and very few antlerless deer. If there are too many deer in Bayfield County you couldn’t prove it by me!!!

Bayfield County has very diverse habitat areas and a one size fits all approach will not result in a satisfactory result in all areas. The farmland areas southwest of Ashland along the White River present a very different deer management environment than the forested regions further to the north, west and south. Deer densities within the Penokee Mountain areas are exceptionally low due to a lack of food and cover as well as very high predator populations. Consequently, it makes sense to consider these vast forested areas under a different management plan that can address the challenges presented. Primarily, I would vote to reduce the number of antlerless tags and eliminate the use of baiting which only serves to artificially congregate animals and reduces opportunities for other hunters.

We have hunted the forest with a large group of hunters (10-12) both bow and gun. We spend time early on preparing and spend 4 days hunting. It is not unusual for our group to only fill one maybe three tags. The last 3-4 years has been very good conditions for hunting and we have seen very few deer (Doe or Buck). The numbers have all ready decreased in this area near Delta to a point that makes it very hard to see deer at all. 2019 I saw 2 deer in 4 days of hunting. 2018 was not much different. The numbers in this survey should be take into account the Native American deer kill! Everyone should be able to see these numbers and how they are considered into this equation for the allowed permits. Thanks for all your hard work in creating the best scenario for all our benefits.

There aren’t as many deer in the northern part of the county. Have you studied the effects of bear and wolf predation on private land compared to public? When I personally saw more bear and wolf tracks still hunting through the woods, it’s very disheartening. We have a large group in our hunting party, when nearly half don’t see a deer in 4 full days of hunting it discouraging. It’s a big county, there should be north and south sub-units. Those sub-units should managed differently. Some "deer czar" from Texas really had no business telling Wisconsin deer managers one damn thing about managing deer in Wisconsin. He doesn’t even know what a real winter is or how vastly different the northern forest is from the southern private land. Texas also use deer feeders?

The Bayfield Co “Northern Forest Zone” is not just a Forest! There are many ag fields in Mason, Benoit, Ino, Moquah, and Barksdale where it is easy to see deer flocking to high dollar crops such as alfalfa, corn, soybeans, and clover off of nearby roadways. These areas have ZERO reflection on deer numbers in the Bayfield Co Forest, or in the Moquah Barrens, Ino Barren’s, or Iron River Barren’s. Even the heavily wooded privat parcels and suffering for deer numbers. I am lucky to be able to hunt both Ag lands, and the big forest and the number of deer & deer sign is not even relatively close to what it is on the Ag Lands. It is not fair to have doe tags available to private land hunters in Bayfield based of how many deer people are seeing in the Southern County Ag fields.

It is evident that the forestry interests would like to see few or no deer on the landscape, which is counter to the interests of hunters whom would like to maintain a reasonably robust deer herd (which is clear from the public input provided to the CDAC year after year). Fortunately, we have the tools where the Bayfield County Forest lands can be managed differently from the remainder of lands throughout the county via DMAP or damage tags where all parties can be satisfied. Why not use a solution like this which works for everyone instead of letting one stakeholder group’s interest control policy? Bayfield County already has among the lowest deer densities in the state. No more decreasing the herd! It is time to let the herd bounce back a little and then maintain!
In over 50 years of hunting diverse public areas of Bayfield county, I have observed the ups and downs. About 10 years ago, our crew began deploying cameras to scout. We observed many large bucks at night which were never harvested due to their nocturnal natures, but we enjoyed seeing them on cam every year and named them. In 2019, we noticed a drop in the number of bucks on cam over all, and particularly big drop in the number of 4 year old plus bucks that we like to shoot. Not sure why, but we suspected winter kill from the previous year? A bucks only season for a couple years would not hurt Bayfield county imo, as there is plenty of food for them, and the woods are not in the least exhibiting the over browsing that we saw back in about 2005 as I remember it.

I believe: Youth should get to harvest buck or doe deer if they wish with out restriction other than 1 deer per season plus additional harvest of the doe if desired. Seniors should get to harvest buck or doe deer if they wish with out restriction other than 1 deer per season plus additional harvest of the doe if desired. All other hunters should be held to quality deer management standards of outside the ears. I also believe private land owners should be given significant incentives to host youth and handicap hunters and potentially have less privilege if they do not. I believe Bayfield Cty should be working towards managing wildlife to be the leading location to hunt in the State and the Country. Not to just exist and maintain but to excel.

Given that there was a big snow storm during rifle season, and right after season, we lost 5 of 9 days up here, which is the main reason the harvest was down, paired with the late opener, not as much of the rut was into the gun deer season. I think there were just as many, if not more deer this past season than last. We hunt the big woods outside of Grandview and took 5 bucks off the property, 2 over bait, 3 without. I think the CDAC has done a great job looking at the numbers, and listening to their specific stakeholder group, however i would still like to see a quota higher like the previous season. The deer came out of this winter just fine contrary to what some may think. Thank you to them, and the biologist for the information.

1. Very few hunters on public lands. More hunters may increase deer sightings with more hunters in woods potentially moving deer. They won’t come unless they will see deer. There use to be a lot of downstate hunters coming north years ago. 2. To much baiting. Ban baiting. Some hunters will gripe but they will get over it. To many hunters sit all day over bait piles. The deer do not move because they have a food source from the bait. More deer movement, more deer sightings, more opportunity for hunters to harvest a deer. Encourage hunters to scout, still hunt, etc. 3. Maybe do a north south split season like waterfowl. Start north a week before south zone. Might increase hunters up north. Local businesses could use a boost in hunter numbers.

Certainly not an overabundance of deer where I hunt. I hunt the first 5 days of the season from sun up to sun down- in the woods- do not bait but actually hunt. Saw a total of 3 deer in those 5 days- all were antlerless. What happens when you have a severe winter? That’s something no one can control. Cut that antlerless quota to 500 or zero on public land- the baiters on private property can kill the antlerless. Baiting needs to be eliminated for the health of the herd and also I recommend one buck per hunter per year- regardless of the type of hunting you prefer to do- bow, gun, muzzleloader etc. Go back to issuing back tags and requiring registration be done in person. Crossbows should be for 60 and over or those with a disability.

I have hunted this forest for 55 years. Our camp has eight hunters. We are 4 older hunters and 4 younger hunters. We are about to lose those young hunters. They have hunted for about 10 years on average. This represents 40 individual years. In that time only 2 bucks have been harvested, by the youth. In the past 10 years, the 4 older hunters have harvested 2 bucks. During the same time period only 4 does have been harvested. The amount of deer seen in this time period (10years) is terrible. We are not baiters. We are convinced that the only way to shoot a buck, is to bait, and hunt from a tree stand. Walking has become a thing of the past. And that is a shame. The excessive harvesting of does in the national forest has got to stop.
From 6/17/19 until 4/22/20, only observed one deer on my 50 acres of mostly forested land in extreme northern Bayfield Cty. I have two neighbors who also commented to me having seen virtually no deer during this period of time. Since 4/22/20, observed one adult deer with what appears to be a last year's fawn (yearling) in close company. Also observed one other solitary deer on my land on 4/26/20. However, this is typical for this time of year, for the higher elevation of my land the snow level has just melted away the last couple of weeks allowing deer to move unobstructedly through. I continue to recommend a zero antlerless quota in Bayfield Cty., at least north of Star Route Rd., except for the youth hunting program.

Bayfield County needs to allow more bear tags and a wolf hunt needs to take place. We have a group of 32 hunters who have hunted Bayfield County public land for 26 years. From year to year many of us don't see a deer. We have to many wolves and bears on our camera’s that we put in the woods during Fall scouting. We drive 6 hours from our homes to where we hunt. 2 gallons of bait once or twice in the Fall is not enough for us as we compete with locals who can put out much more bait through the fall. Why do you think private land hunters harvest so many more deer than public land hunters. The number of hunters through the years has steadily decreased. I believe this is in direct correlation with hunters not seeing deer.

Our camp dates back to the mid 1930's. My father in law used to talk about the doe only seasons held in the 1950’s? According to the observations of the hunters in the camp at this time, it took a very long time for the herd to recover. I have had the opportunity to hunt a large variety of game animals across North America these past fifty years. The taking of anymore deer at this time in my life is not as important as it was when I was a younger man. I enjoy our camp, seeing my children and grandchildren charging into the woods to bag that big buck. Please don't repeat the mistakes of the past! Also note, that I like seeing all different type of animals while hunting, your problem is trying to strike a balance among all.

I have been hunting in the Town of Russell in northern Bayfield County for over 45 years. The past 8 years have been very disappointing when it comes to whitetail deer hunting. Previous to last year I decided to hunt the state of Wyoming instead of Wisconsin and had great success. Last year I decided to give it another try in Wisconsin and never saw a deer. Yes, you heard me correctly - not one deer. Not even a doe. I own property in the Town of Russell and feel the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have poorly managed the deer herd. In my view it all started to go south when the DNR had "Earn a Buck". The predator population continues to increase and the deer herd has dwindled. Very disappointing.

Baiting is out of control! Baiting needs more restrictions on public land. The majority of hunters are dumping these corn piles a couple of days before season, interrupting normal deer patterns for the season, so they can shoot there does. They don't have to go in the woods and actually locate deer or a look for a stand. After deer season is over the deer return to their natural patterns again. This is bullshit!! I have hunted in Bayfield county for 35+ years and this baiting gets worse every year. I have seen corn run in strings fifty yards long down logging roads! You need to do something different. I would like to see a antlerless season only, after the rifle season. No baiting for the 9 day rifle season.

Why bother? The CDAC ignores pro deer input and does whatever it wants to do. The CDAC in Bayfield County ignores hunter input and does whatever Bayfield's forester/deer-hater suggests. Hunters in 2 past surveys have overwhelmingly opposed the herd reduction and know beyond a doubt the Public ground suffers from far "below normal" numbers. The deer herd is in big trouble on most of the public hunting grounds and needs to be increased in order to even survive due to heavy pressure from predators and harsh winters. There is NO overbrowsing on the public ground. To the contrary, the forest understory is becoming so dense many areas have become almost impenetrable and almost too dense to even attempt a hunt.
Their are NO Deer in Bayfield Co., PLEASE stop the anterless hunting get the deer herd back where it was in the 1980's. Been hunting their since 1987 and their are no deer quotas and the Wolf population is killing the population whats left. State and the DNR needs to control the OUT OF Control WOLF population. this is WAY out of control. In 2019 my son and I hunted every day and between the two of us we seen two deer, he is now 17 and not really intrested in hunting, he say's its a wast of time Dad we dont see anything not fun to me. As a farther that grew up hunting that really hurts to hear, he already quit bow hunting, DNR and the State of WI, is hurting the next generation of hunting.

We are one of the few remaining deer camps in our area. It used to be unit 5. The reason camps have left is because the deer numbers are too low. Out of 8 hunters this year which is down by two from previous years because of no deer sightings, 4 never saw a deer this past year. We hunt the Pigeon Lake hills and the numbers are down. It's got a a lot of wolf and bear pressure and the tribal members also hunt it hard. No does should be taken out of the public lands and the private land owners are taking their does out of the public land so they don't take deer out of their private land. I realize it is awfully hard to enforce with the current system of no back tags. Please , no doe tags!

Douglas and Ashland have purposed antler only seasons, why? Because the deer aren’t there that’s why. But bayfield CDAC members think suddenly all the deer from Douglas and Ashland must living in Bayfield County now to be suggesting the amount of anterless tags that they are purposing. Come on people!!! The deer are not there. Hunters don’t want to come up here and spend their money and I don’t blame them, I wouldn’t either. What’s wrong with you???? When we can control the wolves when/if they are de‐listed and get a few mild winters, then reconsider issuing them. Nobody cares that they might eat a few saplings forestry dept is planting. Want tourism dollars, let the herd grow!!!!!

12 hunters in a experienced established deer camp hunting hard for 4 days harvested 2 deer, only 1 legal buck during gun deer season. in years past the same hunters would harvest 10‐20 deer over the course of archery, muzzleloader, and gun seasons. Wolves have been a major factor in deer numbers in Northern Bayfield county. I have been hunting for 40 years and this is as bad as I have ever seen it. Lowering deer numbers is insanity. lowering predator numbers should be a priority. My 10 year old daughter and I sat for 4 days in an elevated stand baited with corn. we saw zero deer and 3 very large mature wolves. we have lots of bears, bobcats, coyotes, and wolves. very few deer.

Hunting in the forest has been very frustrating the last few years, the populations where I hunt (public land) have dropped drastically. Using trail cams and lots of time hunting I only saw 7 different deer all season. 3 years ago in the same location there were a lot more deer, I had 23 in the area at one time. There has not been much hunting pressure in the area, I'm sure wolves are involved, hard winters haven't helped but personally I think not issuing doe permits for at least one year would increase the population so a guy can get a little excited about hunting. Sitting for hours on end and not seeing any deer or the same 5 does just doesn't cut it. Thanks

My family and I have been hunting in Bayfield County since 2005. Since that time, both the quantity of deer and quality of mature bucks has decreased drastically. Certainly, this is a multi‐factorial and nuanced occurrence. As an avid outdoorsmen, I hope to see Bayfield return as a premiere hunting destination. Given the recent harsh winters (including the most current), this is a difficult proposition and will take great consideration from the DNR decision makers. I think I speak for most hunters in the Bayfield area in saying we would rather have fewer anterless tags issued for several years to help restore the deer herds numbers. Thanks for the consideration.

I think that we should strongly reconsider the plan to "Decrease the Deer Population" in Bayfield County. I do a bow hunting camp and gun hunting camp on public land in this county in the Chequamegon Forest. Each camp has 10-15 guys. We usually spend 3 days sitting in our stands during the duration of the hunting hours. It is very normal, for 3/4 of us to never even see a deer. This was not the case about 15 years ago, when we would see anywhere from 2-10 deer a piece in any given day. It has been really sad and it turns young hunters away. Please reconsider this, the deer population is TOO LOW. This happened ever since you had the earn-a-buck seasons.
As a landowner and concerned hunting/trapper for years in years in Wisconsin. I feel that this deer baiting has to be shut down. Year after year we hear that we should do it and then it doesn't happen. Once the deer season opens all you see is bait on vehicles all over the county. We we are playing a dangerous game with letting this happen (baiting ) before its to late. The hunters that hunt this area will be here no matter what and welcome a more traditional hunt like many of us know it. It’s no good for the health of the herd to let this continue the way it has been going. Again Please ban baiting statewide and be done with this once and for all!

deer numbers on trail cams and bow season sightings increased 2018 and 2019 yearling buck numbers especially good. Mature buck sightings not increasing anywhere near 1990s levels.support earlier opener for many reasons:people that have to work opener would have a better chance,older hunters would hunt more during spells of nicer weather,deer movement is proven better. If people don’t want a longer season they don't have to participate at times the don't want to. Most hunters don’t seem to be aware if you add up gun,muzzle,and late doe seasons we already have a 23 day or more season. thank‐you.

I support the recommended slight decrease in antlerless permits for 2020 compared to 2019. I think the significant decrease in the 2019 deer kill compared to the 2019 deer kill was due to adverse weather conditions during the gun season, not due to a large population decline going into the season. The slight decrease in recommended antlerless permits for 2020 should provide sufficient protection to the herd numbers should deer numbers have declined due to tough early winter conditions. Likewise, should the deer kill numbers increase this year, proving that that the 2019 decrease was an anomaly, I would support increased antlerless permits in 2021.

Forest health on our property continues to suffer from extensive winter deer over‐browsing on young trees. There are a lot of deer in our area (Cornucopia) despite the heavy snowfall and numerous instances of coyote predation that we have documented on, or near, our property this winter. What’s more, as was noted in the DNR presentation, the deer that we are seeing this spring are extremely healthy looking, which is remarkable given snow accumulations this winter. The below-average harvest numbers during last year’s deer season have us concerned that current recommended antlerless quotas are likely too low, especially for northern Bayfield County.

I have observed the deer numbers in Bayfield county formerly unit #3 rise and fall over the last 29 years. But I have to say the biggest decline is witnessed is from the Wolf population. To create a proper herd balance the levels of the predators needs to be brought back into check. The wolves and unknown amount of fawns the bears kill each year have defiantly taken a toll on the herd. To say your goal is to decrease the population that is completely backwards from what we are seeing. For decades winter, hunters and locals keeping their freezers full kept the herd level in check. Get rid of the predators and let things go back the way they were.

There are more deer on private/agricultural land than public forest land for sure.I believe the predators stay clear, more so because of the human activity on these properties. However all parties where I stay, (10 hunters) hunt on public land and report wolf tracks/sightings and scat with deer hair. Much more than in previous seasons. The wolves and ( bear spring fawn depredation) takes care of any need to control the deer population on public forests. Years past, hunting thinned the deer population during the hunting season, now predators thin deer numbers 24/7. As far as I'm concerned you don't need any bonus tags on public forest land.

I’m really tired of the responses from this particular CDAC. It is very biased and has not taken into consideration the lack of deer in the National Forest areas. If we stop baiting and feeding we will keep deer off of the roadways and away from the general population and focus more efforts in controlling predator populations we may stand a chance of bringing back the wild herd. You will continue to lose hunters as long as you continue your focus on killing off the public herd. Public hunters are your variable not private that have there own little refuges. Sorry for being so direct but being professional with this group has been ineffective.
940 My concern is that to many deer are being harvested on public land. Deer herds on private lands are much greater due to very little hunting pressure or no pressure at all. Wolves and coyotes are running deer all year and hunters start in sept. And don’t quit hunting till January. At the first sign of pressure the deer all hide by houses on private land. Talk of longer seasons is not the answer, deer numbers are lower than years ago and could use being a little higher in this county not lower. You just need to reduce pressure an allow deer to spread back out in forest land. Lots of other issues to fix, but good luck pleasing everybody...

941 I was a CDAC committee member several years ago and Still do not agree with several meme era who wish to wipe out the heard by issuing antlerless tags in order to save trees planted, because they reported deer were eating them as fast as they were planted. Nobody hunts up north because with all the antlerless tags issued, more predators than we’ve ever had now with the wolves and the hard winters that seem to be the norm now. If you want tourists dollars, stop printing antlerless tags and let the heard grow until wolves can be controlled when released from the endangered list. More deer, more tourists dollars, sounds pretty simple to me.

942 the amount of clear cut logging of forests is adversely affecting the natural habitat of the deer and making it very difficult to hunt them and is having a negative impact on the number of hunters in the woods or should i say the lack thereof. nobody wants to hunt the pine plantings that are hard to navigate due to the deep plow furrows used to plant the crop of trees. i thought the county forests were public lands and yet they are made for the most part unusable for the hunting public. all i can tell you from my experience is that the number of hunters throughout the northern forests has dwindled along with the natural habitat.

943 Deer numbers have been down for the past few seasons. Heavy snowfall and too many predators. We have issues with wolves running deer all the time which affects out hunting season. I saw one deer last year during the shortened season due to the heavy snow. All I can say is there may be too many deer in some part of the county but there sure isn’t too many where I live. We do not even bother going into the national forest to hunt anymore. You can drive miles on the roads and never see a deer track. Lots of wolf tracks though. And coyote as well. The hunting experience in Bayfield County has sure gotten worse.

944 I have hunted the Iron river area since I was 12 and every year it get worse. I used to be almost guaranteed to see something sitting both morning and evening bow hunting, but now I can sit days without seeing anything during peak rut. You guys at the Dnr have destroyed the deer herd out there and it's a shame. One of the questions says "how do you feel about the damage the deer herd has on the forest and some plant species" how is that a question when you allow loggers to go in and clear cut patches of healthy oaks which acorns feed countless other animals? Then them beautiful oak forests grow up to be popil forests.

945 Thanks for listening. I see on the map that The bad river reservation and Douglas County are buck only harvest. Why would you leave Bayfield and Ashland Counties with anterless permits? You can't do that! Ban baiting in 52 counties, then sell 900 bonus tags in Bayfield County, and then make the surrounding Counties Buck only! That is not fair to the hunters in Bayfield County!. Everyone came to Bayfield County last year and hunted the national forests. It was public land where they could drop a bait pile and shoot fawns. NOT FAIR! I have never seen so many deer hunters in my life! It was dangerous and crazy!!

946 I have hunted this county for over 40 years. It started with the old party permit system with only 100 given out to where it is today. I enjoy seeing deer whether I harvest one or not. There is nothing wrong with the deer season as it stands. I think the NRB had a knee jerk reaction to the kill last year and DID NOT take into account the blizzards they had up north (2 within 3 days), nor the fact they claim they sold approximately 200,00 less licenses last year. You keep messing with the regulations every year and more people are giving up hunting. Do you not think these things have a major impact on the harvest?
Listened to the spring meeting and was impressed with the concern and interest by most CDAC members. Was extremely disappointed with the reduced quota in a county so large with a deer population that is above a reasonably healthy level. Was also disappointed by comments of alternate chair who said: "Folks will like this quota better as it's lower than last year." Reaffirmed my fears of CDACs where science means little, but social acceptance is paramount. This is not how deer or any wildlife population should be managed. Put the lead role back in the hands of competent, science-based biologists (and foresters).

Over the last few years I have seen a significant drop in the population, size and number of deer in Bayfield County. I have also seen the number of hunters drop in this area. Particularly northern part of the county. I would like to see a buck only hunt for the next few years to attempt to build up the herd in this area. I would be in favor of junior hunters being aloud to take an antlerless deer to encourage future hunting. In 2018 and 2019 I saw a total of 3 deer combined and I hunted a total of 7 days each season. Let’s work to bring hunting back! Thanks for your time and effort.

The amount of doe tags proposed is much too high. Public land for sighting last year totaled 2 with 52 hours hunted. There are pockets of high deer area such as Mason and Ondassagon rd. The forester on this committee uses deer yard examples to claim all of his “browsing.” With the predators, winters, and hunters, you can say goodbye to the awesome tourism chances that used to exist in the county from deer camps and hotels. I support zero doe tags except for youth hunters and people over 65. I also support the idea of breaking the county into sub zones and give out doe tags in more densely populated areas.

Hello. I have been hunting Bayfield County for 20 years and lived there for 27. Live in Douglas now. I have never seen the population in the northern half of the county this low! Besides that I have already found 27 dead and fully eaten deer this spring while stealhead fishing and shed hunting. I believe that Bayfield County needs to be split at highway 2. The population south of highway 2 is much higher in my observations. I also think that it would be a grave mistake to allow any antlerless harvest in the north half of the County. Their are just way to few deer. Thank you for your time.

I hunt mostly in the planted pines where the deer do not browse on these conifer species. Some areas will have some deer sign and other similar areas wont have any sign for several months or more. There is an incredible amount of predators in these areas which has an effect/affect on the deer populations and also their movements. There are pockets of heavy hunter densities in some parcels and other areas are void of pressure. More hunters where there is more deer sign or huntable property. I would like to see the traditional antlerless permit system where you apply for permits with less permits given.

I think that doe tags should only go to youth hunters in the national forests and state lands. This would improve the chances of kids getting a deer and keeping a desire to be in the woods and to come back year after year. The farm lands are another story, that is where you see 30, 40 or maybe even 50 deer in a single 40 acre field. Maybe make crop damage tags available to kids with the farmers permission and maybe allow the farmer to sell and regulate the number of tags available. No offense intended but I think that the farmers have a better idea of what is going on on their land than Madison.

Hello Like I said I have hunted area 3 (bayfield county) for 46 years, this is a wild and pristine area, and the white tail deer WANT to live there, I don't know where this quota, antlerless deer harvest comes from, management? This is not needed, mother nature does this in this part of wisconsin, we have no business in this, the hunting season are just fine the way they are, they should not be lengthened or enhanced. Seems to me the more we manage this area the less wildlife there is, stay out of it, mother nature is really good at it...... Truth, 46 years of watching change, is my data base.
I think Wisconsin’s deer population is down from many factors, but the main 3 that stick out in my mind. Winter. Our last 3 winters have been very brutal not so much in temperature as snow depth which makes it hard for food sources. Next is predators you don’t have to look very hard to find wolf or coyote tracks especially when it’s snows they’re everywhere. Finally sense the dnr has gone to call/online registration I think half of the deer actually get registered legally and ethically. I think we should make registration stations a thing again it helps businesses and keeps people honest. Thanks.

Every year the number of deer sightings in the season has steadily decreased. This last year, there wasn't a single buck worth harvesting. Every year it becomes more discouraging. As my deer sightings and sign decrease, the number of predator sightings and sign increase. Around every corner there's sign of predators. Coupled with heavy winters, the deer don't stand a chance. Our group started coming to Bayfield County since 1994 and are landowners, but we come for the hunting that has always been great. Since there's almost no deer left, there's no longer any reason to remain in Bayfield County.

The three year plan starting in 2017 to decrease the deer herd for Bayfield makes absolutely no sense. The DNR count on the number predators is terribly inaccurate, with the number of wolves being much higher. The continuously increasing predator kill along with the harsh winters is devastating the deer numbers along with hunter interest and youth involvement in deer hunting. It is hard to conceive how the DNR could do a worse job of deer management. Year after year the DNR has succeeded in decreasing the quality deer hunting throughout the state and thus is killing a once great tradition.

I hope we can continue to keep CWD (and deer farms) out of bayfield county. Food security will be an issue for many in the next 1-2 years, and venison is local, cheap, sustainable, abundant, and healthy. This CDAC seems much better at letting science and expertise inform decision making rather than the knee jerk “back when i was a kid, there was a buck on every front porch” style of persuasion and the strange obsessions of some with having the very biggest antlers, super beta prostate and safeguarding our bodily fluids with internal disinfectants, mypillow.com or some other such none sense.

Deer hunting in this unit has become an effort in futility. It's apparent that the area is (mis)managed for high bear, bobcat and wolf numbers with little consideration for deer. Our group of 11 hunters did not shoot one single deer in 2 of the last 3 years. In contrast we filled 5 out 6 bear tags in the last 4 years. Predators and crossbows are killing the gun hunt. Thankfully I love walking the big wood so not seeing or killing a deer isn't the end of the world. It sure as heck would be nice to have a reasonable chance though. Thank you for taking the time to hear my perspective.

I have hunted Bayfield county for deer since 1966. I haven’t harvested a deer in the last four years despite having doe tags all four years. This included the archery and the gun seasons. I was seeing very few deer during these years and with each passing year I have seen fewer deer. In 2019 I hunted with a crossbow for approximately 20 days and only saw one deer despite hunting several different locations. Because of this I did not gun hunt Bayfield county for the first time in 54 years. I strongly recommend that no antlerless tags be issued for Bayfield county.

WHY DOES THE DNR TRY TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT VERY IMPORTANT ON A PIECE MEAL BASIS-----FIX A LITTLE ---FIX A LITTLE THERE....GET TO THE JOB DO THE HARDEST FIRST BUT NECESSARY---CHANGE RULES THAT ARE FAR TO LIBERAL NOW . CHANGE YOUR STUBBORN ATTITUDE TOWARD FEEDING SO THAT WE HAVE A HEALTHY BUNCH F DEER ----NOT LIKE NOW WHEN HALF ARE MALNURISHED AND DYING IN THE OFF SEASON. GIVE THE BUCKS A THREE YEAR NO HUNTING DURING RUT. THIS WILL GO OVER BIG --FOR ONE YEAR SHOOT ONLY FAWNS AND ONE YEAR OLD-----THIS HAS TO BE DONE------THERE IS MORE BUT THIS IS ENOUGH FOR NOW.

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020
I have been hunting Bayfield county for nearly 50 years and I watched it decline. There was a few good years in there but great times also. Just when we started seeing the deer come back in the past few years you let it get out of hand. Between the WOLF packs around Port Wing the antlerless season along with an occasional cougar we have on camera the deer herd has taken a step or two back. Give the deer a chance to come back. Get rid of the antlerless season and the wolf population. Thank you

PS I also am a tax payer in Iron River for the past 40 years.

Bayfield county needs to be divided into 2 units, northern and southern, because the cropland in the north holds many more deer and does not reflect numbers in the southern forest part of the county. The thought of many doe tags and no predator management (wolves) saddens me because the deer herd has no chance to bounce back from the harsh winters in recent years. When Douglas county, which has an incomparable abundance of deer in comparison to bayfield county, is considering no antlerless tags, bayfield county should take the hint and eliminate antlerless tags also.

I fully support private land doe tags, I am seeing both healthy deer and healthy deer number on private land. Public land doe tags should be severely limited if not eliminated. The amount of people participating in the annual WI Gun Deer Season will continue to dwindle as the amount of deer on public lands are not there. PLEASE consider splitting Bayfield county up into zones again, there are too many varying factors present in our county to consider blanketing the county with a general harvest goal, especially with the passion the foresters bring to the table.

There are a lot of deer in certain pockets around the ag areas, however there are very few mature bucks compared to the past. In addition I believe there are too many regulations and too many different season's and that is part of the reason less and less people are hunting these days. Go back to having back tags, registration stations, one bow season, one gun, and muzzleloader and be done. No early t zone, youth hunt, late t zone, and holiday hunt... It's all too confusing and frankly not needed. Go back to basics and just maybe people will start hunting again.

There are simply too many predators including the extremely fast growing wolf population. In the very near future I believe they along with bears will dismantle deer management control and therefore hunter participation will loose interest which may affect large losses economically for counties that count on hunter turnout and easier deer management. Early hunts have discouraged long time hunters as myself, knowing that youth hunts turn into hunts for adults bringing their children. These hunts have disrupted bow hunting times also. Hunting is loosing ground

Comment: I certainly do not want to see another doe only hunt in the area. The former "T-Zone" hunts decimated the deer population for years after which drove many hunters out of the area. The herd has come back since in a very healthy state and I think the management practice to allow a number of antlerless Bonus tags is a good one. I believe the snow fall this past year has to have a negative effect, the lower number of Bonus doe tags is just right and should allow hunters the option while maintaining a healthy herd. Nice work, nice discussion forums.

Deer population is low saw 2 deer during the gun season particularly due to over harvest of does there is disproportionate input given to the forest service concerning over browsing if our goal is to maintain hunter numbers and family traditions kept together by the love of hunting we need to maintain a slightly higher deer population to keep and grow our youth hunters how can we blame them for quitting unless you’re true goal is to eliminate hunting by not supporting the grassroots end of the spectrum (public land hunters) thanks for asking for our input.
The number of deer is down again. I wish people were only allowed one doe and one buck per season. I know too many people that legally take multiple deer and either keep or donate them. Secondly, the DNR survey last month asked for opinions for an extended gun season and also moving the season earlier. I am in favor of moving the season earlier by a week or two, but not making it longer and that wasn’t an option on the survey. If you agreed with an earlier season, you had to agree to the extended season. The survey wasn’t very impartial. Thank you.

While the WSI was severe at 102, my observation of deer through the winter and spring was that they survived the winter in ok condition, better than a WSI of 102 would predict. We have a good sized deer herd. I agree with the CDAC 3 year goal of reducing the population and continuing this for the 2020 season. I think the antlerless harvest goal for 2020 should be the same as it was for the 2019 season, which wasn’t achieved do to the late season and snow events in the second part of the gun season. we have a surplus of deer that can adn sold be harvested.

The deer numbers on public land are extremely low despite an ample supply of good habitate and forage. Hunter over harvest, and depredation by wolves and black bear for many years are to blame. On a different note crossbow hunting should not be allowed at all unless you are clinically disabled. We have a nice long archery season because it is very challenging to take game with a traditional bow. Non resident licenses should be triplete what they are now the quality of hunting would go way up and we would be on par with most other states in the country.

Our county needs to adopt a management strategy that accounts for the varying agricultural differences in the unit. There is a large difference between the farm/field edge land south of hwy 2 and the mature forest land north of hwy 2. Managing these as the same unit is not realistic and doesn’t benefit either area. More does need to be harvested in the field/farm edge land and fewer does need to be harvested in the mature woods. An imposed antler restriction on adult hunters would also greatly benefit our buck population. 3 point minimum on one side.

I am fine with the proposed number of antlerless tags for the area but also skeptical. History has shown that if the quota is too high and the ensuing winter is difficult (plus predators), the population could plummet. I like having the option to shoot a doe but I can also travel to a farmland zone to do so. It is really nice seeing a good amount of deer the past 2 seasons but I still haven’t forgotten about the 4 previous years that were rough. All it takes is a few too many antlerless tags and a tough winter to severely affect the population.

We have 6 people that hunt in our party and last year between all 6 of us bow hunting and rifle hunting took 5 deer total. Which some could say is great success but we didn’t see much for numbers of deer. So I would say it is very disappointing as an avid hunter to not have an opportunity to feed my family. As long as I have been hunting the numbers seem to be going down every year. I know thats what you guys want but as a hunter with numbers sustained or up give a better chance to fill our tags and provide a great source of food for our family.

Based on our observations this spring during our walks of our property, there appears to have been a significant amount of winter mortality. On our 80 acres of land we have found six different deer carcasses from the winter months. Typically we find one or two. While talking to our neighbors they have indicated the same findings of more than usual numbers of deer carcasses(bones) from the winter. When forming your conclusions, I ask that you not only consider, but do a thorough review of this years winter mortality in Bayfield County.

Start the gun season on Nov 15th thru the end of the month. Ban baiting in the entire state. In the 2019 season there were groups of hunters that came to Bayfield County from Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay. They came here with numerous bonus tags and because baiting is allowed. Needless to say, they filled all the bonus tags with does and fawns. They could care less about Bayfield County other than the fact that baiting is allowed and bonus tags are abundant. Baiting is banned in 52 counties. Time to ban it in all 72 counties.
From what I heard at the on-line meeting was the goal for this unit was to lower the deer population by 2%. With the severe winter deer loss and the lower fawn production for the 2020 year this will already lower the overall fall population by more than the 2% goal. During the meeting I did not hear any scientific evidence from the forestry group that we need a high doe quota for 2020. I feel if anything the quota should be 500-750. I also feel the kill in this county is higher than recorded due to lack of people registering deer.

I think herd health like cwd, buck/doe ratio, age structure, poaching and predator control should take president over all other issues. I think as long as we have game farms and baiting, it's just a matter of time before we have a cwd infection rate similar to counties in SW Wisconsin. I also think if we adopt the extended rifle seasons that are being proposed, it will destroy the buck age structure in the state. All the states that have limited gun seasons, have alot older bucks doing the majority of the breeding.

My family has been hunting the National forest in Bayfield county for generations. I am sure many factors have played a roll into our declining deer numbers over the past decade. But it has gotten to the point that we are lucky as an individual to see a deer on stand for 5 days hunting sun up to sun down in the woods. Personally I believe that the low heard density is leading to a decline in people wanting to hunt “up north” and is concerning for the business that out of out of town hunters bring to the small communities.

Not sure why we bother to fill these out, the CDAC doesn't listen to anyone other than the foresters anyway. Why does Bayfield Co make recommendations so out of line with all the surrounding Counties? Deer numbers are down. Predators are way up. Regulation/rules changes (no back tags, no in person registration, relaxed transport rules) are encouraging poaching and poor/under reporting. Deer hunting quality gets poorer in Bayfield CO every year. We were better off when we had separate management units and NO CDACs.

Lowest kill in decades and the populaton is below goal and throw three feet of snow on top of that most of the winter. This unit should have no antlerless tags this year. The public has overwhelming been critical of the Bayfield County CDAC recomendations the past three years but the Bayfield County CDAC continues to ignore public input on herd recomendations and specifically antlerless tag recomendations. Whatever the point of public input in your never listen to it. Its truly sad. Let off the gas for one year.

I still believe, in my own opinion. An antler restriction would be a good idea. Like if you buy archery and rifle hunting tags your first buck can be any legal buck. But, Your 2nd buck should be 8-points or better. I would also like to see a rule like Michigan has. If you purchase rifle and archery you can harvest 2 bucks with archery gear but then you can NOT go rifle hunting. Or you can take 2 bucks with rifle if you were unsuccessful archery hunting. Michigan DOES UTILIZE an antler rule. Thanks for your time.

Ag areas in the northern half of the county cannot be regulated the same as the forested areas. Nor can public land be managed the same as private. The old system of smaller DMUs made more sense than countywide mgmt. It is ridiculous to manage a free-ranging animal by using artificial boundaries such as county lines. The boundaries used now were NOT created in order to better manage deer. They were made for political and economic reasons. Management by watershed, for example, would make far better sense.

Bayfield county with "decrease" population goals? Does Bayfield county have so many more deer than its neighbor Douglas county that is recommending buck only harvest? Maybe Bayfield county is so much better at counting the deer population? Maybe Bayfield county doesn't have the predators that Douglas county has? Or maybe, the entire county deer plan is based on the population in only the eastern 20% percent of the county with no regard to the population of the other 80% of the county. Unbelievable.....

I found I had to look for deer in new areas in 2019. And I found enough to be happy. I am concerned with ladder stands and baiting on public lands. Baiting is a huge risk for CWD. I would like to see baiting prohibited on public lands, and ideally on any Bayfield Co land. If we wait for a CWD positive and then try to stop baiting it’s too late. I hope the the deer committee does the most to ensure long term health for deer in Bayfield Co. Lower numbers is a good plan for deer and forest health.
On Public Land  I believe baiting of deer on public land should be prohibited. Since public land is meant for the "public" the baiting leads to hunters laying claim to there "baited" areas. It will also draw deer to those baited locations away from other hunters non-baited spots. Even if I wanted to bait (I don't) it is not fair to those who don't have the ability to bait for an extended period of time. Even though Bayfield does not have CWD, deer feeding from a bait pile can not be healthy.

We have hunted the exact same areas for 35 years and have noticed a major decline in deer sightings. We are old and determined so we hunt 9 hour days. Even with those hours of commitment we have members in our hunting party that do not see a deer all season. Part of the problem is the heavy logging of the county forest. It is hard to hunt terrain that is bald. We originally had 32 hunters in our camp but now have 3 because of frustration with logging and deer numbers. Thanks for listening.

I applaud the council for having at least a somewhat reasonable quota but it is too low. There are plenty of deer in the county and I have plenty on my land. Every timber sale I have the regeneration is browsed until there is nothing left. I am afraid to do any regeneration cuts because I will end up with bracken fern and raspberry and no woods. In 2019, we shot 4 deer opening weekend, 2 bucks and 2 does. Do not reduce the quota at all and I believe it should be the same as 2019.

While I may personally advocate for more anterless deer tags, I think the current quota strikes a balance between providing hunters opportunity to harvest venison, keeping a healthy deer population, and trying to improve desirable tree species regeneration. I applaud the Bayfield CDAC for making informed decisions based upon scientific data instead of knee jerk reactions to anecdotal reports. On behalf of hunters who hunt for more than simply antlers, thank you for the work you do.

I feel the desire to decrease population is out of line. There may be areas of the county that have over population, but the areas that I observe and recreate in I do not see overpopulation. I have kids that I am trying to get and keep involved in the sport, but to go out for the last 4 years and see 0, 1,3 and 2 deer respectively, putting in very good effort in several areas, that doesn't support over population. Please figure a way to more accurately make population estimates!

The wolf population is decimating the deer herd in my part of Bayfield co. Found 27 dead deer carcass’s by Wolf and or coyotes in the trout hatchery area this spring. The mature bucks have disappeared from our property for the last 5 years now. You would be lucky to harvest a 130 class buck or over 2.5 years of age. The wolves are just killing them off. All the landowners in this area agree on this fact. Need to reduce the wolf population to bring balance back to the deer herd.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Something to consider is making buck tags lottery during rifle season. I am originally from ND. Buck tags are lottery and doe tags are typically guaranteed. Recent years doe tags have not been guaranteed due to herd loss. Wisconsin needs to change its culture of shooting only bucks. Hunters need to learn it is OK and necessary to shoot does. Also by shooting fewer bucks we get the added bonus of having bigger bucks to shoot.

In the farmland areas of the county deer populations are doing well, however I believe those #’s are decreasing. In the forest areas like by the flag river area, there is hardly any deer at all. Wolf #’s are high there, but living in farm country I can tell you that wolves have moved in and are prevalent here as well. Which could be part of the reason farm deer populations are now decreasing as well. Not saying it’s all from wolves, but they do put a hurt on the deer.

Deer numbers in NW WI, are way down. The combination of severe winters and increases in wolf populations have done that along with generous doe tags. The deer that you see in the spring are usually taken care of by people with supplemental feeding or live on agricultural properties. The amount of deer sign and activity in the big woods of NW WI is minimal at best. We don't need any more reduction. If you want to kill the deer hunting in NW WI your doing a good job.
When are you going to realize you can't stockpile deer in northern Wisc. between the winter kill and your pet wolfs that now kill more deer then the hunters you actually think anything you recommend will make a difference. Please loose the GOD complex get off your chair at your throne desk and go talk to the loggers ,beaver trappers and farmers that see the deer herd every day. Suck up some of their knowledge and you just might do things right for once.

The wolf population is exploding in Bayfield county. I routinely see wolves on trail cameras and personally saw 3 last Fall while bow hunting for a week. Additionally I got a picture of a Cougar last year. There are far too many predators in this County. If a deer is shot in the late afternoon and it can't be found there’s a high probability that wolves will destroy it before you can retrieve it in the morning. Delist the wolves while there still is a deer herd.

You can't possibly compare Northern Bayfield county with southern Bayfield county (or even central portion) There are far,far,far fewer deer in the Northern portion. It is near impossible to manage them separately so getting this input will likely result in a true lack of valid information. Thanks for trying however. We appreciate your efforts. BTW, Please let the well educated biologists do their work and let the self important hunters to live with the results.

Let's get politics out of DNR decisions and go back to letting the scientists and local wildlife experts use data to drive decisions (fully funded and fully staffed DNR, including enforcement AND scientists. Public opinion is important, but sometimes poorly informed. Politicians and the interests/concerns they represent may or may not represent the best interests of local residents, state residents, or our natural resources, depending on their funding sources.

Compared to 10-15 years ago, the population of deer has decreased exponentially. About 15 years ago you could drive on the back roads and be guaranteed to see at least a handful of deer on any evening. Every year you see less deer. Although I love deer hunting, I love seeing deer even more. It is disappointing to see the deer population decline so much. We need to bring the whitetail population back to a level where hunting them is a sustainable practice.

The wolf population needs to be controlled, wolves are decimating the deer population in Bayfield County. The number of large and older bucks seen on camera and while hunting has declined dramatically over the last 10 years based on my experience. After the rut these bucks are vulnerable to predators and during the rut their scent leads the wolves to them. The number of wolves captured on my cameras has increased over the same 10 year period.

I live here and see the impact of winter and predators on a daily basis. ie: bear, coyote, wolves. The snow depth here in the far northern part of Bayfield county has had a detrimental effect on the herd. Walking through the woods as snow was melting this spring exposed those effects. The amount of carcass’s from either lack of food or predators was eye opening. Hopefully you will consider fewer tags and seasons for 2020 to help the herd recover.

Leave crossbow season alone. No one I know is taking long shots like the commercials. It gets more people hunting. I used to hunt with compound bow but now use crossbow. We need to stop fighting amongst ourselves the anihunters are loving us dragging each other through the mud on this. Leave crossbow season alone. And no either or license. I get a patrons every year and I don’t want to pay more for a crossbow tag. Please leave that alone too.

Last year after sitting in my same stand every day of season from daylight to dark for the past 25 years we saw a total of 4 deer with none being bucks. We usually have around 25-30 deer and are able To choose only the mature bucks. I believe the deer population is reduced significantly yet so many harvest the immature deer as they probably won’t get any. I would like to see the heard build more at least in southern Bayfield county.
good luck. you are experiencing declining hunters and deer. while the north has more hunters than ever. you cant blame it on baiting. let me ask you how the liberal crossbow rules, banning bait, increasing bear population, increasing wolf population is working out? wise man once asked about dolphin safe tuna...who is looking out for the tuna? in north we have bears, wolves, and less deer. dont let our northern deer become the tuna.

1004 If they continue to try and lower deer population there will be no deer in 2030. You can sit in an Apple orchard in bayfield for the full 10 day gun season and be happy if you saw 4 different deer. The deer heard has many predators, they are facing wolves, coyotes, bear, cougars, harsh winters and over hunting. It’s tough to charge someone 260 to come hunt a deer when the council is more worried about yards and accidents.

1005 The information in the video was very well put together in my opinion, thank you for that. I can only comment on the public lands in the county because that is all I hunt. What I’ve noticed in the past few years the depredation numbers climbing more every year and with the severe winter this year I would just like to say to keep the doe tags very low or none at all for this year for the public land. Thanks for the work you do!

1006 We have way to many deer in the agricultural areas but alot fewer in wooded forests, too many wolves pushing deer into agriculture areas. Maybe trim the wolf population and there will be more deer in the Public forest? There is too much private land inaccessible to hunt on. And the wolves do not venture into agriculture lands? That would be something to carefully consider! Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

1007 I want to see a wolf season. There are getting to to be too many. Many do not trust the wolf numbers that are being reported and feel they are UNDER reported. I also want to have a minimum antler point set for bucks (meaning, 6 point or higher). Exception: If you are 18 or under or if it is your first year hunting. I have family that cannot resist taking out a young buck, then complains that they never see big bucks.

1008 Why would we be trying to decrease the deer population in Bayfield county? Hunting has been almost pointless the last 5-7 years due to number of deer because of earn a buck, wolves, bear. Need to have a larger wolf season, way more bear tags, and never again do an earn a buck. Please plan to increase the number of deer if you want to build the northern community and make ‘up north’ deer hunting an actual thing again.

1009 Deer sightings both while hunting and on our cameras were WAY down. I have a 13 year old that is very into hunting. But last year during both the youth hunt and 2 day’s during gun season we only saw 1 doe and her fawn. Even he knew it would be wrong to shoot as it was the only Deer we saw. I hunted for 9 days beginning the the 1st week of Nov. passed 2 small Buck’s and saw the same Doe and fawn. All on Public land.

1010 I have been hunting in the Marengo non-motorized section for 17 years. I have seen the population grow and fall over those years. When I started, there was more of an abundance of deer and other small game (ie, grouse, squirrel, woodcock, hare, shrews, etc). In the past 12 years or so there seems to be more wolf tracks through that area and much less deer. What is the plan to manage the wolf population?

1011 Between our hunting land and the neighbors, so far we have found 10 dead deer remains between the winter kill and predators and 3 dead turkey remains. Most of them were from predators waiting for them to come out to an old corn field from last year to try and get food over the winter. Way to many coyotes and a pack of wolves have decimated alot of our wildlife. Rabbits, partridge, turkeys, deer, etc.

1012 I feel that the number of antlerless tags for this unit is acceptable. However, I feel the effects of the winter and the lower harvest from last year are overblown and the population is being underestimated because of those factors. I feel to help with deer damage to forests and car deer accidents more tags should be issued. I support a higher antlerless quota for this unit. Thank you for your time.

1013 Have hunted the area for 30 years and taking the last 6 years off. We decided to head back up for gun deer hunt 2019. We hunted hard in Drummond area and the wolves have decimated the deer heard. Six guys hunting and we saw 1 doe. Very few hunters because most everyone who has hunted the area has given up. Some beautiful country that I love coming up to visit. We will not be going back up in 2020.
I’ve hunted this unit for 37 years and have never seen so few deer as I did this past season - 3 deer total for the season. I am dumbfounded as to how the proposed harvest quotas were determined. There are essentially no deer in the areas I have hunted for all these years and I must truly question the decisions being made. Something needs to be remedied regarding the minimal herd presence here.

Our group has hunted unit 13 around Lake Namakagon for over 40 years. Over the period of the last 10 to 15 years the deer just are not there. We never saw huge numbers of deer but were usually pretty successful. Now, most of the group never even sees a deer with one or two smaller bucks harvested the last several years. Perhaps baiting has changed deer movement habits? We do not bait.

Last season I hunted 1 1/2 days because of circumstances beyond my control - weather, I’m old & and fellow hunters left camp because of no deer – and I saw 3 deer & 5 game wardens. Not a great show. Too many of the bucks are being harvested by the crossbow hunters. About ready to hang up the spikes unless changes are made and more bucks are around so the young hunters are excited to stay in camp.

I have hunted Bayfield county since I was 13. (45 years) When I was younger hunting was good. Most days our crew would all see deer. The last 10 to 15 years it has been dismal. I hunted 7 days and saw 2 deer. The rest of our crew say similar. When you drive a 1 miles section in fresh snow and don’t see a track, there simply isn’t any deer. We don’t need antlerless permits for a few years.

I support a ban on baiting starting 1 week before gun deer season and going through the last day of regular gun, baiting in archery and muzzleloader okay. Baiting reduces deer movement during day and reduces the amount of deer seen and harvested. Eliminating baiting during gun season would put deer on the move more throughout the daylight hours and result in better hunting experiences.

I find there is an excessive amount of hunting pressure from hunters and predators, during the 2019 season. We need to look at a 3 year ban on antlerless hunting in the state to allow for more prime bucks to grow. I find that vehicle collisions are mostly due to inattentive driving and excessive speed. I drive some of the most deer active roads in the state and have yet to hit a deer.

I feel strongly that baiting and/or feeding of deer should be completely prohibited. Too many feeding sites have totally changed deer habits and movements. Baiting has created a broad attempt to privatize a public resource. CWD is threatening hunting across the entire state and will destroy the sport if not stopped. A ban on baiting and feeding will help stop the spread of the disease.

Your ill-advised decision to continue to reduce the herd has forced me to go hunt counties farther south. I’m planning to take my sons to hunt where there is a reasonable chance they will at least see a few deer during their hunt. Bayfield was once a wonderful county to hunt in. It isn’t any more. Tell me, what will you do with your antlerless permits when you no longer have hunters?

I find IT UNBELIEVABLE that anyone would even consider issuing antlerless permits in bayfield!!!! Wolves and antlerless tags = no deer. I haven’t seen a mature buck in at least 8 years!! I’m done rifle hunting and about one bad year away from not buying an archery tag in Wisconsin and will never support deer hunting in northern Wisconsin until at the very least, there is a wolf hunt.

Decrease the deer numbers in this county? In the last 10 years I’ve seen 4!!!! I hunt national forest.... I put full days in (not leaving) the stand all day. I’m in areas that I used to see 4/5 deer in a couple days!!! I find wolf tracks, bear, but no deer. Why bow down to insurance companies and other outside forces... MANAGE THE DEER POPULATION!!! ALSO START SHOOTING WOLVES!!!!

I feel less antlerless tags on public lands needs to happen for a few years... I’m just not seeing many does or fawns during the season. Couple hard winter’s and we’re right back with very low numbers. Patience and time and we’ll again have reasonable numbers on public land. I hunt in several different townships in Bayfield County and see fewer antlerless than Young bucks.
The deer population is far above the environmental carrying capacity. Deer are not allowing trees to regenerate. Deer are killed by vehicles in Bayfield County daily. There are too many deer. Either they are thinned through hunting or disease will do it eventually. Hunting is the better solution. (Predators like wolves don't even make a dent in the deer population.)

The amount of deer in the bayfield area is way too low to support any harvest of doe deer. With hard winters and no wolf reduction possible we need every adult doe to reproduce and grow the population. When the wolf population is reduced by 50 percent or more then we can refocus on the deer population reduction but at this time there is not enough to allow a harvest.

Wisconsin needs to get back to hunting wolves in Wisconsin north woods. We see more packs of wolves more than deer in Bayfield county now. Used to see and harvest deer every year. Now lucky if we see a deer at all. Predator kill is way higher than what you anticipate. Wolf population way to high for the deer numbers to get back to where I'd like to see them.

I live in southern bayfield county, the northern portion(farmland) has a very healthy doe population where the southern portion has a very limited number of deer. I would like to see some type of restriction on buck harvest to try and get a better balance of older bucks in the zone. Which would age the buck population and get a higher satisfaction of hunters.

Big concern is smaller number of hunters in the area year to year. This impacts the movement of deer as well as the local small town economies. Consider lower non resident fees. That much for a license is a deterrent for non residents. If it were cheaper, would promote more hunters, more money to the local economy with hotels, lodges, restaurants, etc.

I live here and see first hand the detrimental effect snow depth and predators have on the herd. Walking through the woods as snow was melting revealed several carcass’s. From either starvation or predators. The hope is to cut back on the amount of antlerless tags and seasons. To help the herd recover we first have to give them some protection.

Hunting is about choices, which weapon to use, bait or food plot (they are both the same), case a gun or not. Deer game farms-reason why CWD exits in Wisconsin (big red truck that no one wants to address) Increase fines and hunting privilege's when illegally taking a deer and trespassing Increase out of state hunting licenses or limit them

I noted a defined browse line in my back yard this spring 2020. Have not seen that since the 2000-2002. This is just one spot in a big county and likely not the case everywhere. The herd needs to be thinned out in my little world. Thanks for your work and hope policy is based on science and not speculation. Chris Bulovsky Washburn Wi

I was just in Bayfield County this week and saw a lot fewer deer than previous years at this time of year. Not sure if they just weren’t out and about or if the winter had a large impact on them. I did find 5 deer carcasses on our property (about 60 acres) that I walked. Not sure of cause of death. I saw 3 living deer on the same walk.

I feel a lot of the problem with the regular hunting seasons for all species is the over abundance of youth hunts. By the time regular seasons come around, the animals have been chased into hiding or have moved on. This is one reason for the extreme differences in harvest numbers on private vs. public lands. Thank you for your time.

The deer heard is the worst I’ve seen in 35 years. From talking with several hunters this is the consensus of everyone and the same goes for a buck only season. But we all know that this wont happen. Many hunters are getting upset that the DNR will just not face the fact that predators are destroying the deer population.

Wolf and coyote population way out of control. I have seen wolves out of my windows a pack of 7 and several other pairs and singles. Something must be done or people will simply stop hunting. Very few mature bucks being spotted. After all my years hunting I have never seen such a decline on trophy or mature bucks.
The banning of baiting for an entire county should be reduced to the area of the CWD incident, say ten miles or so, possibly the adjoining townships. Banning an entire county is too broad, especially when it occurs at the outer edge of a county. The need to crack down on game farms for CWD should be enhanced.

Keep the crossbow season the way it is! It helps get youth, women, and new hunters into the outdoors. Why shorten the season when they can enjoy the best time for seeing wildlife? Who cares how I shoot my deer... long bow, compound bow, crossbow. Let hunters choose. Changing things up makes hunters very angry.

Number of wolves seen in the last 5 years has an impact on hunting. I have hunted over 50 years and the wolf population has impacted hunting regardless of the opinion that a small bob cat takes the most fawns. This is a flawed assumption based on actual hunting experience vs some computed modeling program.

Please do not extend the deer season. We live here and our world is completely disrupted by people coming up who think there is no law in Bayfield county. We can barely manage to keep people off our properties for 9 days and couldn’t imagine the detriment to our deer population of the season was extended.

the Wolves and coyotes are killing everything in bayfield county. Had Trax in the area I hunt and during the season did not see a single deer. The year before saw deer and a lot of deer trax, this year almost no trax and definitely no deer. The wolf’s are the problem. Get rid of them is the solution.

Increase out of state license prices to mirror those from where they are coming from. Crossbows should be used during the gun seasons only. No more youth hunts. Kids need to learn it is just not about the kill and hunting can be tough. If it is just about the kill give out passes to game farms.

there is no deer in the National forest. Maybe Bayfield County needs to be split up if deer numbers are higher in the northern part of the County. How can you decrease no deer? Hard to get youth interested in the sport of hunting when you spend countless hours without seeing a deer.

We've seen almost zero deer during the day in that area. Season is far too late again in 2020, deer will be moving overnight and hunkered down during the day again. Also, Wolves in that area can drive deer out of the area, resulting in almost zero sign of deer being seen some years.

I feel the deer population is very low right now. I don't think there should be so many antlerless tags. Maybe like 1000 or even as low as 800. But all juniors should get doe tags. They need to be able to shoot deer to keep hunting. If they can't shoot any deer they won't like hunting.

I think all land north of 110-10 highway should be looked at more closely for deer management due to predator's and lack of grassing opportunity plus the winters are more severe. I think these three factors should be put into some kind of formula for deer management.

I think the decision is of sound science and my personal experience supports this. I saw many deer last year, lots of young healthy deer, and we need to continue to provide doe opportunity for meat, tourism, and a balanced herd while keeping the population in check. Nice Work.

This state needs to go to either or tags for both bow and gun seasons. One tag per season. Also, change the rules to male deer instead of antlered 3 inch or more on one side. Go back to in person registration to verify. Too many button bucks being killed under antlerless tags.

I have watched deer numbers and deer sightings dwindle over the past 5 years. Trail cameras have taken fewer and fewer pictures throughout the year in each year also. And that is even with making habitat better on my land and growing deer forage. Deer numbers are down.

I am dismayed by the lack of scientific knowledge most hunters have. I am pleased with the work the DNR has done in the past and hopefully will do again when we get a legislature that respects science and quits meddling in decisions that should be left up to the DNR.
What can be done legally to get Wisconsin to remove wolves from the state (trap release elsewhere) or stop planting wolves. Please share the steps needed in our democracy to do this!

Make this real simple.. you want more hunters in northwoods again? More deer!, plenty of browse and clear cuts, herd way below carrying capacity, no antlerless tags for at least 3 yrs! Way to many predators and harsh winters.. please stop the war on antlerless deer!

I am not for an antlerless hunt only I fear it will only start leading into then a trophy hunting game. I will not by any license if an antlers only hunting is adopted. Hunting season for deer is just that. Don’t make this into just a head game for some!!

Why don’t we practice social distancing on the deer heard like we are doing on the human heard to help prevent the spread of disease? Let’s get rid of the feeding and baiting of deer. I think that most of us know that it’s not good for the heard. Thank you.

I travel 8000 miles a month across Wi. There are way to many car deer kills in Wi. Believe it or not Bayfield Co. is no exception. I’m in favor of an antlerless tag as an option along with Buck tag for a couple of years. So that we can reduce the numbers.

I want the 2020 crossbow season to remain the same as it was for 2018 and 2019. I’ve spent about $2000.00 on crossbow equipment with Wisconsin businesses and want the same opportunity to hunt as all other archery (vertical, compound, re curve) hunters.

Increase out of state hunting license Bring back back tags and tagging the animal (registration in person or phone is great) Bring back class b training license for bear Baiting and food plots are the same. Higher fines for road hunting and trespassing.

Personally saw much more wolf activity. Had wolves come by at point of harvest. Bear Coyotes and Wolf kills I believe are under represented. I saw many does without fawns. Northern Bayfield County north of Hwy 2 is much different than South of Hwy US 2.

Plenty of deer in the fields but all private property. You can’t take deer population numbers by looking in the fields. I hunt public land and the population in the national forest, county and dnr lands are down. Thanks for you time. Eric Bunnell

We own property next to private land and have been trying for years to get the deer population up. They wander into public land and they shoot up all the does. As a result fewer deer. Also we are seeing more wolves the area. More wolves fewer deer.

Micro manage the county. Northern Bayfield county’s population is hurting. Predators, hard winters and over harvesting. Take a couple years off of antlerless tags. Buck only and be able to manage the upper portion apart from the southern portion.

Driving around Bayfield County, especially in the National Forest, the only numbers of deer are seen in the farmland areas. The forested areas have very few deer. Last season I observed more wolf and coyote tracks on the roads than deer tracks.

It is not really hunting in this unit anymore. It is more just being out in the woods because there are really no deer to see. If it continues on this path I will stop buying a license and just bird watch. Leave the does alone for a while!

Leave it alone. Let there be deer. Quit trying to have your thumb on nature and justify jobs for DNR and county foresters. DNR plan to eliminate CWD was to eliminate deer. Sure glad they are not in charge of the COVID-19 situation.

Someone needs to take charge of the deer population. 10 years ago, the population was abundant. It did not start to falter due to hunters. It’s because of wolves brought here from other northern states. They are killing the deer pop.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1066</td>
<td>Very Concerned over the deer mortality from the winter's snowfall which resulted in major deer vehicle collisions January to March. In my travels once the snow melted I observed an usually high number deer killed along the highways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1067</td>
<td>My experience over the last 10 years is a steady decrease in deer numbers on public land. Observations of deer during the non-seasion, whether driving on fire roads or while riding atv's is significantly less than in previous years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1068</td>
<td>Our family meaning my Father has hunted Iron River since 1938 and brothers since 1960 and I since 1972, the deer population there has absolutely declined to worst levels in years, we only go back because of the memories. Tom Billing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1069</td>
<td>Just on our 40 acres we have a herd of around 80 deer. We’d like to harvest more as they are damaging forest regrowth. As mature trees die off there are no new trees to replace them and our plantings just get eaten to the ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1070</td>
<td>Enjoyed my first season, very few hunters, hunted a week, saw over 20 different deer, only hunted for bucks, used a bow, passed on young bucks, saw wild black bear cub in the woods, 3 wolves. Excellent experience. Hope to return!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1071</td>
<td>The gun season needs to open Nov. 15th untill and including Nov. 30th every year. This action will: Allow greater participation options, Allow weather systems to come and go, relax and enhance the overall quality of the hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1072</td>
<td>Need to get rid of feeding and baiting. There are plenty of Deer in the area, but very concentrated where folks are feeding. I own woodland &amp; see no Deer, but there are forty or fifty on the neighbors property where they</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1074</td>
<td>Please do not extend the gun season. By extending the season increases hazard to non hunters going into the woods. If you want to increase the harvest increase number of deer that can be taken during the gun season. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1073</td>
<td>Lots of wolves, bobcats, coyotes moving into the area. Too many ppl kills the does off and not being able to reproduce deer. Normally I see 50+ deer a year for 50 hours hunted. This year I saw 5 deer for 42 hours hunted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1075</td>
<td>There are areas around farm fields with lots of deer, but when you go deep in the woods there are not as many. I am fine with not shooting a deer every year. My main concern is predators. There are way to many. Thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1076</td>
<td>I feel as though the DNR is disconnected from the reality of the deer population. The numbers are deceiving and since feeding is allowed the deer hang out near cabins. This distracts from the interest in hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1077</td>
<td>Antlerless deer permits should only be allowed to residents. Also, bayfield county is a huge county. The deer population in the port wing area is completely different than in the drummond or delta or moquah areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1078</td>
<td>The deer numbers and sightings have been very low for a number of years, especially with more predators around. Please allow the heard to grow by issuing very few antlerless tags or even none at all. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1079</td>
<td>ALL deer BAITING should be BANNED in Wisconsin.....we are breeding several generations of Non-Hunters (need tame deer at feeding stations vs hunting for deer in the wild) and creating Pro deer Killers instead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1080</td>
<td>Deer populations in northern Wisconsin are significantly lower than past years. There is no need for continued antler less permits at this time nor extending the length of the gun/rifle season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1081</td>
<td>Lottery tags for wolf. No hunting on elk, wolves are what’s killing them. Buck only for deer. Hail Mary but one year of NO deer hunting. Sounds crazy but would work wonders on deer population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1083</td>
<td>There is no one in the position to make a difference. Regardless of qualifications and experiences, the strings are dangled from afar. Continue to measure your success at your own leisure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1082</td>
<td>The private agricultural land along Maple Ridge Road and County Highway E from Mason to Delta appears to have many more deer than there were 5-7 years ago. More similar to the early 2000s.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increase in non resident deer license we’re pretty much take out any young people that would attempt to hunt are you going and have a big factor and the amount of people in our deer camp

I disagree with the decrease population objective. I believe we are at a point where we need to allow for a little herd growth. I would support an antlerless quota in the range of 0-500.

My vehicle insurance increased cost $50 per month due to accidents involving deer and had several near misses with vehicle and deer so I support maintaining or reducing deer population

There are no deer along the flag river. I have hunted continuously every year for 31 years along with 4 other people that have hunted many more years than I that have the same opinion.

The predation ranking was particularly interesting, 1. bobcat 2. coyote 3. bear 4. wolf. Not interested in starting a wolf debate, but curious how these rankings are derived.

Please do not in return to the two season model of archery as we had in the past. Have one archery crossbow season that remains open during gun and black powder season.

The amount of antlerless permits is too high. There are not many deer on public lands. I am out in the forest often in fall and pay attention to sign and sightings

I feel that Section 4 of this survey was very poorly worded. To me it was like a trick question. It was hard to understand just exactly what they were asking.

The weather and late season played an important role in the lack of success in the 2019 firearms season - not lack of deer and not overharvest by archery hunters

To many predators for the severe winters we are having. Pretty soon we will have to eat wolves and coyotes because that’s all there is going to be left.

I feel there are too many doe permits being sold. When forming statistics on deer numbers how do you take into account all of the car/deer accidents?

I don’t know where you get this idea that there is deer everywhere in Bayfield County. But this is the first year I actually saw deer in 10 years.

Over the years, there has been a big increase in predators. Not just the wolves but also coyotes and bear. Definitely need to open up bear hunting.

Reasons for some of my opinions: During my 3 days hunting during gun deer season I have not seen a deer in 10 years. In my opinion that is sad.

58 years of hunting and last year was the first year I had to shoot a doe so we had some venison. Deer population is way down. Especially bucks.

The CDAC discussions posted online included consideration of a ban on baiting, which did not appear in this forum. I support a ban on baiting.

As much as you guys may not like reading this, I have seen predator population grow, and the deer herd in said unit decrease dramatically.

The wolf overpopulation has literally killed the deer hunting in upper Wisconsin. I’m very displeased with the lack of regulation.

It’s my opinion that the Bibon wildlife area is at carrying capacity and the population in that area doesn’t need to be lowered.

I hunt around the cable clam lake area and have found that every year even through bad winters there are plenty of deer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1104</td>
<td>Wolf predation has increased in our area at a rate not seen in some time. What is the CDAC doing to address this issue?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1105</td>
<td>Change the law so that Cross Bow hunters cannot hunt during the rut. Start their season 4 weeks later than it is now!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1106</td>
<td>Please work to reduce or eliminate the practice of baiting. At the very least enforce current limits and guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1107</td>
<td>We need to bring the herd back! Hunting is not enjoyable like it used to be. Very few deer and very few hunters!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1108</td>
<td>Need to have wolf predator control in the north woods. To many packs of wolves and nothing to slow them down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1109</td>
<td>the wolf pop is bad deer dont stand a chance same with the elk get rid of the wolf stop letting people kill fawns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1110</td>
<td>I am seeing many deer on the fields this spring indicating that they have come through the winter in good shape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1111</td>
<td>i think land owners should be given 2 anterless tags free or at least given preference over public land hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1112</td>
<td>The private land has great hunting- public land gets pounded by large group drives after the first day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1113</td>
<td>Ban the baiting and feeding of deer in the state of Wisconsin to prevent the spread of CWD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1114</td>
<td>there are to many predators in the area that i hunt . need to take out more bear and wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1115</td>
<td>Thank you for the good information in the video, and the evidence based recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1116</td>
<td>I think every thing was addressed except baiting on your land should still be allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1117</td>
<td>Go to a buck only gun season and only allow hunters to take one buck no matter what.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1118</td>
<td>Keep the traditional nine day gun season. Look at crossbow season. Limit duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1119</td>
<td>Hunted all day first 3 days of gun season and never saw a deer. Very little sign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1120</td>
<td>NO earn-a buck. Close all hunting for at least 3 days before gun deer season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1122</td>
<td>need to reduce non resident hunters and increase non resident license fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1121</td>
<td>Predators are definately a problem in the area we hunt in Bayfield County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1123</td>
<td>The DNR and the state and the Wolf's are destroying the deer population,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1124</td>
<td>The herd numbers are very low, throughout all Northern Units. Period!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1125</td>
<td>There far to many wolves where we hunt. Bot to mention all the bear...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1126</td>
<td>Please ban baiting. That will even the playing field for everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1127</td>
<td>The quota recommended seems reasonable for the current situation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1128</td>
<td>Presentation of the process and details was excellent and helpful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1129</td>
<td>I rely on getting at least 4 deer a year to feed my family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130</td>
<td>I see more wolves and coyotes than deer very frustrating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1131</td>
<td>We would just love more great hunting in bayfield county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1132</td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1133</td>
<td>Haven't seen a deer in the last two deer seasons!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1134</td>
<td>Keep the gun season at nine days. Do not extend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1135</td>
<td>Wolves are COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL!!!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1136</td>
<td>More deer + more hunters = more revenue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have a very serious WOLF/CYOTE problem.

Deer numbers need to be greatly increased

Thank you for the opportunity for input!

Hunted 2018 seen 1 hunted 2019 seen 0

Buck only for 3-5 years in this unit

Only one buck per year per hunter

deer population is too low!!!

Too many predators.

DNR= do nothing russians

I To many predators.

stop killing fawns

When’s wolf season?

Baiting not needed.

To many wolves!
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

227 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 177
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 18
   - I hunt in this unit: 201
   - General interest in this unit: 36

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 177
   - Bow: 123
   - Crossbow: 92
   - Muzzleloader: 60

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.36
   - Maximum: 64

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 150
   - Mostly Private Land: 21
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 7
   - Mostly Public Land: 8
   - Exclusively Public Land: 14
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 1

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 14
   - Not too crowded: 13
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 7
   - Somewhat crowded: 10
   - Very crowded: 2
   - Not applicable: 4

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 41
   - Fewer: 61
   - Same: 85
   - More: 29
   - Many More: 7
   - Unsure: 4

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 93 Support 121 Oppose 13 Unsure
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 150 VALID 69 NOT VALID 8 Unsure
If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 27 VALID 192 NOT VALID 8 Unsure
If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? [Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hello, To start, I'm a passionate whitetail hunter. I hunt roughly 75.0% of the whitetail season, to fill my freezer and to chase that trophy buck. All year round myself and roughly 20-30 other hunters communicate, talking about anything and everything hunting. As an outsider looking in, below is my thoughts and opinions.

Why are we trying to decrease the deer population in Brown County?

1. Do the deer not have enough food? In 20 years of hunting, I've never seen a sick deer.
2. Are deer hunters stating they're seen TOO MANY deer? Absolutely not. So why are we decreasing the population.

Per your Brown County video, there's 158 sq miles of livable land for deer and we have 10,600 deer on that land. That equals 67 deer per square mile. That's a joke, we'd see deer EVERYWHERE with that population. 15 years ago I could hunt and see 10-20 deer a night, now I'm lucky to see 2-5 deer a night. Comparing population to car kills is a bad thing. Decreasing the population to prevent less car-deer accidents is a bad idea. There's too many variables that go into this; each year there's more cars on the road, people drive more each year, cell phone distractions, drug use is increasing. It's ridiculous to trend anything with car kills to deer population.

When it comes to providing additional antlerless deer tags, will you increase your antlerless deer kill, sure maybe. As an avid whitetail hunter, I try to harvest 2 deer a year, because that what me and my family consume in roughly one calendar year. If you gave me 1-2 tags, I'll try and fill them. If you give me 3-10 tags, I'll try to fill 1-2 of those tags. How do you kill more deer..... more deer hunters. How do you get more deer hunters. That's a tricky questions. The younger generation enjoys, video games, computer time, sports, activities with there friends, etc. Along with that people that are not real serious about hunting but enjoy it, are backing off because everyone's lives are getting more congested with work/activities. Younger kids will NOT become interested in a sport, unless there's action. Less deer, equals less actions, less deer may also mean smaller/younger whitetails. The world of hunting is evolving, we need to evolve with it. Adults and kids watch hunting shows on TV, YouTube, Facebook, etc., people are killing big bucks. Everyone wants to kill bigger more mature deer. Example: if you're a golfer, are you content shooting a 50 in 9 holes, or do you continue to try and get better. Letting kids do this youth hunt from 0-15, is laziness on our side and false advertising. Hunting before to much pressure with a gun, during warmer weather. Then you expect that same kid to enjoy hunting mid-late November in the cold, where he/she may not even see a deer. I appreciate everything we have hear in Brown County, but we should continue to make it better. I don't know everything that goes on and by no means do I have all the answers. My thoughts on the future:

- Less tag sales equals less DNR funding and less deer harvested.
- Increase in tag sales equals greater DNR funding along with more deer harvest per year.
- A more mature whitetail herd will increase license sales/hunter interest. How do you get that, maybe an antler restriction. That'd force your hunters to harvest antlerless deer, while they wait for that buck that has 4 points on one side, per say.
- As the whitetails become more mature, WI will be more of a destination for out of state hunters. More out of state hunters equals more out of state money to our Wisconsin business's.
- Increase out of state license fees I hope you appreciate my feedback, as this is a topic I live for.
My family and I spend more time on our land recreationally then we do for hunting purposes and my only dissatisfaction with the current season structure is the amount of days we need to take precaution, or avoid certain activities like riding horses, due to potential hunter interaction. Also, I primarily bow hunt and I chose to bowhunt because of the natural tendencies deer and other wildlife tend to follow during the archery season. Due to the high pressure of open firearm season deer change behaviors. Although I do admit, I have had many deer in bow range while wearing legal orange requirements, however for archery hunters, an orange headwear only seems sufficient. I do appreciate the length of the archery season and I hope it continues to go through the end of January. Also, it may have been a rumor, but I do not support opening the regular 9 day gun deer season early. One of the only consistent seasons for deer hunters in WI has been the 9 day regular gun deer season and I would hate to see the tradition changed. Also, for many gun hunters the current season is already plenty long and they have a hard time finding the opportunity to get out and hunt, adding days would not add gun hunters, but instead take away archery (bow and crossbow) hunters. Most importantly, thank you for the opportunity to participate with this feedback. I pride myself in being first and outdoorsperson, second an archer, and finally a hunter. I want the tradition of hunting to pass on to many generations and this state has a great tradition of whitetail hunting that I want to see remain strong. Thanks again for readying and I wish you the best in your future. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Have to reduce the cross bow pressure BIGGEST mistake ever made was full inclusion of cross bows into the archery season Taking away from the time honored tradition of gun season and taking away the excitement of opening of gun season which has always held a special place in my heart with many good memories I’m not totally against cross bows (I have 2 brothers who shoot them but they are 69 and 71 yrs old) and they admit they are so much easier to shoot So they have their purpose The argument that kids and girls need them is flawed To many kids now days just want the easy way for everything Time for them to put down the phones for a while and get out and practice with a bow My daughter shoots a compound set at about 43lbs and has killed several bucks and does with her set up Keep shoots close and practice One other thing is while I’m not against youth hunts ;I think once a youth shoots a buck they should be done shooting bucks in the youth seasons I know several Youth that have shoot 6 or 7 big bucks already by the time they are 17 setting them up for disappointment when they enter the real world of deer hunting Thank you

I do have concerns with crossbow hunting. I have met multiple people who said they shoot crossbows because it’s easier and they don’t have to practice not because they aren’t capable of shooting a compound ... especially the younger generation. For bow hunting I think it takes away some of the tradition and challenge of trying to get a deer in close proximity and draw without being busted. With the ease and success of cross bows I think it ultimately affects the gun season numbers. People are able to shoot bucks in early September when it’s warmer out and then don’t have to sit out in the cold. I am not completely against cross bows but believe it should be limited to those that need it ... disbabled/elderly. I also think the youth hunt needs to be re-evaluated. I think it is very important to have in order to get the youth involved and grow the numbers in hunting. However, once they get a buck I think it should be limited to a doe tag after that ... unless of course they are hunting during the regular season like everyone else. Thanks for reading and taking this into consideration.

I Think this survey is a step in the right direction, A lot of what I read and hear always seems to be negative about the DNR and their impact on the deer herd. As we all know Brown County's hunting land is becoming less and less each day with the ever expanding housing developments that are seeming everywhere. What I have noticed in the past 5 years of bow hunting this county, is the closer I hang my stand to the suburbs the more deer I see. There is a lot of un hunt-able city or town owned land that is harboring high populations of deer very close to where the people are. I think a step in the right direction to lower deer numbers in this county is to work with the towns that own this land and have them open it to a limited number of bow hunters who would like to harvest Doe only. This would help reduce the numbers of deer in the county but more importantly the high population of deer where they are more likely to negatively interact with peoples landscape or cars.
My life used to revolve around hunting every spiecies, every year I looked forward to the Wisconsin hunting season which could not come soon enough. On the private Pittsfield farm area I hunt I have had no luck shooting a deer in 9 years and I barely see any. It's very frustrating every year going out with hope and barely see a deer, then the neighbors doing deer drive and I drive 3 people shoot 11 deer how fricken sickening should change the season to GUN DEER SLAUGHTER. The deer drives need to end along with all the baiting. I still have a great love for the outdoors and enjoy being in the woods. There used to be ruffed grouse in this area but they disappeared 10 years maybe longer ago. The only game animal with a population in the area are Turkey. The last time I hunted those took 3 days off work and it rained all five days and the short season was over, never pursued that hunt again. Good luck with the Wisconsin Hunting Future.

If The DNR wants to shoot more deer, Antlered and Antlerless. The solution is very simple. Open the Season November first, when the antlered quote is reached, close it. (Just like sturgeon spearin) Then keep it open an additional period of time closing it in units as harvest goals are obtained. The biggest obstacle to harvesting more deer is deer movement. Open the gun season during the rut. The number of deer people see will increase exponentially. The number of deer harvested in the quoata's your trying to achieve will be realized. Baiting will not be an advantage, the deer move naturally during the rut. The deer will be moving naturally. Keeping the rut for the bow hunters is really just an outdated (recurve bows) advantage. If you want to shoot more deer open the hunt during the rut, use what ever weapon you desire. It's time to end the nonsense.

I am concerned about the disproportional harvest of deer on public land, and support any measures that reduce pressure on the small area of public land we have available to hunt in Brown County. Based on my observations this spring, deer numbers appear to be very high. Which makes sense due to late gun season and mild winter. Unfortunately, providing more antlerless tags does very little to control deer numbers on private lands. Earn a buck is the only effective way we have to control deer numbers and at the same time provide more of a quality buck harvest opportunity. Unfortunately, most hunters are not skilled enough to shoot a doe when they need to, so it will never be an option that is supported by the general hunting population. Thank you for serving on the CDAC and allowing us to comment on season regulations.

Recommendation is to extend the muzzleloader season until January 31st and get rid of all Anterless only hunts including youth hunts. I own a large amount of property in this county and the quotas are not in line. With winter browse our herd health has never been better. I am satisfied with current deer numbers but a reduction I will not and cannot support. 2 anterless tags per season is unreasonable and so are bonus tags. If you want the meat shoot a doe, every hunter wants to have all options available, shoot multiple does and shoot a buck, again I cannot support this. I cherish wildlife and I harvest animals, I will never support season harvests where the animals are exploited by greedy hunters. The individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. Stop the killing, return to hunting.

I do not like the private /public /county designations for the anterless harvest because I hunt adjoining counties. If deer run across the road in some hunting areas they run into a different county. I'd like to return to the unit boundaries. Presently if I shoot a deer and it runs across the road to a different county I would have to violate the law to go get it. Without back tags as a landowner I can't identify trespassers without a face to face interaction. Without registration stations one is unable to see large bucks that are harvested in the area. One only hears about the bucks. In addition the small local businesses are affected by the diminished foot traffic. Registration brought people into the small businesses. Covid 19 hopefully will be decreased by the next deer hunt season.
For too long, Wisconsin has allowed the deer season to go unchecked. After hours shooters in Brown county, people taking more deer than they have tags for, under-staffed DNR field offices, etc... I have lived and hunted in other states with not near the forage and habitat we have here in NE Wisconsin and have seen deer populations managed much more effectively. What you have here is a cultural issue. If you have a season, they will shoot till there are no more. That is why in some areas of the county you see many deer. In others not so much. One takes their life in their hands walking to a stand on public land in this county before daylight....sometimes even during daylight. In general the hunter in Wisconsin has been a poor steward of the deer herd.

I strongly disagree with the idea of restricting crossbows during November. Crossbows greatly reduce the amount of deer wounded during the archery season and never recovered. Also, the law was passed to permit crossbow hunting so thousands of people invested thousands of dollars to purchase one. I have spent about 1,100 myself. The use of crossbows was signed into law so it would not be right to take away the most important month of the year. That is when I take my vacation time and what I look forward to most than any other time of the year. If it was taken away, then the state should have to refund the large amount of money we invested. I'm sure that legalizing crossbows helped to sell a lot more licenses, so why screw up a good thing.

I support herd management and the DNR’s responsibilities to the overall well-being of our state’s natural resources. Antler-less hunts will help achieve the overall initiative of decreasing Brown county’s deer herd. I strongly oppose crossbow sharing the entire archery season with compound bows. The advancements in crossbow technology have made that option as lethal as a firearm (shotgun) during a critical season of herd replenishment (mating season “rut”). My concern is not with the methodology of herd management; rather, the means of achieving these numbers while protecting our state’s reputation as a region where trophy whitetail harvests are a legitimate possibility. Thank you for the opportunity to share feedback.

I am an avid/seasoned deer hunter and in my opinion if you want more hunters to purchase licenses and participate in the hunt you need to increase the herd not decrease it. If hunters especially beginners and not so avid hunters go afield and don’t see any deer it’s very easy to become discouraged and decide not to hunt or purchase a license at all. The more deer a hunter sees while he’s afield will help to motivate him to keep at it if he hasn’t already filled his tags. You can give out all the tags you want but if a person doesn’t see anything to harvest it doesn’t matter how many tags he has. You could possibly give out bonus tags to successful hunters as motivation to continue to hunt if they so desire.

If we stop killing the buck fawns and calling them does, there would be less complaining about NOT seeing bucks during the gun deer season, less complaining about bow hunters. less complaining about wolves. car kills don't reflect deer numbers but more cars on the road. we should have a 6 point minimum on bucks, you only get big bucks by not shooting little ones. I have seen hunters kill does and all the fawns with them on drives and then complain the next year that they did not see any deer and blame the bow hunters or wolves. We don't need 10 special hunts. If not the hunters would hunt during the regular seasons and move the deer.

Stop letting insurance companies and farmers affect the deer herds and if you say they don’t then u lie. Do you actually know how many fawns and turkey are killed every year by farms?? I work on a farm south of Greenleaf and because of the size and speed of the hay cutting equipment we killed about 40-50 fawns last year and I lost count of turkey after 75, the equipment is too big and going to fast to be able to stop nor do they care if they stop, because that will cost them time and money. This is one farm, so add up all the big farms around and the numbers and death count go up but no one ever mentions this.
My opinion... certain areas have a abundance of deer which I understand completely but not the whole unit! Nothing is easy to figure out and I don’t want your job but I hunt in Brown/Metro on 100 acres of woods and I see 5-10 on a normal hunt! Is that to many, not in my mind.. I don’t need to shoot something everytime I hunt nor do I want to, but it’s sure nice sitting and see something. As regards to hunting seasons, the seasons have been this way for how many years. Extending the gun season is fine but it should just be extended into the muzzleloader season, moving it into the bow season is wrong!

I definitely would not support shortening the crossbow season, because the stated goal is to decrease deer population in the unit. I did not see any rules for older hunters being able to continue to hunt with a crossbow all season, which is important considering a lot of older hunters are one of the most passionate groups of hunters. Additionally, older hunters often have the time to hunt more often. I was pleased to see a good number of antlerless deer were taken on private land, which is often not the case.

why would we need to decrease the population in the county? Seems like the DNR wants us to shoot every deer we see, especially in the metro unit. On family land this presents problems for getting the youth involved. Also makes for a long season seeing less deer than 10 or 15 years ago...many sits seeing nothing. If farmers are unhappy with crop damage we should allow them to get crop damage tags to control the land that way. Perhaps people would be more open to giving permission to hunt their land as well

I have seen and heard many comments on the deer population being low this last year in our area, but I really believe deer patterns change due to the high water table. Where I hunt, i only saw a few deer during the regular season. Typically they run the ditches; this year the ditches were overflowing and the weather was keeping the ice from forming. I went back for the late season, and the ditches were frozen - and sure enough, that is where we were seeing the deer!

Baiting needs to be brought back and legal! Cwd is not passed from deer to deer from saliva. Otherwise every deer would be dead and have zero chance of survival. They all lick each other. Form of communication with all. So please stop the cwd scare because anyone with a brain cell in their head and have sat in a tree stand and observed deer know this about their behavior. Real hunters know this! We are not selling what your buying! Bring bait back!

Hunting Brown County parks is the equivalent of hunting a school playground. Hikers, bikers, horses, dogs, overtake the park and make it nearly impossible to bow hunt. If the end game is to reduce the deer heard, maybe a renewed effort of giving public hunters a chance to harvest. Early season only bow hunts put us in contention with all others using the parks. Allow hunters access for late season bow, or limit access to others during early season bow.

The state is a bit off target thinking we would benefit from a doe only unit !! It’ll just drive everybody to a unit where you can harvest bucks. It will definitely have a reverse impact on the the doe population because nobody will be there to hunt them. Keep things the same but let’s take a look at how some states are managing there deer heard with plenty of doe tags and a point restriction of four points on one side.

If they go to a 16 day season I may to discontinue hunting at all and not allow any hunting on my property at all. 9 day gun season is long enough. I think all seasons should stay as they have been. If you really need to get deer populations down go with earn a buck where if you shoot a doe the year before you get a buck tag. You should only get 1 buck tag per year per person. Thanks

I’m fine with decreasing the herd in the metro sub unit which is pretty much all of the county. That's the hardest hit by deer. But once you get out of the sub unit. The deer numbers drop. Have the holiday hunt only in the sub unit extend crossbow and archery in the sub unit. More pressure on the deer they'll relocate out of the sub unit. The amount of tags given is fine.
Crossbow season should be the same dates as the regular bow season. You obviously want the deer dead, so don't eliminate the possibility of harvesting one with a crossbow in September. No reason for me to buy a deer hunting license - gun or bow - if you're going to unfairly limit when I can hunt with my crossbow.

I would really like to see in person registration make its way back. I know it becomes more man-power to operate but it was such a classic staple to hunting and plays a large social aspect. I also thinks it hold people accountable because with no in-person necessary then it gives more opportunity for violations.

The DNR constantly talks about Hunter recruitment, stop having all the extra gun hunts for antlerless deer so we can take kids out on rabbit hunts with hounds during the Christmas holidays and weekends. This is how most of us Boomer's got introduced to hunting by our ancestors. It was fun!

I'm 55. Been hunting for 40+ years. STOP giving away bonus tags!! The overall herd is lower...period! We get it, you're in the sales business. And the proposed extension is too long! Perhaps 16-day season, over three weekends. But then cut back on all the extra seasons.

I would be in favor of combining the Antlerless hunt and the holiday hunt rather than having both a few weeks apart. The deer start moving normally again after Antlerless hunt and then the holiday hunt is upon us. For me, deer sightings were way down after the holiday hunt.

Don't have holiday or bonus hunts it messes up rut and deer seasons before the crowd gets to hunt. Stop youth hunts make them go with adult when season is on they will have a better chance and also adults will get to kill more deer that are not disturbed

having gun season during or close to rut would help out great. 40 years hunting 30 years in same spot worst year ever seen 10 deer all season in 9 day hunt( which I believe in “9days”) I hunt in a spot that I can see for 100's of acres.

I believe it will be very difficult to increase the antlerless harvest on private land by increasing permits. It’s getting very difficult to get private land access each year and deer will congregate in these private properties.

Do not change the crossbow season. Our sport is already “dying”. Don’t give it another reason to get worse. I know people that have said they won’t buy a tag if it changes. Can’t take that chance on lost revenue. Thank you.

Please remove the requirements to pick a specific land type and county. That is ridiculous and turns away many hunters from using public lands in different counties. You are losing new hunters by imposing this restriction.

The population control objectives were achieved during the seasons with “ Earn a Buck “ regulations , with the added benefits of better sex and age ratios. I would welcome a return to the Earn a Buck framework .

Issuing Doe permits will not solve any problems if people with private land are not willing to use them. Having a Doe only season would more than likely make me not purchase a license.

If you held an antlerless hunt in early October, then more likely hunters would shoot another deer in late November. Perhaps a third during the holiday hunt.

Good Job DNR. Your hard work and communication over the past few years has made a significant difference in hunter awareness of issues. I appreciate it!

Would like to see the sharp shooter program where deer are herded up. Also feed the hungry is good. Also the carcass dumpster program is good.

It is grossly demoralizing when you or your group members DO NOT see a single deer during the entire gun deer season on 60 acres!!

If there is some kind of extension to the begging of gun deer season I won’t hunt any more , kill the heard yourself

Metro unit needs more anger less tags! Do not do anger less only or my family and I will not hunt!

I support a minimum antler restriction on bucks. 3 points or greater on one side as a minimum!
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1195</td>
<td>Would like to see things stay the same cuz my family and I cont on deer hunting to feed us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1196</td>
<td>I would like to see a ban on baiting and feeding in Brown County to support herd health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1197</td>
<td>to many hunts discourage bow hunters - to many disruptions in the woods for big bucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1198</td>
<td>Please consider implementing antler point restrictions for this deer management unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1199</td>
<td>I am totally against the length of the archery Season! End all seasons by Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>I am hoping that you are NOT going to have a separate bow / crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1201</td>
<td>Limit antlerless only hunts. Limit special gun hunts during archery seasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1204</td>
<td>Holiday hunt till January 1. Not 31. Snowmobiling brings in a lot of money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1203</td>
<td>Have a longer deer gun season opening on uniform day and staying open more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1202</td>
<td>Worst year I've had in 20 years. Very few deer seen and no mature animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1205</td>
<td>I think the deer herd is finally to a healthy size. Don't mess with it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1206</td>
<td>improve outfitting Increase populations 1 buck a year (bow or gun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1207</td>
<td>I did not hunt 2019, my observations are from mentor hunts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1208</td>
<td>Would like to see restricted season for crossbow users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1209</td>
<td>Crossbows legal for people over 50 or health problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1210</td>
<td>Put a antler size harvest restriction on buck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1211</td>
<td>need to go back to back tags for hunters !!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1212</td>
<td>Would be in favor of earn a buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1213</td>
<td>No Crossbows/Holiday Hunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

656 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 220
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 121
   - I hunt in this unit: 619
   - General interest in this unit: 123

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 556
   - Bow: 428
   - Crossbow: 234
   - Muzzleloader: 259

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.41
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 540
   - Mostly Private Land: 44
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 14
   - Mostly Public Land: 6
   - Exclusively Public Land: 12
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 8
   - Not too crowded: 23
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 13
   - Somewhat crowded: 10
   - Very crowded: 16
   - Not applicable: 6

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 137
   - Fewer: 220
   - Same: 217
   - More: 47
   - Many More: 19
   - Unsure: 16

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Buffalo, Central Farmland
### Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? (Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for  Buffalo, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
This year for the first time ever I decided to sit in on (well I listed to the conference call) the first public meeting of a CDAC meeting on March 31, 2020. It was interesting and my intent was to listen and learn. The following comments are my own: First I’ll address the four areas you voted on during the meeting. 1. Setting Antlerless deer quota – Good discussion occurred. The 5,100 makes sense based on the discussion. But again, if you want to demonstrate to the legislature that you’re acting seriously to be proactive to reduce the deer herd it would seem you might not want to reduce the quota from previous years, even though it is unlikely the quota of 6,000 would be met. It seems that with the mild winter of 2019-2020 and the reduced harvest of 2019 that the deer population is going to increase. In addition to the COVID-19 situation and many people losing income there will likely be a higher demand for venison this fall. 2. Number of free Farmland Antlerless tags to be issued with each deer hunting license in 2020. Good discussion between two or three tags. I see both sides, diminishing returns of 3, but since you were discussing you don’t have enough tools in your tool bag, I thought it would make sense to recommend three, as your goal is to decrease the deer numbers in the county. How can you make the strongest case to the legislature if you are not using all your tools, even though the outcome would be small. As I believe Bob Brunco (spelling?) said, the harvesting of 180 or so antlerless deer is a decent number (2018-2019 numbers?) with the additional 3rd tag. I realize folks can buy additional tags, but it can be nice to have that third tag. I used all three of mine during the 2019 gun season. 3. Holiday Hunt – Antlerless only – again good discussion, the decision to keep it makes sense. 4. Extended archery hunting season – Jan. 1-31st, 2021. It would have been nice if it was explained why this season couldn’t be shortened to say Jan. 1-15th or 20th. I assume it is because they want to stay uniform throughout the state?? Again, there was good discussion about this topic during the meeting. It was good to hear why it might be beneficial to have this season, i.e. it might be the only time when construction workers and loggers can get out and hunt due to their work schedules. I’m not in favor of this season for the following reasons: a) The number of deer harvested is very small – insignificant. b) The deer season in WI is plenty long for everyone to get out and hunt prior to the end of gun season and muzzle loader season. c) Depending on the weather, deer can start to be stressed during this time of the year from reduced food sources (lack of woody browse in the county), deep snow covering food, cold temperatures, buck’s using up energy reserves during the rut and herd stress from the gun season. It was encouraging to hear the Committee and DNR personnel acknowledge the lack of woody deer browse in the County. I have noticed the same thing. Currently my brother and I have over 200 acres in the county with most of it enrolled in MFL. Without going into detail we have been trying to find a logger to come in and cut about 25 acres of mixed hardwood and aspen. Our goal is to create patches of clear cuts to regenerate (restore) the aspen component which is being lost quickly due to old age. Most of the timber is on gently sloping terrain accessible by mechanized logging equipment. I have contacted over 20 loggers and have met with 7 different ones on the ground to look at the sites over the last two years. To date not one of them has agreed (committed) to harvest our timber. I’ve even offered to give them all the wood for free. I would just like the timber cut and have it utilized. This has been a very time consuming and frustrating experience. I realize it is not in your realm of duties to tackle this issue specifically, but if the deer herd in the county is going to stay strong and healthy (not necessarily increase) this topic needs to be addressed soon. Unfortunately I don’t have any answers other than to somehow offer (financial) incentives to loggers to come on to private lands and be willing to harvest smaller acreages of timber. This past winter we cut about 2 acres of aspen/mixed hardwoods and just let it lay as it was in areas that were two inaccessible for a logger and we are growing impatient in our attempt to get some deer browse established. Private landowners should be educated about the benefits of harvesting their timber on a sustainable basis especially the benefits to deer (provide critical winter browse). With the many acres of land in the county enrolled in MFL and people dragging their feet to harvest, this might be a proactive action to encourage landowners and loggers to do more cutting. I realize it is a hard sell with most landowners, but most things worth doing are never easy. We have shot one buck off our land in three years (although we see and could harvest many). We are working with our neighbors to manage for QDM. We have shot 3-4 does off the land annually for many years. I would shoot more, but my brother is a doe lover and doesn’t shoot any and harasses me for shooting “so many”. He is only interested in seeing lots of deer and doesn’t care
about the long term health of our forests from over browsing. So, I’m aware of the frustrations of deer and
habitat management in general and more specifically in Buffalo County. I would strongly support Earn-a Buck
again. When it was implemented it was effective, people I’ve talked to (neighbors) were angry about how it
reduced the deer numbers, so it worked! Unfortunately the masses don’t care or understand the negative impacts
unsustainable deer densities are having on our states woodlands. Stay strong and keep fighting the good fight! I
appreciate everything you are doing.

I e-mailed my comments to DNRCDACWebMail@Wisconsin.gov. However I'm also going to try and include them
here; I would like to express my opinion of the current state of deer management in Buffalo Co., WI. It is my
opinion that the DNR is overreacting to the possibility of CWD infestation. To my knowledge, there is very little, if
any CWD in Buffalo Co. although it is currently right on our doorstep. The tools that we have available to combat
CWD are quite limited. The DNR has decided that drastic herd reductions are appropriate. We've finally
eliminated baiting, unfortunately that should have been done twenty years ago, but politically it wasn't possible.
Now that the horse is long gone we'll securely close the barn door. Part of the strategy is having antlerless hunts.
In other word, let's kill the breeders. I can attest that method has worked very well. It is getting rare to see fawns
and yearlings. In order to lend a little credibility to my comments, let me say that my education was at the Univ of
Minnesota in Wildlife Management. I was in the hunting and fishing guiding business in Alaska for 10 years. I'm
no stranger to the outdoors and wildlife. I have owned Buffalo Co. land since 2000. For the first 10 years of my
ownership, the deer herd was very prolific and hunting could only be called good to excellent. In the last 5 years
the number of deer has decreased substantially. During the 2019 9 day gun season, I hunted every day and did
not see a deer! I talked to several neighbors who also hunted and got the same reports. The deer numbers are
way down. I attended the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting last summer and was quite dismayed at what I
heard. The chairperson told us right at the beginning that our testimony wouldn't make a bit of difference. He
said I know a lot of you are going to complain that the deer are way down, but the committee would not take that
into account. According to their bylaws, they must use scientific (DNR) data for all their considerations. The DNR
states that the Buffalo Co. deer herd is increasing. I beg to differ. I’ve talked to a lot of land owners in the county
and we’re all in agreement that the herd is way down. How the DNR can look around and say there's more deer is
totally ludicrous. They are promoting this falsehood either to encourage more hunting mortality as a defense
against CWD, or they’re just plain wrong. I can't say which it is. There are several methods available for us to
determine a wildlife population. I submit that the DNR ought to use something different then what they're doing.
If CWD becomes a problem then let’s deal with it at that time. It's not the end of the world. Other states have
been dealing with it for years. It simply becomes another mortality factor, like car collisions, predation, tough
winters, etc. which must be taken into account when hunting seasons are set. We know where CWD is spawned
and incubated. The high fence hunting businesses and game farms are where it comes from. Why don't we deal
with that instead of killing all the sportsman’s deer? These are small, very localized plots to deal with as opposed
to all the rest of the world. Property values in Buffalo Co. are strongly related to the deer hunting. Take away the
traditional deer hunting and we’re all going to pay for it. My question is what is your plan to combat CWD? It
seems that your main item is to drastically reduce the deer herd. In that case, what are your numbers? At what
point are you going to be satisfied that your reduction has met it's goal? This reduction is going to have strong
ramifications on sport hunting, hunter recruitment, property values, DNR / landowner relations, and other
factors. Has any thought been given to just letting CWD run it's course? CWD is not new. It's been around for
decades and what have we learned from other locales? In closing, if a significant reduction in the deer herd is
deemed necessary, let's first look at the source of CWD and then let's start small and monitor the results.
Aggressively killing the breeders is a one way street.
I own 160 acres in the Cochrane area and for the past five or six years I have seen a steady decline in overall deer numbers. Every year it seems to be a little less and a little less. We also keep a lot of food sources standing for all of the wildlife throughout the winter which means that we call in wildlife from surrounding areas that otherwise would not be there. That number has also fallen. In the spring of the year we still have lots of crops in the fields that have gone uneaten. My neighbors have been the same neighbors for years and the amount of deer harvested between all of us really doesn’t change at all but the population seems to go down some how. I have also hunted large nearby properties that hardly have any deer on them whatsoever. Cameras pick up deer activity rarely and hunters can literally go weekend after weekend without seeing a single deer. On the flipside of that, a group of buddies that are hunting 15 miles away have the potential of seeing between 10 and 30 deer per day. That group does what they can in terms of thinning the doe heard. I know a lot of hunters and talk with a lot of hunters and it is my opinion that there are very cold spots and very hot spots for where deer actually WANT to be. The deer obviously are not distributed at all equally throughout the county so maybe it should be looked at a little bit more region by region within the county. The vast majority of the properties that I know about throughout the county have low or very low deer numbers with the exception of the one property I mentioned. So the idea that we are overrun within the county of deer numbers just simply does not make sense to me. The population has been going down for the last five years from what I’ve seen in all the spots we’ve hunted. The other topic that I’d like to put input on would be the four day antlerless only hunt in December and the extremely long holiday hunt in late December. I hunt with a group of 14 guys that Hunt throughout the county. During those antlerless only hunts, nobody comes to hunt. It’s literally a ghost town. They don’t come from out of town to hunt because they want a chance at shooting a buck. Throughout all the other seasons, they have plenty of time and Opportunity to harvest does. So during those antlerless only seasons, everybody just stays home which means they do not buy gas, groceries, food from restaurants or spend any money within the county when they are sitting at home waiting for the doe only season to end. I think if it’s completely necessary to have antlerless only seasons and those antlerless deer to be hunted with guns in December, the regular archery season should not suffer. The month of December for archery hunters has been dwindled down to very few weekends that you can actually hunt with archery gear for a buck. If people are coming from out of town, your weekend time frames are severely limited so everybody just Ends up staying home. I would like to see the archery season stay open to be able to harvest a buck with archery gear only. This obviously means that you will have to trust that people will not use guns to shoot bucks but you essentially have to give people the same trust not to shoot bucks with guns throughout any part of the year. We as hunters have been given a longer leash and have had more trust put in our hands with how we register deer and the gear that we use to harvest deer. So why not give hunters a little bit more trust And allow the archery season to remain open? Lastly, I do support the archery season staying open throughout the month of January. Thanks much for your time.
It is nice to finally see some sanity coming out of the Buffalo Co CDAC with the 2 antlerless tags per license versus the 3. I do thank the DNR for stepping in last year and preventing the antlerless only season recommendation coming out of this committee. Still disappointed there is going to be a 4 day antlerless season following muzzleloader and yet another Holiday Hunt for this upcoming season. Just not necessary. Ironically last year we harvested the least amount of deer since 1982 that is an amazing 37 seasons ago (see https://dnr.wi.gov/wideermetrics/DeerStats.aspx?R=HarvestHistory) during a season where this CDAC was recommending antlerless only hunting and only avoided it with the help of the DNR. Despite that very low harvest (yes lower than previous 37 years) this year's population is miraculously estimated lower than previous year!!! Only fuzzy math coming out of DNR can get us a lower estimation with such a low harvest. I see some comments in the recommendations it is due to lower fawn recruitment and "brutal" winter. Based on # of 1.5 year old bucks on camera this past season, both before and after I don't buy into that at all esp when DNR's own winter severity index listed the county as just moderate. Talked to several die-hard shed hunters who put many miles on every spring and they were not finding any dead deer last spring. Amount of fawns I had on camera this past summer were just like any other year, mostly twins but some singles. Like mentioned earlier.... only fuzzy math can make this happen. Tweak a few parameters here and there and POOF... it's like magic, you get the population estimate you want. No doubt all of the complaining about the antlerless season recommendation last year is playing into the fuzzy math for this year's population estimation. Anyways it is what it is and looks we finally might get off of the 3 tags per license. Maybe next year we can take another positive step and go to 1 antlerless tag and get rid of the Holiday Hunt and the following after that get rid of the 4 day antlerless only rifle season. As always thanks for allowing input, even though I know this isn't going to sway any minds.

1) I am not sure how the population estimates are determined, but I have lived in this county since 1975 and in my opinion we have nowhere near the number of deer that we did in the 1990s. I'm not saying those numbers were ok, but I will say that the number of does seems to have reduced significantly on my property and on the properties that many of my acquaintances own and hunt. There seem to be few enough that I do not understand the recommended slaughter of them. 2) The recommended extended archery hunt is pitting DNR user groups against each other in this county which is primarily privately owned. I not only hunt but I also snowmobile. It used to be that this county was primarily owned by local farmers which were very sympathetic and understanding of snowmobiles. Now many of the landowners are deer hunters who refuse to let us open snowmobile trails across their properties until the bow season has closed. That is their right and I have no issues with that I'd that is what they choose. I'm also a local snowmobile club member that signs trails so I am very familiar with what I am talking about in this regard. By extending the bow season until the end of January for the purpose of reducing the deer herd, you are effectively going to close snowmobile trails across much of this county until at least February. I highly doubt that the extended bow season is going to have a huge effect in decreasing the deer herd. Bow season already runs from early September all of the way until the beginning of January, so I'm not sure why it's necessary to extend it until February when it can impact another DNR user group so significantly. Honestly it's a fight that is a lose/lose situation for snowmobilers. If we complain about this and the landowners get upset that they lose their archery season, they can deny us access all together. If we allow it to happen without saying anything, we essentially limit an already short snowmobile season even more. Thank you WI DNR for even considering to allow this to be an issue.
I will start out by saying that I agree, Buffalo County does have high deer numbers, however, many still remember EAB and what it did in some areas of the county. I live in an area that has a lot of small properties that have multiple hunters on each property. In 2007, people in our area would go days without seeing a single deer. This has ingrained in many people's minds to let all does pass, to continue to build the population. Also, many people do not shoot does for fear of spooking their property, and spoiling their chances at a buck later in the season.

With this in mind, there needs to be an incentive for people to want to shoot does. I propose the following

- Changing the number of buck tags issued to hunters to only one buck tag for use with archery or firearm, but not both.
- Give property owners the ability to earn additional tags based on the number of acres they own by shooting does.
- Give non-hunting landowners the ability to transfer their additional tag privileges to hunting members of the family, much like they can do during spring turkey season. These proposals will encourage landowners to shoot does they would have otherwise not have shot, and increase the age structure amongst bucks in the county. While increasing age structure is not the primary goal, I believe that it will also encourage people to shoot more does if they are frequently seeing higher caliber bucks in their area. Give non-hunting landowners the ability to transfer their additional tag privileges to hunting members of the family, much like they can do during spring turkey season. I believe it would also be an additional incentive to those landowners that pay property taxes within the county as well. In order to avoid the lost revenue, from people harvesting a buck during archery season and then not buying a firearm tag, raise the cost of licenses, and sell buck tags as a valid tag with any weapon.

Our hunting group has owned property and hunted Buffalo County for over 30 years. Our children and grandchildren have joined us. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this great tradition. We also appreciate the efforts of the DNR to keep our herd healthy. We follow all game regulations and have taught our kids to do the same. We do not bait and would like to see that banned. We also support a separate and shorter season for crossbows. We try very hard to take every opportunity to reduce our antlerless population, every time out. We average 10 to 15 antlerless per year, compared to 4 to 5 bucks. We have our bucks aged (via tooth analysis) and over 90% of bucks harvested are 4.5 years of age or older. We are trying to do things right. It is simply not easy to shoot more antlerless. We all eat venison, but only need 1 to 2 deer per person per year. We do participate in the food pantry donation program. In our opinion, making any season antlerless only would completely fail. We believe most hunters in this county travel to hunt there. We all do, as do almost all of our neighbors. Removing the opportunity to shoot a buck will almost entirely negate hunting effort in that county. While we all love to hunt, for the hunt itself, we pay to hunt there because of the buck opportunity. There would be few hunters in the field in Buffalo. We also do not support earn a buck. Due to our perspective on travel, we also do not feel an antlerless holiday hunt is effective. Why don't you try an antlerless gun hunt during the 2nd or 3rd week of October. It is not a good time to target bucks, but antlerless do provide opportunity. We would participate. We realize there are safety concerns with other activities, but with 92% of the county under private ownership, we should be able to negate much of that concern. It's an idea. Thanks for this opportunity.
Outfitters, should be required to earn a 50% buck. Outfitters lease huge amounts of land, bring in people from all over the country and only shoot bucks. They do not go to local bars, or restaurants, or meat processing places, if your hunting on a Licensed outfitter property make them earn a buck. The antler less deer can be party hunted. The earn a buck should apply to the 50% of the total amount of hunters the outfitter brings in for a season. Do not charge them for these 50% earn a buck tags. Example, 20 hunters under contract that outfitter needs to produce 10 antler less party kills for his organization. Hunting pressure is down in all areas of the county, deer do not move around like they use to during gun season, because everyone is waiting for a Buffalo County Monster. Bring back registration stations also, it helps the local economy and keeps people some what honest on the fear they need to register a deer. Phone in registration promotes people not registering deer, hurts local business's that use to register deer at the bar or gas station, or store, it also takes away the social aspect of hunting that was so much fun back in the day. Track the sales tax decline since phone in registration on opening gun season weekend. Keeping the bow season open till Jan 31, hurts the economy also, you can not snowmobile till bow season is over, and lets be honest what is the percentage of hunters out in the woods in late January, very low. There is a survey question, what weekends do you hunt the most and why. Apply common sense to each county and each situation respects the traditions also.

Hello All: I'm an owner of several different properties in Buffalo County and a leaser of a few others. An item that came up during the conference call was not extending the bow season until the end of January because it hurts the snowmobiles and the bar income. The totals that follow is the amount of snow in Alma for the last five years, in the month of January, from the website www.weathercollector.com: 2016 2.9 in. 2017 8.9 in. 2018 12.8 in. 2019 9.3 in. 2020 11.8 in. This being shown seems that there will be little to no conflict with snowmobiles. Also, believe snowmobiles and hunters can co-exist. If hunters take away their properties from the trails several safety concerns with machines in the right away would have to be addressed. Added to the fact that hunters also input money into the local economy, this seems to be a frivolous opposition or reason to vote against extending the season. During the conference call it seemed that several shots were fired from the CDAC side towards the NRB, would hope that all comments be taken into account when re-election occurs. Final note is that it seems very peculiar that all seats are not filled on the CDAC. Thank you for your time and would be happy to express other concerns if anyone needs to reach me.

Living and hunting in Buffalo county is an absolute joy. But, in recent years I have noticed a decline in the numbers of deer seen. At our farm 10 years ago there was an over population of does which we took upon ourselves to manage and bought bonus tags to make our buck to do ratio much better, which helped a lot. But with the number of tags in the recent years it seems the numbers are down near us but still healthy. As far as extending the gun season, I think that is absolutely crazy and unnecessary. I feel that move is just for the outfitters to put more money in their pockets and thus hurt the hunting traditions we are used to. There is no longer the big family and friends hunta around us and its the my deer crap that takes the fun out of hunting. We have a lot of passion for managing the deer herd and being able to chase trophy's while still harvesting does for meat and always have full freezers. As far as having all the antlerless hunta and later seasons I think is a mistake as more bucks that have dropped their antlers are being harvested, I know as I did it myself. I hope that we can all agree to keep our states traditions and normal hunting procedures and if the need to harvest more does then perhaps we look at all the outfitters leasing up all the land and their clients only harvesting bucks.
Since a majority of the county property is leased to hunters, issue extra doe tags in the areas where DNR/CDAC feel need more deer harvested, to those land owners that will make available to the hunters. Set up a program for deer processing to feed the less fortunate. With so many extra tags many hunters will not take extra game than they can consume. Issuing more tags wont help reduce the herd but, if you have the DNR pay for the processing of the donated deer may get more people to harvest the needed deer. Look at Iowa deer donation program. Do not extend any hunting after the normal seasons. End bow season first weekend in January, no extended gun seasons. Too much strain can be put on the herd and will encourage baiting which is illegal and wardens wont enforce because too busy. Keep gun season frame work at the 9 day starting Saturday closest to Thanksgiving as has been the tradition in this state forever. Your data shows that majority of deer are harvested the first weekend of gun season thus extending or making an earlier hunt will break up the tradition and more deer may not be harvest as one would hope. Data you showed regarding early vs late gun seasons was spot on. The reduction in numbers for 2019 should have been expected.

If you want to improve hunting in WI as well as the hunters experience I would suggest the following: 1. Make people physically tag and register deer like years past. You’ve made it easy for people to not register deer, and in turn drastically hurt local businesses who thrive during hunting season, not to mention killed some of the tradition of what WI deer hunting is well known for. 2. Implement earn-a-buck for zones/counties that need the herd reduced. 3. This is my opinion, but Crossbow use should be limited to senior citizens or people with medical conditions. If not, you might as well just open up gun season year-round. 4. Out of state license pricing should be increased. 5. The predator population in WI needs to be addressed (wolves) - It is no secret and yet the issue gets swept under the rug. I understand your position with the Native American Tribes but at some point you need to step in - this can be applied on many accounts (fishing/spearing). 6. The state owns a considerable amount of land, much of it is primarily served as public hunting land. Consider planting some food plots or crops; in all reality this will not cost the state much money (especially with increased revenue from more expensive out of state licensing).

While I do not agree with extending the bow season later into the winter (January) to help increase the number of deer harvested, I would suggest extending the bow season earlier, starting bow season in August or at least September 1. It is more likely that bowhunters would hunt more and therefore possibly harvest more deer in August or September instead of late January. It’s too cold in January and not only that, many deer move off of their original properties to winter elsewhere limiting many hunters opportunities in late winter. Additionally, if deer hunting ended at the beginning of January, that ensure that other winter recreation opportune that are also revenue generators for the state and local communities like snowmobiling can continue to happen. Extending the bow season I at the begging of the bow season makes much more sense for those reason. Additionally, if counties want to increase their anterless harvest numbers, I think the only way you are actually going to see an increase in harvests, you have to incentivize people to use those bonus tags. Right now in Buffalo county the land has been overtaken by hunters that are only looking for a big buck and don’t care to get a doe.

I would support an antlerless only season or an earn a buck season. Especially, if the earn a buck (shooting a doe in year 1 for example) meant you could immediately shoot a buck the following year (Year 2). However, failure to also harvest a doe in Year 2 would then require an earn a buck (harvest a doe first) in Year 3. This could be extra interesting if a T-Zone like weekend was also participated in late October or early November to give gun hunters a chance before the normal opening weekend. Any way to open up hunting to more group hunts, limit the overly extensive bow season, get rid of the extra holiday hunts, or even potentially extend the gun season by 1 week, are all ideas I would favor or have interest in. Too many people around seem to sit and not drive deer, are only concerned about trophy bucks and the pressure from early September through the beginning of January is way to long a time to harvest for a bow hunter, in my opinion. Putting fun and family into the sport is a great way to encourage new hunters. Sitting on your butt in a heated shack is not. Getting the deer moving, putting pressure on bow hunters to actually harvest does are some of my greatest concerns.
Thank you for your thoughtful preliminary recommendations this year. The extension of the archery season is complicated for many reasons but I support the committee's preliminary recommendation. While many in the snowmobile committee may not find it popular I would hope the committee members reference the CDAC’s own charter (below) which is to make recommendations for deer hunting, not to be overwhelmed by other interests. An extended season does not guarantee a negative impact on snowmobiling as the weather is very uncertain and as committee members pointed out does not close all trail lands or prevent trails from being marked after the ground has frozen. Lastly, I would encourage the CDAC to pay attention to increasing predator populations which in my opinion are impacting deer populations. County Deer Advisory Council Charter

- Gather public opinion on deer populations and goals, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.
- Review and consider scientific metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat and agriculture and human-deer interactions.
- Provide the department with recommendations on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.

I support what CDAC committees mission to maintain a healthy deer herd. Unfortunately, the ability to provide measures to support this mission is limited by the state government. A couple of thoughts as options are discussed: * I believe extending the archery season until the end of January is a mistake. We have snowmobile tourism and other activities impacted, this is not in the best interests of the many. Archery hunters have a liberal season and I am opposed to extending. * I like the 3 additional tags instead of 2 since there is still a positive impact on the deer kill numbers. I hope this decision is not made on some type of additional cost factor. * If some type of earn a buck program is not going to be permitted, simply extending seasons is not an effective strategy to reduce deer numbers. I hope that an emphasis is placed on maintaining a healthy deer herd and sportsman working together to reach goals is the focus. I believe trusting Science as it relates to Covid19 and CWD will help people understand how hunting and the impact of the decisions we make today impact the future of the hunting tradition.

While I truly believe in fact based management, I believe that inclusion of the premise of a MOST LIKELY to OCCUR rational MUST also be part of the equation. IE; If there would be no buck harvest allowed in 2020 what is most likely to occur? More hunters shooting 5000 antlerless or more hunters will simply NOT hunting and spending money in BUFFALO COUNTY or WISCONSIN on deer hunting? I'm not proving an answer just THE question. If the Post hunt population has been hovering around that 21 DPSM number (your data points for many years, what is the rational for doubling antlerless harvest the data doesn't point to that as a relative goal. Become MORE targeted in the approach, begin with removing more deer from areas that have received CROP DAMAGE Payments, go back each successive year and plot out POPULATION ESTIMATES in those areas then establish the numbers to be taken out that way. IF the population is truly to high. Enlist the opinions of the CROP FARMERS as they CAN TELL you where there are too many deer. they see the damage 1st hand! This is not really that tough if you break it down this way.

The land owner really is the person in control not CDAC. The rules should be written to cover all of Buffalo County private land ownership interests. Private land management rules need to change. Private land should be identified if leased by an outfitter or owned by an out of state party. The outfitters and out of state hunter typically have no interest in reducing the doe/deer population. The outfitters and out of state hunters are driven to harvest bucks only. Three years nothing has changed. Wisconsin should consider a points system to reduce buck harvest from non-resident hunters. What is the success rate of non-resident hunters vs resident hunters. I assume the non-residents are doing very well because of the outfitters leasing private land. I hunt in Iowa every other year because they have a point system. The buck management is superior to WI. I'd like to see an increase in the cost of a non resident tag. The Buffalo County rules need to change to reduce the number of bucks killed by non resident hunters. I'd like to see the numbers for success rate residents vs non residents.
I have hunted a private parcel in Buffalo County for the past 15 years. I am on stand during archery season a total of 30 sits, all day for 4 days of the gun season, finally an additional 2 entire days of the muzzleloader season. I see only about 1 deer per archery sit (3-4 hours) and 5 deer in an all day sit during gun and muzzleloader seasons. I am silent, scent free and by use of trail cams my hunt locations are well used by deer. I hunt locations based on the wind as well. I just don't see that many deer and neither do my hunting partners (the property owners). I don't know how you come up with your population estimate, but I trust your science! Just as I was trusted as a WIDOT project engineer overseeing major highway and bridge construction projects for 27 years out of the Madison District. Everything you present is spot on if the deer are there. We know we have deer from all of our camera (15 cams) data, but we don't see them much on stand. We can't help you decrease the population as we just don't see them. I apologize for the rambling! Thank you!

Our biggest concern in our hunting party has been the poor weather conditions for so many consecutive years. Too warm and zero snow cover during the season. Thus year literally one week after the season closed, there was snow. The conditions make it very difficult to see the deer, track the deer and even to drive the deer. One has to be lucky and be at the exact right spot on opening day. I only saw two deer I kicked up at once on Monday morning and they disappeared into the brush too soon to consider a safe shot. I our opinion, considering moving the hunting to just a week later seems to be way over due. Private land hunt's seem to do well up there for the obvious reasons but we not only cannot afford the land owners rates, but have not been even able to find private land available in the area to rent. Some of the public areas are not even accessible due to the wet swampy conditions and need improvements so hunters can safely make access. Hunting has been a family tradition for almost 50 years but of late has become increasingly frustrating.

As a Buffalo County outdoorsman, that hunts all season long, I feel that it is in our best interest to keep the deer populations strong in our county. We are the number one producer of B&C bucks in the country. By increasing the amount of deer killed every year we are lowering the amount of bucks to grow into their potential. That potential is why people come from all around to hunt here, and drives this economy. That is far more then just guides, that's hotels, restaurants, bars, etc. Also the deer population is not steady across the entire county. I hunt in the township of Dover, and do not see these hundreds of deer that were claimed to be seen on a simple drive around the block. Creating a measure to decrease the deer population substantially would decimate my local deer population. As far as an antlerless only season, it would drive more people to hunt else where. People would not come to Buffalo to hunt does. This measure would surely back fire, I would not even hunt in Buffalo county if this was the case.

Buffalo Co. never recovered from EAB and with adding crossbows the mature bucks will take another hit, every year there are more Predators, last year we had more pictures of Bobcats, coyotes, bears than mature bucks. The idea of handing out more doe tags is a joke, most land is private they want the big buck and don't shoot does, it won't happen because of greed but the only way to fix it is 1 Buck no matter which tool, the mature bucks are gone because, a bow buck, a gun buck, trimming does is being done on fawns by all the predators, I owned land in Buffalo for 47 years and its the worst I've seen it talked to several outfitters they say the same, I gun hunted opening to days in the Waumandee area, heard maybe 15 shots Saturday, couple Sunday, Buddy hunts Fountain City never saw a deer and the DNR claims over 4,000 deer killed, don't buy it, I had read record herd last year but the kill down 25%, then excuses. Kill everything that moves is your motto and add more days to the season.
The state of WI and the WI DNR should be able to limit the amount of liquified manure is sprayed on BOTH private and public hunting lands. Have witnessed an all but elimination of deer in certain fields saturated with liquified manure. Ariel photos of some of these fields resemble them being flooded and puddling due to the quantity of this manure. Maybe this is a good idea for farmers and the soil but certainly NOT good for deer or turkey populations. These corporate farms also lay their huge manure lines over 5-10 miles of roadways and they also have extremely loud and enormous gas powered portable pumps set up to keep the manure flowing for miles from their source. WI seems to be the only state that allows this practice as I've never seen it anywhere else. These 1000 head corporate farms are doing a terrible disservice to the wildlife in the areas they spray this crap. Our fields used to be full of migrating geese and other wildlife. Not anymore sadly!

During the 2019 deer season (gun and bow) it seemed to me there were very low numbers of mature bucks around. It’s a little unusual being most of my neighbors only shoot bucks if they are mature. There was still a very high doe ratio however. I know the CDAC advisory did not recommend having a antlerless framework for this year 2020, probably due to the nature of being Buffalo county. However, I myself and some other people I talked to really would not mind visiting a antlerless framework for one year. It would give the bucks a year to grow and mature and it would focus the hunting on does which would bring the ratio to where it needs to be. There seems to be enough does in the farmland area that during rut, each buck locks down his own doe and they don’t move. When the ratio is right, the bucks move more in order to breed. I’d like to see a year of antlerless. I wouldn’t even mind to see the antlerless season gun and bow extend to the end of January.

I have lived and hunted in this county for 21 years. The past 3-4 years I have seen the deer kills within our neighborhood continue to be reduced as well as deer sightings. That isn’t for a lack of hunting and our trail cameras only confirm this. With a tremendous increase in bobcat/coyote sightings and an over abundance of tags with a combination 30 +/- days of gun hunting I wonder why? How many people on the cdac committee couldn't even find a deer to shoot during the 2019 9-day? Now I hear that there is another proposal to extend the archery season, for what logical/biological reason would that be? I am not going to guess what games are being played behind the scenes amongst the board, but c’mon. How many individuals showed up last spring to voice their opinion and take time out of their schedule to only have this thrown back at them again this year. Slap in the face is an understatement!!! I am 100% against the extended archery season.

The first point that I want to make on your presentation video that I just watched is that you were comparing a declining archery harvest and showing a graph that starts pre-2008 with a declining archery harvest even then. You attribute the current decline to an increase in crossbow. I believe that in your estimation here, you have maybe unknowingly implied that the introduction of allowing and permitting crossbows is the reason that the vertical bow harvest is declining. When in fact the vertical bow harvest has been declining for multiple years even before crossbows were introduced. The other side of the argument that you should refer to before assuming and implying that crossbows are the reason that the harvest has declined is that maybe crossbow harvest has increased because of introducing new hunters to archery season. So those are some things you might want to think about before you post another video like this for Buffalo County.

I can not for the life of me understand why we are considering changing laws for hunting in June for the September through December hunts, of the same year. We need to know before we book a hunt 9 months in advance, what the rules are. Put yourself in the hunters situation. The hunter books a hunt for a Buffalo County trophy hunt, only to travel there and find out that they can only shoot a doe. Really need to be thinking of next year’s rules this year. This equates to a driver going down the highway at posted speed, and the state changing the speed limit signs behind him, and he gets a ticket for going faster then the new posted speed. I hunted six days at ten hours a day, and saw nineteen bucks, twenty does and only five fawns. That is sixty hours of hunting and only 44 deer. Just for the record I do not sleep while in the stand. Thank you, and I hope for no rule changes for this year.
I have leased farmland in buffalo county for 35 years and guided for over 20 of them basically covering the southern portion of the county. In my opinion there is more deer density in different areas of the county, where the big outfitters are there are a lot more deer (I personally guided for one of them for nine years). Because of the nature of there business they choose not to harvest does and focus more attention on the trophy buck. Those are the areas I have personally seen a more abundance of does. I believe something positive could be done in these areas working together and forming committees to help track and monitor the numbers, with the use of cell cameras nowadays that everyone seems to be running more accurate numbers could be achieved. I would personally volunteer to be or head up a committee made up of some outfitters and bigger land owners and crop farmers to help achieve goals.

Let's do what is right for the deer for once. We have too many antlerless deer and they need to be harvested. Its so simple I want my grandkids to be able to enjoy this as much as I have. A longer season is a joke. It does not address the problem of too many deer. Allowing them to shoot bucks as far as I can see helps the outfitters. If you are really letting bucks go you can bet the outfitter will have the best food plots. So if he is within a couple miles of your piece you can bet where those bucks will be. He can pick them off one by one. You keep changing everything exactly opposite what is best for the deer. You wonder why deer hunter numbers are going down. I get very passionate over this. Ever since Dr. Deer has been here the state is in a state of turmoil. Seasons are long enough and have the guts to do what is right for the deer. I'll stop as my blood pressure is going up.

The holiday hunts are great, but being they are antlerless they prohibit me from taking a buck with my bow. Extending the season into January forces me to use next years vacation if I want to hunt other than the weekends as sunset is very early that time of year. The time between Christmas and New Years is typically a great time to slip out and get a few more days in the stand with my bow and get that one that slipped by during the rest of the season. In the past you also had more than 1 special hunt in Buffalo county and it to was anterless, which took more days of Buck harvest out of my grasp. We can easily harvest more than 1 deer a day on our land, but choose not to as we selective harvest and if we donate the deer, there is still a lot of our time and labor put into giving it away. We typically let them walk as we harvest what we will eat over the next year.

Re-Implement the Earn-a-Buck program and allow some level of deer baiting. Reasonable give and take between hunters desires and appropriate measures for scientific deer herd management are critical to ensure hunters/landowners feel they have input into the process of determining regulations and to ensure the safety of the population and environment. Reducing numbers supports the reduction of environmental impact and CWD. Allowing some level of baiting maybe against the information about CWD spreading but it is something hunters greatly desire, which will create ownership and buy-in. Two further comments, the numbers for the Earn-a-Buck season support many more antlerless being taken during that program and CWD spreading through baiting is not 100% supported by the evidence, CWD spreading through overpopulation is supported better than the baiting argument.

I have no time for the holiday hunt, nor any late season antlerless. IF, and I mean IF, there needs to be an antlerless season, I would prefer a MUZZLELOADER ANTLERLESS season early in the fall. I fully support bow/crossbow to stay as is even though no one in my family uses a crossbow including as a future tool (and opportunity) should there be a need to increase antlerless harvest. This would be far better than extending or adding any firearm season. Though I know that this is not part of your survey (nor your decision) I also hope that we NEVER go back to in person registration. I often chose not to shoot a deer in the past because I do not want to go see anyone during hunting season. That's my break from the real world. Thanks to all the people that donate so much time and effort on behalf of our wildlife and hunting tradition!
Please consider earn a buck again to manage antlerless population. The best way to achieve this is earn a buck next year. This means if you want to shoot a buck next year you must shoot an antlerless deer this year. This doesn’t prevent the hunters who only show up for the antlers from shooting a buck, but also gives people a chance to stay in county and harvest a doe in order to receive a buck tag next year. This doesn’t affect the outfitters outside of guests that come every year, and if they come every year they should participate in antlerless harvest. This doesn’t hurt anyone from harvesting a buck this year. But it substantially prevents people from shooting their buck and running. It brings business back to the county. The only fear for a buffalo county hunter that will force them to shoot a doe is to threaten their buck tag.

I know that the deer population that the cdac reports are not accurate. Some areas have higher deer population then others but no where near what is being reported by the committee. Buffalo county does not need a holiday hunt or a extended bow/crossbow season. Just because there are a few land owners that want to decrease the deer population on their property doesn’t mean we all have to suffer. Deer population in my township of Dover is no where near what is being claimed and has been on the decrease for the past several years. Please keep this in mind that a one size fits all approach does not work. Also the creation of the CDAC was to give the public, hunters, land owners representation to the DNR not to just come up with their own plans without any regard to what the public input ask's/want's. Thank you for listening.

On my land over the past years I've not seen any increase in the number of deer. I see more does with only one fawn probably because of the high coyote population. The surrounding land area is hunted with moderate pressure and the harvest is accordingly. This area is not highly agricultural thus keeping deer of more controlled numbers. I understand that there's high density areas for deer but such is not widespread. I think if there'd be a way to increase deer harvest in those high density areas would be more sensible. At best the hunters on my property over the last few years only have about a 50% success rate. The car‐deer kill in my area is also of moderate if not lower over the past few years. I can only advise to concentrate on the high deer number areas which from my travels is not that much of an issue.

My feelings are that the firearms season(s) have become to long along with the antlerless only hunts. #1 The muzzleloader and regular firearms season should be combined into the regular 9 day season. If not, then muzzleloader should go back to the traditional (flintlock, percussion cap) black powder, open sights, lead ball (no sabots, no smokeless powder, no powder pellets, no optical sights, no inline, etc.) This season has just become an extension of the regular firearms season and has lost all attachment with the nostalgia of primitive firearms hunting. All of the additional antlerless only hunts have impinged on the ability to hunt either sex deer as an archery hunter when I have the time available to hunt. They have basically extended the firearms season to about a full month when 9 days used to be adequate.

I see more hunters on public land than I do any wildlife. Many of them do not respect the nature at all. If you walk through Tiffany Bottoms right now, there are still hanging deer stands that hunters leave behind to claim their spots. If you guys don't take them down, they are getting on Ebay very soon here as Covid-19 has me broke for a couple months. Please take them down so I don't do anything stupid. Please do take a walk through Tiffany Bottoms and see it's destruction these bad hunters leave behind. Anyways, deer has really decreased in this area due to over hunting. I see more deer on private lands along hwy 25 then on hwy 35. Please do take those deer stands down before I do please! 1/4 mile before duck lake along the atv road and to the east a long the creek is over a dozen of these hanging stands.
It would nice /beneficial to have an earlier muzzle loader hunt maybe the same weekend as youth gun hunt or change antlerless only to muzzleloader, as to make archery hunters only wearing orange on that weekend - i use a flint lock and have hunted the muzzle loader weekend for the past 10 years and have yet to get a deer its harder than bow in my opinion. I also believe the disruption to deer patterns during regular gun from hunter/ scent movement makes that weekend very difficult and its almost always below 0. Additionally i would think an early season for muzzle loader ( before regular gun) with the possibility of shooting a buck would yield a higher turn out and more anterless taken cause you can be more selective of deer size and would still have regular gun to get the “big one” so time to fill the freezer.

I think one thing that should be considered is multiple season overlap. For example, during the holiday hunt, you should allow bow/crossbow for bucks to continue, you’d have to wear orange still. I also think extending the gun season to a 16 day season would be good. Start it on week earlier. The muzzleloader season should encompass two weekends, but not overlap with gun. A wild proposal would be to allow muzzleloader before gun. On a side note, my favorite option would be an Oct/Nov 8 week, any weapon choice deer season. I think we’d be surprised by the outcome. Have the option to close the season once the quota has been met. You could also close the buck or doe harvest individually. Bottom line, a new concept would be monitoring the season based on quota, instead of time.

I have been hunting the same 100 acres for over 20 years. The first 10 years hunting was great, seeing a lot of deer an being able to be selective on the deer I wanted to harvest. The past 10 years, hunting has been horrible. We have not taken one doe off this property in the past 10 years and this year I hunted over 100 hours during the bow season and saw 11 deer, 7 bucks and 4 does. My neighbors group never saw a deer during the gun season and that is a 240 acre partial. Most of my friends from this area are having the same experience that I am having. I am not sure if predators or over harvest from past years is the cause, but I and many others in this area are losing our zest for deer hunting.

If the extended archery season does not pass, in order to allow the snowmobilers to have their normal season length, could the holiday hunt could be removed to allow archers to hunt antlered/antler-less deer following the muzzleloader season? To my knowledge there is not a running tally of deer harvest during the season. Hunters get a knowledge of the results but not a running knowledge of performance. What if we had an online running tally throughout the season of total harvest to give hunters a visual of the current totals and the progress toward the goal harvest? We register via phone or online already, maybe creating an algorithm to add to the tally with each registration would help hunters know where we stand throughout the season.

I understand why you guys want to reduce the number of deer. You have to remember all land is not equal. We have hot spots in this county. Our farm is not a hot spot. So pushing us to shoot more deer is not the right thing to do. It drives me nuts to drive around and see a 100 deer in a field. Like I said you will not see this on our farm. Unfortunately I think this needs to be handled on a land owner basis. I know you guys get alot of resistance but many of us really do not have the deer that you guys think. As far as crossbows go. The number of gun licenses sold will continue to go down as long as crossbows are legal. People are not going to freeze their butts in November if they can shoot their deer with a crossbow in October.

Deer numbers were down extremely this past season in our area. 200 acres of cropland, creek, river, and swamp land. Seen a few bucks and a couple doe during bow and crossbow season. Seen 2 deer during gun and muzzleloader. Pushed hard all seasons. Predator kills which I feel have been major the last couple years as we have had 8 different bobcats, a couple bears, and lots of coyotes on camera and seen in person. Car kills numbers are unknown as most are not reported. Fawn kill in the spring has been excessive due to predators. Seen 3 fawns grow up on the farm last year every day of which one was hit by a car, one was killed by predators, and one made through the season. That is not very good odds for Buffalo county.
Should allow archery hunting for bucks during the holiday hunt. This provides benefits for everyone, financially for businesses benefiting from hunting, allowing hunters killing deer of other species which is part of the overall deer reduction goal. I believe in the town hall meeting that I took part in last month the issue of extending the archery season through January was killed, you have given people false hope by putting it in the survey is misleading and unfair to the public as you are making people agree to the Holiday hunt in order to vote for season extension which you shut down; That is disingenuous. On behalf of CDAC and create lack of trust in the public.

There's barely any public land in this county and the public land that is open has way too many traffic or hunters for us to be allowing so many deer tags for public property, if we can separate public from private, that will be best interest for future generations. For example; Public should be down to one antler and antler-less for both gun and archery tags. And private can continue with their one antler and three or two antler-less tags as private has bigger deer population. Most if not all deer-vehicle accidents occur along lands in private areas than public. That is why I feel private land tags should stay the same but public land tags should decrease. Thank you.

The unregulated outfitters around my area promoting bow hunting are getting a lot of private lands that were accessible to hunters who asked and got permission, are now closed unless you pay them to hunt. The well organized bow hunters association has way too much influence on how, when, and where I can hunt as well as what deer I should be hunting like not what they consider their bucks. I favor closing buck season in buffalo county because all the antler crazy bow hunters would bale and go to other deer zones. They have single handedly closed private lands for other hunters who want to hunt grouse, squirrels, wood ducks, and fall turkey with a gun.

Seems that with a goal to lower the herd count that there isn't more emphasis on increasing the number of hunters/ licences sold. The season changes to accommodate gun hunters is ridiculous. The reason WI has a quality buck age structure is largely due to the current gun season timing. I don't understand the problem. Bow hunting is available to all. If anyone thinks that hunting during the rut or any other non gun season, they're welcome to join us. I heard allot about some people seeing allot of deer and others not. If you want allot of deer, you need to put in the off season effort and practice hunting methods that favor deer desires.

You would be insane to make an antlerless only season in Wisconsin's number 1 trophy county. You would put countless guides and outfitters out of business in a single year. What's more, each property owner manages his land how he or she sees fit. Not everyone cares about antlers (though in buffalo the vast majority do). Let us hunt, and BTW WE NEED A WOLF SEASON IN THE NORTHWOODS. I know MANY individuals who have stopped hunting because of your disastrous "management" of wolves. If you insist on having them here (lord only knows why, we are the predator in the eco system now, they are unnecessary) then at least let us shoot them.

I am absolutely opposed to an Antlerless only season! I invest thousands of $ each year in Buffalo County with businesses and contributing Property Taxes! I purchased my property to Hunt and Manage the land and Deer population. We contribute and set Antlerless kills based on the numbers of deer we actually SEE on properties. We harvest doe's every year! I will personally sell my property and not hunt this year or any other year if it is Antlerless only. See that what does to property values in Buffalo County? What will it do to Small Business owners like Feedmills, Implement dealers, Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Hardware Stores etc.?

I strongly disagree with holiday hunt. This completely screws up late season archery hunting with bow. You pound the deer with crossbow archery during rut. Pound them with guns for 9 days. Youth hunt. 2 days 10 day muzzloader. T zone doe hunt 4 days. And you still want to hunt deer into late season archery with guns. You should be ashamed of yourself. That is whiteman greed. You go buy a archery liscense and go sit late season. After rifle hunting and see how many deer you see on public. Wow natural resource board and lawmakers Make me want to puke. I'm hunting more worthy states from now on!!!
To me this topic is a double edged sword. I own roughly 400 acres of land. Both Ag and woodland and the deer population on these properties isn't that great. I'm lucky if I even see a deer when I go out hunting. But then I listen to others telling stories that they see 10 to 20 deer a night, plus driving around the county in certain areas I see this myself. So the problem at hand here reducing the deer populations in those areas and how to achieve it. Generally these problem areas are owned by landowner or a group of landowners where the hunters/ acres ratio is to low. So this is the issue in my mind that need to be addressed.

I believe you are doing a great job in trying to manage the deer herd. The crossbow/archery season should be extended, regardless as to whether there is a holiday hunt or not. What would be the point of not extending it if you want to reduce the herd? In addition, the Earn a Buck was actually a great way to reduce the antlerless population. Why not at least use it in counties where there are a lot of does? It is simple--you cannot shoot a buck until you have registered a doe! Bring back the back tags--you know who is hunting and who isn't. And, you know who has already registered a deer or not. Thanks for allowing input!!

I am 55 year old Male land owner in Buffalo County. I grew up in this area and plan to move my residence from La Crosse County to Buffalo County in the next 12 to 16 months. I have spent my life enjoying the outdoors. I have planted 25,000 trees in this county and believe I have a very in dept understanding of how our deer population impacts our environment. I appreciate the work this team is doing. My recommendation is simple! I ask that your team consider aiming smaller and then you will be more likely to hit your target:) In other words, make more antler-less harvest permits available by township. (Aim Smaller please)

As a non resident who is involved in a lease situation, even with the presence of cwd you need to return to some form of baiting in this county. So many private landowners are leaving standing crop to circumvent baiting it is having an adverse effect on deer congregating, previously where you could draw small groups with bait, now you have in the past 2 years fields with over 130 deer in them together, and I'm referring to some 2 acre plots on my borders, and the landowners refuse to harvest does because they get to potentially shoot 8 bucks in their family and don't want the venison

I have hunted for 65years and have spent many hours in the woods all year walking all over the land taking care cutting elm and other vines @buckthorn. I have hunters that next to my land that if its brown shoot it. I let my 1@2 year hunters shoot a doe or buck of any set of antlers and really gets them active in hunting. The rest of us shoot bucks with horns beyond the ears. If we don't get any then take a couple of does too share with all of the group. I see the deer numbers have drops over my 65 years of hunting. In my early years I would see over a 100 deer in 3 days.

There is no need for higher antlerless deer quotas. There was almost no claims for crop damage, there were also almost no claims for ag tags. The currently population is down right where it’s at. When I drive and hunt in Trempealeau County I don’t see any difference in the number of deer there vs the number in Buffalo County and yet that County is not be required to reduce the deer herd like Buffalo County. If there was truly and over population of deer like some are trying to push then there would be wide spread claims of crop damage and this clearly isn’t happening.

I know its hard to micro manage I understand that. but the northern half of buffalo county is way different than the southern half of buffalo county. I have lived in both areas and the northern half of the county has way less deer than the southern half and needs to be managed differently. I have said this for many years but nobody listens. I have been in these woods for over 50 years, the last 3 or 4 previous winters have been very hard on our deer herd and numbers and they have not bounced back. I hope this doesn’t fall on deaf ears again. happy to talk anytime.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

578 I have had the great opportunity to hunt in the best place in the country. BUFFALO CO! The deer numbers are not what the officials say they are! I think we need to get back to how buffalo used to and bring back shotgun only! This would help build more trophy class whitetail, and larger deer herd. Buffalo Co was know for trophy whitetail and it's been in a decrease. With going shotgun only it would increase the deer herd and size of bucks. It would help all outfitters in the county which would help the communities in that area. Thanks for listening.

579 I would like to see earn a buck brought back to Buffalo County. We have to many deer and our neighbors do not shoot does. They sit and wait for one buck and than stop hunting. You can give them all the free doe tags you want but it doesn’t make them pull the trigger. I am all for the doe only season but I don’t think that will fix our problem. People that don’t want to shoot a doe just wont hunt. Also bring back registration stations. More people might submit their earn a buck CWD sample. It also helps the small town economy.

580 Keep our traditional firearms season in place. Close the archery season the Sunday before like years ago so the deer are not as spooky. Encourage landowners to let people hunt. Do not allow a youth or firearms antlerless season prior to the regular firearms season. Again do not spoke the deer. They are way to nocturnal now. If you ever make it earn a buck or antlerless only season I will not buy an out of state license. I get no satisfaction out of shooting does and worse yet a fawn. thanks for listening!

581 It does not matter how many tags are issued if people are unwilling to harvest deer and take pride is managing their own heard on their own private land. Extending the season will not increase the kill numbers and it will take away from the snowmobiling season as well. Holding a Holiday Hunt is not worth it either. Many hunter target late season bucks during this time. They have had plenty of opportunity during the regular gun and muzzleloader season to kill a doe if they were looking to fill the freezer.

582 I’ve hunted in Buffalo for 22 years and have seen a consistent big drop in quality of deer. I was against earn a buck and I was wrong. I’m all in now and I know others are as well. Is there any potential to doing something to increase the quality of the bucks we have? Even as a landowner I’d be ok having to draw a tag. Isn’t it time to raise the price of non resident tags? Other states sell tags for $4 or $500 with no problem. Why doesn't Wisconsin? How about outlawing baiting? Time for change!

583 The deer are not moving during hunting season. Too many people sit and wait. Hunters need to move the deer by driving them. Since Buffalo County became a money making industry the quality of the hunting has gone down. Some pocket never are touched during the season. Also hunters can tell if a deer has CWD, don’t need a state official to drive out to confirm what is clearly visible. Thank you for repairing the trout streams they are a lot of fun now, not as good as the Kinni but getting better each year.

584 We believe that the number and quality of bucks has decreased significantly since 2008. The Buck harvest numbers back that concern as we’re down almost 30 percent since 2012 with almost a steady decline annually. This used to be one of the top counties for quality bucks in the US but has been getting worse every year. Tourism, land values, and building activity have all benefitted substantially from that perception. In order to keep those benefits, it’s necessary to keep that quality intact.

585 We need to bring back earn a buck. I know it is not popular but it is the only way to reduce the population. If the DNR is truly worried about tourism they should bring back in person registration. That one thing has hurt the local revenue during the deer season. No one comes to town anymore because they don’t need to. You need only to drive through towns during the season. The streets used to be full of vehicles and the businesses full of people. Now the towns are like ghost towns.

586 There are so many deer and it seems like the “guides” only care about there clients taking a trophy buck. This area needs a few years of intense doe harvest to help balance the herd size, stop over browse and prevent deer illness. The guides need to be mandated to harvest doe in some manner or lose their guide license. They are not being good stewards of the land and species they hunt. My average deer sightings last November were over 35 deer a day, everyday! My freezer is overflowing.

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Buffalo, Central Farmland
Any suggestion of an "No-buck season" would absolutely be detrimental to people who lease land and the values tied to those parcels. Hunters help drive these local economies, improve these lands and can improve the health of these herds. We need to make sure we don't drive these hunters out of these deer havens but motivate them to help improve them. If reducing the population is the goal, increasing the number anterless tags is a good idea. A "no buck" season is not the answer!

Grow the crossbow season its the most versatile you can hunt from the ground or tree. Crossbow will out pace gun and bow combined if you let it. With the heard managemet practices, and growing your own big buck, harvest rates will continue to fall. Also deer wont move much with the new hunting strategies. Party hunting is not done much anymore, and maybe a good thing. However it moved the deer. In order to achieve your harvest goal you will need to bring back earn a buck.

If the archery/crossbow season is going to be extended, I would like it to be either sex, but only to the middle of January. Extending the hunting season to the end of the month puts too much added stress on deer. By mid-January, deer will have been hunted for exactly 4 months - that is a long time. I would not add 2 more weeks to get to the end of January. Deer need time to recover and deal with the rigors of winter which will be well underway by the middle of January.

The extended archery season is not needed, there is ample opportunity to harvest a deer. In my opinion the number of doe shot in that season would be minimal and wouldn't do much for herd control. There is also a very real possibility that other recreation could be shut down because of it. Like access to land for small game hunting, trapping. Also snowmobiling, which could impact the county economically and hurt our businesses. There is more to do in this county than hunt.

Extending the season until the end of January won't result in more antlerless deer being harvested. DO NOT extend the season until the end of January. Bucks are casting their antlers and anyone with a buck tag unfilled will target bucks, not does. Bring back EAB (if legislative changes are made after the spring hearing) or make 2020 in buffalo county antlerless only for one year! Holiday hunt (anterless only) and late t zone (anterless only) must stay in place!

There's more deer in this county than you think. I think earn a buck or 1 year of antlerless would justify the correct amount of deer. Open up crop damage tags for everyone to use/ask to hunt on the land. The biggest problem is the outfitters don't shoot any does on all the land they lease. They might say they shoot deer and register them but the majority don't. Just drive around by all the land thats leased and you will see the mass amounts of deer on them.

The hunting season and pressure put on the deer in the Buffalo County area has increased throughout the years. I’ve noticed a big increase in deer being shot but not found on property because of the extended season. I’ve noticed a big increase in how long the hunting season for Whitetail. I’m not quite sure the purpose behind it all but it’s affecting the quality of deer and how often you see deer in the woods. Thank you for ability to express my opinion.

After hunting this area 5miles NE of Nelson, and through studying our group’s deer cam photos, our concerns are: 1. Serious drop in trophy sized bucks seen, 2. Significant increase in predators, mostly coyotes and bobcats, 3. No corresponding increase in does/fawns even though we don't harvest any, and 4. Contrary to some views, we believe the quality of Buffalo bucks has dropped steadily since 2011 and our overall deer sightings are declining.

No matter what you do, you will never be able to force people to shoot does. We need to make less rules so we can get people into hunting as we are losing hunter numbers. Leave crossbow and bow seasons alone and stick to a 9 day traditional gun season. Bringing back in person registration stations would be nice too. If this state gets too messed up with their regulations, I will just take my money elsewhere and hunt other states.
We do not need the 4 day doe hunt, holiday hunt, or an extended bow/crossbow season. What needs to be done in this unit is bring back earn a buck. This unit is considered a trophy buck area for the state and the only way to get landowners and others that hunt the private land is to make them shoot a doe to get authorized to shoot a buck. With earn a buck enough does will be harvested so we will not need the extra seasons. Thanks.

The number of deer are not as high as some would make it out to be. Until hunters get it out of their minds that Buffalo County is all big bucks and start shooting some does, we will continue to be overpopulated. With all the land being bought up by Big Buck Hunters, the deer have too much area to take refuge without any hunting pressure. Makes it very difficult for the basic meat hunters to even have a chance to harvest a doe.

Our WI dnr is the worst dnr in the country!!! Baiting should be legal in all counties but regulated like it was before. Registration of deer and turkeys needs to go back to the way it was so numbers are actually accurate. Earn a buck for buffalo county wouldn't hurt but needs to be regulated and monitored to does only; not nubby bucks or doe fawns. Turkey season should be like deer season and not limited to a certain time.

2019 saw few deer, hunted 19 days both gun and archery. Shot a old doe with rifle, nothing with bow. 2017 and 18 saw many deer, harvested nice bucks with bow and hunted 6 days combined the 2 seasons. Shot 1 buck in 17 with rifle, didn’t need to harvest 2 deer for 2018. Last year saw fewer deer and less signs, did see an adult black bear on our trail cameras near Fountain City, maybe kept some deer away, don’t know.

Stop giving out so many tags and hunts we don’t see any deer like we use to 30 Years ago go back to anterless the first two days and that will be only deer you shoot or use it as buck tag! No one I know see the deer they want........... half as much as I use to because the deer that is shot durning bow hunting is so much more than it was 30-40 years ago..... hunting pressure is way worse than it has ever been.

Deer numbers in our area last year were way down. I don’t know where the DNR get there figures from on deer numbers. We did have more deer than needed in the past but the high amounts of snow last February 2019 along with high coyote numbers killed a lot of deer. I think the DNR should quit trying to add more hunts or make big changes. It just upsets more hunters to quit hunting. Let’s use some common sense!

weather was the number one factor in our 2019 deer season. A quicker reaction to this factor would have changed the harvest numbers for sure. Here in Buffalo County, town of Buffalo, we just could not see them due to the snow clinging to every branch in the woods. My family is doing this for the meat as top priority, but if a buck comes through on a drive, he should be eligible for harvest also. Thank you.

I personally think that Holiday hunt is absolutely a terrible idea! Even with the extended season if approved. Leave those poor deer alone. You have deer that are trying to recuperate from a long rut. Also do we not see a direct correlational with no baiting and the doe harvest? ALLOW baiting again and watch the does get killed!! I am sick of this cwd crap and the dnr taking my rights away THANKS.

In the past 15 years I have seen less and less deer. Drive the tops or the bottoms on a nice evening. Used to see 100 deer or so. Now driving 88 or blank hill rd during the evening you will see 20 deer tops. I have experienced less deer interactions while hunting. However, more importantly is the amount of deer overall in the county as noted above. You do not see them AT ALL like I used to.

I would like to see a separate muzzle loader season with a separate buck license. If I shoot a buck with my gun I will not be in the woods during muzzle loader season if I can’t shoot a buck. I am 63, have shot who knows how many deer over the past 50 years. We eat 2 deer a year. I fill doe tags early so if I am in the woods during muzzle loader it would be to only shoot a buck.

Earn a Buck? Oh, that's right, not a possibility, after the $$ saving online registration decision. I guess the possibility of the overpopulation of deer wasn't discussed when making this decision on deer registration. I don't know why we are filling these input surveys out. Just let the geniuses that decided to make the Earn a Buck impossible figure this all out.
I do not believe there are too many anterless deer. I also have heard the decision on extending the archery season thru January has already been voted down, if so your tricky way of asking the question and tying it to an anterless only season was misleading and dishonest. The only way I support a holiday hunt is if you leave either sex open for archery.

I farm 1700 acres in Buffalo county. I also bow hunt and rifle hunt. The amount of deer damage to row crops is bad. There are way to many anterless deer. The buck to doe ratio is to the extreme more does then bucks. The quality of bucks is way down. Doe only season would do well for the overall heard. Earn a buck needs to find its way back some how.

My belief is that outfitters need to apply for a permit in order to guide. I also feel that wether you put alittle bait out is no different then allowing food plots. Both are in interest of drawing deer. And it doesn't help any that private land owners buy up all the land in order to maybe harvest 1 deer. And not allowing anyone else to fill tags.

It will not be popular but I believe you should consider earn a buck. It forces hunters to harvest that doe immediately and not wait until the end of the season when those chances diminish or hunters decide not to go out. Please consider changing the youth hunt to, youth and seniors. By seniors I mean over 70 or 75 years of age. Thank you

The CDAC needs to have tools available to them to decrease antlerless deer numbers across Buffalo County. What they have now isn't working. Get the legislature to bring back earn‐a‐buck and people will finally shoot antlerless deer again. It's the only thing that has worked in the past and it's the only thing that will work in the future.

Much Fewer deer seen than carrying capacity indicates. 19 day gun season is insane and will not help you rid the area of the deer the DNR seems to dislike so much. Hunting has changed for the worse each year. Farms have been broken up into so many small parcels no matter where you are. Archery is the future of deer hunting in Wisconsin!

Buffalo county has become a haven for tax sheltered properties for the wealthy and is no longer a priority for locals to hunt on their own land. The DNR should limit the amount of non resident licenses and the ability to create "private deer preserves. This infringes on the family traditions and culture strong with Wisconsin citizens.

I would prefer that the extended season harvest also be "anterless only." The deer population needs to be managed with "best practice" for sustained health of the deer resource. And the overall well being of entire ecosystem needs to be considered as the deer population imposes significant effects to forests, prairies, and crops.

Going back to the 80s and 90s where we had hunters drive there woods. Now we have to many hunters that either sit or not even go into there woods causing sabe haven for deer I can go into the woods the first weekend if I scare the deer to neighbors never see the deer again..they dont go through there woods to move the deer around.

We need to bring back back tags and physically tagging the harvested deer. Quit kidding ourselves on how many deer are taken illegally being that 92% is private land! Also should bring back physically registering deer to give the wardens a fighting chance! I believe the deer kill is much higher than the deer that are registered.

Two thoughts on population. First: 80% of all does I've seen the past 3yrs have a maximum of 1 fawn by autumn. Second: My experience in the NW section of the county doesn't show the over populated landscape I've been led to believe. Buffalo is a large county, populations vary by location. Please take that into consideration.

20 years of hunting deer in this area (archery only), I have seen a remarkable decrease of deer population in the areas I hunt. Driving 35 miles each way through Buffalo County to work, I have seen a significant decrease in winter deer yard numbers this past year. Spring counts year to date also are significantly smaller.
We see more bear now than we ever have, we also have a large coyote population. I believe these factors are having a larger affect on the deer herd than the DNR accounts for. Before we started seeing bears it was easy to see 20-40 deer opening day gun deer season. 2019 I didn't see 20 the deer the entire season.

I live and hunt in buffalo co. but don't see the population of deer increasing. Seems the effort to decrease the herd numbers is unwarranted. You can give out any number of antlerless permits, but people can’t be forced to fill them. I’m afraid if we decrease the herd and CWD takes hold we won't have any deer left.

We hunt near the towns of Modena & Urne in Buffalo county. The number of deer seen within our group of 10 in the last couple of years are down significantly from previous years. This is based on trail cams and individuals during the hunting seasons. 2 years ago, we seem to see more bucks than does.

Huge supporter for having an anterless only hunt for as many years as it takes. Let's get back to the roots of hunting in this area as they were 30 years ago. When did conservation of our wildlife get trumped by tourist hunters who are not part of the community for the other 50 weeks of the year.

I think we should keep the season the same, due to the weather condition's we experienced in 2019. I also believe crossbows should be used only by 65 plus, and hunters with doctor approved disability s. How about being able to use the two Doe tags for ether private or public? Thank you!

Thanks for allowing me to voice my opinions. I think it would be nice if land owners would be able to harvest 2 adult doe year round by providing them a Special free owners license as long as they own the land. It would help reduce the population that the DNR is concerned with. Thanks

Buffalo County needs to either have an antlerless only season or bring earn a buck back. Earn a buck was the best thing to ever happen to the county. For health and quality of the heard. It also improved rutting activity by bringing the numbers back in check for a couple years.

I suggest keeping buck hunting available for bow only during the holiday hunts. Extend either or weapon for does till the end of the year. That gives us "deer property managers" ample time to decrease the herd on our property. Ultimately were looking to decrease antlerless deer

Keep fighting for EAB to be an option again, while working on bringing back in person registration. DO NOT extend either sex hunting until the end of January. ...Keep the holiday hunt and t zone hunts, all antlerless...bring an antlerless only season back to the table

The southern half of buffalo county's deer herd is way down. when I was hunting I seen very few deer. I think the problem is in the norther half of the county. Where you have all the Buck hunters and the outfitters. I think outfitters should be outlawed and done away with.

The CDAC needs tools to get hunters to harvest antlerless deer. Hunters aren't harvesting near enough antlerless deer in Buffalo County. The tools the CDAC has do not work in counties with high deer populations. The evidence is the the past 3 years of harvest records.

Need to consider going back to Earn-a-Buck; that's how the antlerless population will be reduced. Too much private land where hunters manage their own property and don't harvest enough antlerless deer. This is only way to influence reduction on antlerless population

On my farm near Nelson wi the deer population was the lowest i've ever seen it in the 25 years i've owned my farm. This was due to a harsh winter in the prior year. I found many dead deer and remains of Turkeys. We do not have an over population of doe in our area.

100% against extending the bow/Xbow season. Kind of like deja vu here. Pretty sure we went down this road last year! Stirring the pot is not something you do especially with what’s going on in society today- keep the season framework the same as last year.
bring back earn a buck. the cost and time to process an antlerless deer causes hunters traveling any distance from taking a does. Many have good intentions but don’t follow through due to the cost and time balanced with work and family commitments.

I am opposed to extending the bow season, I believe it will affect other tourism brought in by snowmobiling. I believe if someone really wants a deer they have plenty of time to harvest one either in early archery or gun season or muzzleloader season.

Doesn’t make sense to decrease farmland tags when the goal is to decrease the population. Extending season to the end of January MAY impact snowmobile trails but the snowmobile clubs should not be the determining voice. It should be the landowners.

Thank you for your diligent efforts. I understand that there are many divergent interests in the mix of these considerations, and that there are great challenges to the chore of balancing the load. Again, I appreciate what you do. Thank you!

WE HAVE NO DEER TO HUNT ANYMORE THANKS YOUR GREAT ANTERLESS HUNTS !!! IVE BEEN HUNTING FOR 56 YEARS AND NEVER SEEN IT IS BAD !! FORGET ABOUT YOUR DAMN ANTERLESS HUNTS AND JUST LET THE HUNTERS CONTROL THE HERD BECAUSE YOU SURE CANT....

the outfitters should have some quotas set based on acreage owned and leased to harvest antlerless deer. they have large tracts of land with very few does taken. other states have programs that require outfitters to take set number of does.

Earn A Buck Worked for herd control. Bring it back. Have October T-zone hunt so gun hunters have an opportunity before 9 day season to Earn their buck. Regardless bring back October T-zone. Nobody wants a late/cold season antlerless hunt.

Please bring back the earn a buck program or another substitute. Although not well liked by many, it was an effective tool to reduce the deer numbers. Farming is tough enough without fighting overabundant wildlife for your profits. Thanks!

Only 1 buck per season per hunter. Not 1 per archery and 1 per gun license. My hunting area had a number of doe with no fawns. Running the season to Jan 31 is too long. I don’t feel it does anything but divide the hunting community.

I oppose change to the crossbow season. A crossbow hunting is just another type of bow hunting. If you are going to change the crossbow season by starting it later, then also change the regular bow season. Treat all bow hunters alike.

It is quite clear just by driving around at night in our county that the herd population is still rising. The abundance of deer is hard to ignore and anything we can do to help actually meet our quota for the year should be done.

Please do away with the holiday hunt...it screws up the whole December hunting....too much pressure I believe. Also do away with crossbows and put it back the way it was...or at least not let them hunt the rut. Thank you.

The deer hunting was fine back in the day when it was regular seasons. Bow hunt, rifle, and then muzzleloading, and then followed by late season bow. Let’s get back to the roots and stop trying to reinvent the wheel.

I feel the DNR does not have a good population estimate. 10 to 20 years ago there were much higher numbers. Yes there are pockets of high population but over all the county does not have the population of past years.

Please keep the 3 free antlerless tags with each license. It is very helpful in keeping the doe numbers in check. It would also be great to have a one buck per person per year rule and no group bagging of bucks.

Many hunters in our area won"t harvest a doe anyway that is the biggest problem. Much of outfitter controlled land never sees a doe harvested.I Also think licence prices should be raised after the season opens.
The increasing coyote population is very concerning. It seems to be having negative effect on small game population and deer/fawn population. What is the DNR planning on to control coyote population growth?

I feel the weather played a role in the gun deer season, causing kill to be down. I think the seasons should stay the same. Also the use of crossbows to 65 or older and fisical injured hunters. Thank you!

Holiday Hunt would be more desirable if it was Antlered and Antlerless. Crossbow use in November archery is important to get more people hunting. Crossbows allow for more people to confidently participate.

There is very few deer on the public land in the county. From what I hear the land owners will take anterless deer on public land but only a few off the private land so it does not hurt there deer herd

Go back to back tags, enforced deer registrations, raise the penalty for unlawful possession of a deer another $1000, consider bounty on coyotes, and double the number bobcat tags in the south zone

The deer herd is decimated. Poor management and promoting the slaughter of the animals has ruined the hunting seasons. Shooting more deer than you can eat should be a crime not encouraged!

Concerned about the coyote population taking a large toll on the deer numbers, found 6 carcasses on 80 acres this spring looking for sheds and know there are at least 2 active den sites there

The extended season is the only season we have not tried in Buffalo County. We are being told the no other seasons will be available until we try this as per NRB. So I say lets try it.

The only effective tool for controlling the deer herd in Buffalo county is Earn a Buck, It should be available to use when needed, and stopped when your herd is at the level you want

My suggestion is to raise the cost of out of state licensing. Also do a draw for out of state license to harvest a buck. Look at the costs to go else where and buy/get a buck tag.

Bring back the earn a buck that carries over from year to year. Encourage hunters to harvest does and mature bucks only so keep the heard in check and keep disease levels down.

Triple the cost to out-of-state licenses. Infuriating when I apply to Colorado and Wyoming and get screwed on licenses and out-of-staters to Wisconsin get by with minimal cost.

I would like to see ideas of how to help local DNR initiatives in Buffalo county. They mentioned something about white oaks, but it would be nice to know how we could help.

I believe there should be more restrictions on who is legal to hunt with a crossbow. It should not be open to everyone! They have a distinct advantage over vertical bows.

I hunt in Buffalo county next to a large group that shoot lots of deer. The numbers there have been down for the last 20 years since that family purchased the property.

I am in favor of the extended season for many different reasons, Number 1 it provides more time afield for some people that are off or that can get time off in January.

I would like to see a longer gun season. The last 2 years I had to leave a few days early due to bad weather. I am from Minnesota. I have to keep an eye on the roads.

I seen very few does this last year hunting bow and gun. I'm not sure if it was because all the alfalfa froze out on the farm. It's was a very strange year for sure

There are a few pockets where there are higher deer numbers but for most of the county the deer numbers are not as high as our cdac committee is making it seem.

do not consider earn-a-buck as a option. do not shorten the crossbow season. I would leave every thing as is. You are over estimating the size of the deer herd.
I like and support opening gun deer season earlier much like Michigan. I also would support the regeneration of the earn a buck program. This works.

Way too many deer being harvested!!! Definitely do not extend gun season people are already piling deer on trailers and not reporting the harvests!!!

Southern BC hasn't recovered from the EAB seasons. Low antlerless numbers and very low fawn numbers observed while hunting and with trail cameras.

Some questions we no opinion from me as I usually only hunt from just before Halloween until guns season begins. Then I go home and take a break.

Do Not extend Crossbow and archery season and expect the proper kill ratio you want. Work on legislation to secure earn a buck option again.

Bring back earn a buck. Require outfitters to harvest a quota. They have large tracts of large leased land with low numbers of does taken!

I would like to see ALL of Wisconsin follow what MN does. There deer population of mature whitetail dwarfs Wisconsin. Please consider it.

You all should consider a single buck tag for hunters that bow and gun hunt. It might help prevent an antlerless only season in the future.

Earn a buck is a very good way to decrease the doe population. On our land this spring we have been counting 30 to 45 deer each evening.

I do not support an antlerless only deer season. The potential interest/revenue loss from having this type of season would be great.

Too much gum pressure in Buffalo county. Doe and holiday hunt have ruined late season bow or muzzle hunts. Deer go nocturnal!!!!

Come on! Extending archery through January to provide more opportunity for archers? They already have four months! What a laugh!

After years of hearing how many deer there are, do you know amazing it is to go out and see three deer in a sit? Amazing.

Extending the archery season will not help kill more does. EAB and/or antlerless is the only way to reduce population.

Years ago we had an over populated doe problem, not anymore. When I go hunting I see bucks like I use to see does.

Allow hunters to shoot Wolves all over the state. Stop with the non-sense at the DNR level. I approve this message.

Continue with antlerless only holiday hunt. Don’t extend archery to the end of January, unless it’s antlerless only.

Predators numbers have grown including coyotes, bobcats and the occasional bear as has evidence of predation.

I didn't see on this report, but was told about an extended gun hunt season. I oppose extending gun season.

Thanks for the "feel good" questions. Nothing like making us feel like we have a say in anything.

At least CDAC is listening (kind of) to the evidence there are not as many deer as once believed.

What about your buck tag is no good until a reasonable amount of does are killed for the county.

Bring back the deer please. Everyone knows he alleged numbers are so over estimated. Get real.

Less and less #'s...people complain there are so few deer and yet cdac wants to keep killing.
If ever an antlerless only hunt in Buffalo co, then I will not hunt all seasons for that year.

My comments are too long for this venue. I will e-mail my comments to DNRCDAC@Wisconsin.gov.

Bring back earn a buck. Use a format where a hunter can “earn their buck a year in advance”

We need more control of big land leasers and guides. Need a season like Ilinois has:-)

Bring back earn a buck and early t zone hunt. I support a longer and earlier gun season.

Bring back "Earn a buck", this will greatly help the buck growth in Buffalo County.

I would like to see one buck harvest tag per hunter per season no exceptions.

Limit of only one male deer, Buck per year regardless of hunting method used.

I would rather see earn a buck seasons than extra holiday/antlerless hunts.

We need to have the outfitters and people that lease land under more control.

Please make Buffalo County either antlerless only or earn a buck in 2020.

over the last 15 years, year over year I have seen less and less deer.

Strongly support (1) one buck per person per calendar year.

no antlerless holiday hunt keep bow hunting open instead.

Seen herds of 20 to 30 deer grazing fields this spring.

Remove crossbow hunting unless disabled or over age 60.

Earn a buck would clearly increase antlerless harvest.

Cross bow should be for the old and handy caped only.

I feel all deer farms should be closed now! Thanks

Bring back the Earn a Buck rule I have heard of?

Extend the youth deer hunt from 2 days to 4 days

start the season the beginning of November

I love the oppurtunity to hunt here every year

Keep everything the same as the past years!

start the gun season beginning of November

DO NOT EXTEND THE 2020 GUN DEER SEASON!

Don’t get rid of the holiday hunt!!

I'm in favor a a one buck season.

The outfitters are the problem

Bring back earnabuck.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Burnett, Northern Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

494 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 178
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 131
   - I hunt in this unit: 465
   - General interest in this unit: 90

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 425
   - Bow: 220
   - Crossbow: 150
   - Muzzleloader: 108

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 24.69
   - Maximum: 67

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 166
   - Mostly Private Land: 73
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 95
   - Mostly Public Land: 55
   - Exclusively Public Land: 73
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 14
   - Not too crowded: 64
   - Neither crowded nor uncrowded: 71
   - Somewhat crowded: 64
   - Very crowded: 79
   - Not applicable: 4

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 72
   - Fewer: 141
   - Same: 187
   - More: 68
   - Many More: 10
   - Unsure: 16

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Burnett, Northern Forest
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:

47 Support 401 Oppose 46 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?

272 VALID 156 NOT VALID 66 Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hi, I joined the conference call on April 7th and agree with what the CDAC is advising for this year. Last fall I hunted for 9 days in early November and didn't see many deer. The reasons for this were fairly obvious. First, the corn was still standing around my property and a lot of deer were spending many hours feeding due to the very cold temperatures. Secondly, also an outcome from the cold temps, I only sat about 3-4 hours per day. Normally I will sit 6-9 hours per day. The numbers did seem to be a bit down from 2018, but not significantly based on trail camera pictures. This could also be a result of the standing corn. There is one topic that was discussed briefly during the conference call that I would like to touch on. A possible extended or shifted gun season was brought up and I am very opposed to the idea. I've spent a lot of time in Minnesota working on conservation-type projects, fishing and hanging out with other hunters. For the ones that enjoy bow hunting, the gun season during the peak of daytime movement drastically decreases their chances at a quality buck. There are many other reasons why it is not a good idea as well; changing the tradition of the Wisconsin gun season, making it harder to make an ethic shot while deer are in a frantic state from being shot at by guns, encountering more wounded deer while hunting and having to decide to put down a wounded deer with one's bow tag, less of a chance of a trophy buck (MN 8th in B&C rankings since 2010, WI 1st) when many more young and less intelligent bucks are shot with the gun, etc. It is already quite difficult to have a shot at a 135"+ in Burnett county, why make it much harder. Sorry for the rant, but my fellow hunters and I pay a lot for our property, tags, food plots, and other hunting expenses and we don't want to have our hunting made worse. Another topic I didn't hear discussed during the conference call was crop damage tags. I understand this is a difficult subject and I support helping farmers, but some things I've seen and heard have been a little unsettling. One example is a farmer being able to shoot deer basically unchecked while does are pregnant and bucks haven't developed antlers yet. I've heard of a farmer shooting deer in the spring and claiming to have 30 tags for 100-200 acres of farmland. Shooting buck fawns, pregnant does and bucks without antlers during the spring absolutely cripples hunters who own forested land around the said farmer's property. This doesn't make much sense to me. If we want more hunters, wouldn't we want more bucks and bigger bucks to draw hunters to our county? Thanks for taking the time to read my input!
First off... thank you for giving us this opportunity! I grew up hunting the barrens, and around County rd O. We have owned private property SW of Siren since 2011. We saw very few deer that 11’ season. The hunters before us had shot a lot of does. Since owning this property only 1 doe has been harvested and that has been a choice. 2019 was the first fall any of us had bow hunted it. I put in lots of time and saw great deer. Cameras proved it. That being said, our group was interested in shooting 8pt or larger. Many of the neighbors were in the same vote. Unfortunately, I did not stick a buck but had great opportunities. A “learning experience if you will”. The part that does concern me is gun season. I’ve never missed an opener and although I shot a nice buck in 19’, it was the ONLY one I saw sitting by myself and it was Tuesday. This is concerning, odd and strange. It’s a great location and that spot was ONLY used for gun season. Again... cameras proved very nice bucks frequented the area but were NON-existence for gun. I had both my kids with me in our 8’ box stand for Saturday and Sunday and we didn’t even see a spike! I hunted every day and my 11yr old who I mentored did shoot a 6pt at 9am on Thanksgiving day. These 2 bucks were the ONLY ONES SAW by the 3 of us during the 9 day season. That small buck was the only deer we saw that day too. I personally like the tradition of our 9-day season but it was disheartening to only see 2 bucks the whole entire time. We have a lot of oaks and like the guy said, it was a huge crop! But why didn’t the bucks visit them during gun is beyond me. Cameras proved they did not go to them. It’s almost like once the rut shut down the bucks took cover, laid up and just didn’t move. We have 80 beautiful acres and it was just odd. Cameras also proved coyotes were chasing deer around and off the property. We didn’t see any to shoot during gun season though. Not to mention, both of the bucks taken from my stand were walking by themselves. Thank you for letting us provide feedback. FYI... on the way home from the cabin last Sunday eve, we saw 26 deer near a corn and bean field just north of the county line to Polk. Very encouraging since it was within 2 miles of our property!

Please do everything you can to manage the wolf population and raise deer herd numbers in Burnett County. I hunt in Anderson Township near Oeltjen Road, Bernstingel Road and Cty. Rd O and have seen wolves in person on 3 occasions going back to the first time in 2005 when I was young. I see many more wolf tracks now than I do deer tracks. This is not hyperbole and it was not always this way where I hunt. It is now a common occurrence to hear more wolves howling (multiple directions at one time) than deer sightings. In 2004, my Dad and I encountered a pack of 5 wolves at 50 yards while on stand (I was under the old youth hunting requirements at the time). In 2017, I witnessed a pack of wolves (approx. 8 wolves) run right beneath my bow stand, in September, in hot pursuit of a 10 point buck. I saw a lone wolf somewhere in between then. I also have, as I’m sure many others do, have many trail camera pictures of wolves (some near Oeltjen, Bernstingel, Cty. Rd O and some Near 280th and Evergreen Avenue near the river. I know that WI DNR has very little control at the moment but please consider adding more emphasis on the impact of the wolf population on deer herds. I on average hunt 5 FULL days of rifle season and the rest partial mornings or afternoons. Though I do not reside in Burnett Co, I also spend numerous afternoons bow hunting/grouse hunting Anderson Township near Oeltjen and County Rd. O. Hunters in this area are getting discouraged by the lack of deer and seemingly over-abundance of wolves. It’s discouraging to the up and coming hunters to hear stories of days gone by when a hunter could see 10-20 or more deer a day (easily) and now I’m lucky to see 5 deer all season. There is no doubt about it, we are facing a crisis of poor hunter participation in the near future if the deer herd continues to struggle in Burnett County and adjacent. With that will come a lack of funding for wildlife research, amongst other things. In closing, please consider limiting the amount of antlerless tags available in Burnett County as I believe the whitetail deer population is over-estimated and has been for quite some time. Sincerely, concerned sportsman.
Basicall, I advocate for maintaining as close to what would be a historic "natural balance" in the deer population. Obviously, humans have irrevocably changed the ecosystem, and we'll never be able to return to a system where weather and natural predation controlled the deer population. Hunters may be the most effective tool currently for managing the population. My only input is that I'd like to see the population controlled to the best of our ability at a level that is as close to what the natural order would have been. Maintaining the population at a level greater than that results in significant crop and property damage, promotes the spread of CWD, and negatively impacts other species that compete for resources with deer. Having a huge number of deer to improve hunters' chances of harvesting a big buck or seeing "lot's of action" should not be part of the calculus. While I've heard a lot of griping about "not seeing that many deer," I haven't found there to be any difficulty in harvesting deer, particularly if you're hunting for meat rather than trophies. The father of one of my friends (a very avid trophy hunter) was complaining that there were many fewer deer present in 2019. I asked how many he saw on opening day, and he said "30-40." In my opinion, that is still ridiculously high for sauntering 400 yards from your house and never once having to leave your stand. If I wanted to be confronted by a sea of deer after sitting on a stand for a few minutes I'd hunt over a pile of corn on a "ranch" in Texas. God forbid our deer season be at all sporting! Thanks for listening - keep up the good work.

I have hunted the Burnett county since 1981 so I am leveraging my extensive history of the county that I care deeply for as I provide this input. I believe your team has a very difficult job in maintaining wildlife and wildlife resources. As such you have to deal with everything; patinate hunters, hard cold facts, special interest groups and politics. To put it bluntly until Wisconsin game management wants to be accurate, honest and forthcoming about researching and reporting of predation there really isn't much value in all of this CDAC process. I can tell you with a great deal of certainty that the vast amounts of miles I have put on my boots in Burnett county for over 40 years, the amount of predation sign has been ramping up each year for more than 10 years. The shear amount of wolf scat with deer hooves and bones is obvious. Listen to late night wolf howling through my cabin window. There are areas that are so overrun by predation out by Danbury for example that I no longer even hunt because the deer numbers are not there. Sure the wolves will have to continue to move south to follow the food. I am aware that black bears are also taking their toll on deer as well, heck they even took a doe that was hung 14 feet in a tree outside our cabin. I know it’s a lightning rod issue, but until someone that cares enough about the wildlife resources truly wants to turn things around, you’re only going to continue to tweak just half the equation. Signed unbiased nature lover and avid sportsman.

I feel changes in peoples property ownership ideals, "I have my 40 acres, you stay off it", change in trespassing law ('1990?), the way most people hunt today (walk or drive to a stand, sit in the stand, walk or drive back out), and the use of bait are the main contributing factors to fewer deer sightings. Hunting for most people will never go back to the days of deer drives on any land (public or private) that is not posted, and that is fine. This technique pushed deer around which increased deer sightings. This is a bygone era. Also, kids have too many options for instant gratification today to have and maintain any interest in hunting. Society has changed, and hunting numbers will never come back up. Deer hunting in Northern WI is sadly, a dying tradition. Eliminate baiting statewide if you are really seriously concerned about CWD. Could CWD conceivably become so severe that there will be no real estate market for deer hunting properties someday down the road? Seems severe, but did anyone forecast the lack of new hunter recruitment 40 years ago. Baiting also severely handicaps the true "hunters" that choose not to bait. I respect the work the Department does with the limited resources you have, and am concerned budgets will only continue to shrink. I wish you good luck with future deer herd management, but hunting in WI as those of us that started 40 years ago know, is gone.
In the Public Lands area in the SW portion of the county there is a tremendous amount of influence made by deer baiting effort by camps during the gun season. Personal observations during the bow season when there was less baiting as compared to gun season when all the camps filled up near public lands clearly identified lands that are baiting. This behavior goes against every idea of fair chase and does taint the numbers. It was especially evident in 2019 where the ban on baiting was announced late, and many did not adhere to the restriction. The large tract public parcels in the SW portion of the county were void of deer in 2019 during the gun season, with many of the deer either chased away by predators (for the last 10 plus years), or drawn away by the bait piles 1/2 mile to 1 mile from the borders of the public lands. Please reduce the antlerless quota on public lands some, since there are not many deer there as compared to the private lands nearby with bait piles. I suspect my anti-baiting opinion is clear, but what I dislike even more is how neighbors will post pictures online of 6 or more - 8 point or better bucks on their buck pole that were shot over illegal baiting on a couple hundred acre parcel.

Proposed changes regarding extending the rifle season are a major concern. The tradition for the whole state regarding timing of rifle season would be a bummer. More importantly I think it would really negatively impact the deer herd. The deer herd has grown in my particular area after being decimated by over hunting and an unfortunate wolf pack that ranged on to our property for a number of years. Just seeing deer numbers climb I would hate to destroy the deer herd with a 19 day rifle season. That takes away the fun of the rut because the number of people going out for opener of rifle season puts massive hunter pressure on the deer pushing them to mostly nocturnal activity. This will have a huge impact on breeding activity and ultimately result in losing a big portion of our deer herd. This sounds like changes proposed by rifle hunters jealous of their neighbor who got the buck they were after 1-2 weeks before rifle season. If that is the case, pick up a bow and join the bow hunt.Educating rifle only hunters on how to be better hunters and better deer conservationists would be a start in stead of limiting the bow hunt. Frankly, consideration of changes like this in the first place is an embarrassment.

There is general concern about the number of wolves in the area. My concern is chatter I heard from other hunters who were using code language to snark about making deer carcass piles (after butchering) as "wolf bait," implying that they were hoping to take it upon themselves to shoot wolves to improve the deer populations for future hunts. I discussed my concerns, stating that implications sounded illegal, and was not consistent with good conservation efforts. My comments were not well received. I have no evidence that this actually happened, but I have grave concerns about hunters not following the letter of the law, and trying to "take matters into their own hands." The concerning hunters were not a part of my hunting group/party in the northern county. I therefor applaud any efforts to obtain a legalized and regulated wolf hunt where appropriate. If I am able to get names of concerning hunters in a safe manner this year, I will pass this on to the local DNR specialist for their information. While it is sometimes tricky, we all need to play a part in well managed, thoughtful management of our wildlife resources.

I have continued to experience increased encounters throughout the year with Black bears in this area. My elderly parents live in Burnett county, so I am up there a lot. I have never had so many bear encounters, as I have had in the past 3 years. My parents have also noticed increased encounters with bears being destructive on their property. I have noticed a steady decline with the amount of deer encounters in the last 3 years. Obviously, there are a lot of factors that go into the deer population of an area (i.e.food abundance, harsh winters, and other predators). I am no biologist, but I do spend a lot of time in the outdoors. Are we doing any studies into the impact of an increasing bear population and the population of cervids in the area? Secondly, I am concerned regarding the practice of captured cervids in the area with the discovery of CWD in this county. What type of restrictions are being placed on captive deer in the county to prevent the CWD positive deer from escaping and infecting the local population. Is there anything the DNR is doing to start to eliminate or restrict this type of practice?
The DNR has mismanaged the Burnett Cty and Douglas Cty Barrons for years. Trying to re-start a sharp tailed grouse population for years has been a complete failure. With trying to grow this population they destroy prime whitetail habitat and food. I have hunted this area for most of my hunting life and have watched the deer herd do nothing but diminish because of habitat loss, baiting, over harvest, and to many antlerless permits issued. When there was 0 antlerless permits or very few permits issued the deer herd had started to increase, until the large amount of permits issued the last few years the deer were few and far between this past season. Baiting also not being allowed in Burnett or Douglas Cty allowed the deer to go back to natural foraging and movement away from people and cabins. Since it was legal again the deer are living back closer to people and cabins thus reducing natural movement and less chance for seeing deer let alone harvesting deer. There for this year there should be no antlerless tags issued in Burnett or Douglas Cty, with the exception of youth hunters, which should be 16 or under.

We keep talking about the lose of deer hunters in Wisconsin, yet we are changing stuff up every year adding season, talking about doing away with or limiting the cross bow season. Maybe step back and see when the numbers started falling off, I'm guessing right around the time that seasons, and tags(public/private) started being changed. I say limit each hunter to one buck per license and one doe if you buy a gun and bow license you have 2 bucks, and 2 does. I have seen the hunting in Burnett county go from some of the best to as poor as parts of Minnesota due to killing all the does. If we want to go a step farther I would support a 4 point on one main beam APR similar to southeast Minnesota. Bear numbers are high, we baited and killed a bear but had upwards of 15 bear hit our bait through the season. Wolf and coyote population is through the roof, we are also seeing pictures of a few cats in the south side of the county. The baiting ban needs to either go away or stay permanently and increase fines for it. I want to see the sport grow and get back to what it was.

I hunt a 50/50 mix of private and public land in Grantsburg township, Dewey, Roosevelt, West Marshland, Trade Lake, Anderson, Wood River and Lincoln. I spend 30 or more days per year hunting deer and I can assure you that the reason our harvest is down is a direct relation to hunter participation and hunter effort. Few hunters are driving deer anymore and few are willing to put in any work on public ground. I passed over 27 immature bucks during archery season, nearly half of them on public land. I also would have harvested many more antlerless deer had tags been available for public land. Last night, I drove from the village of Grantsburg to the West Marshland town hall. I saw over 60 deer in this 15 minute drive. The strategy of maintaining this population is poor judgement on the part of the CDAC. Overbrowsing and CWD are going to become a huge problem in the county if we continue with this unsustainable population. We need to offer more antlerless tags on public land and find creative ways to encourage more antlerless harvest on private land.

I honestly believe that the predation rate where we hunt, (Namekagen Barrens), is much higher than assumed. In 2017 and earlier, we observed high numbers of predator sign, including tracks and stool, from wolves and bear. Actually, seemingly more of those than deer sightings! We actually saw an average of 10 deer for the entire season! In 2018, we didn't see much for any of those same predator signs. We saw 53 deer opening weekend, and 47 the second weekend! We were very excited! And then in 2019, we were back to seeing the signs at high volume again. I personally only saw 7 deer all season. I don't know if the rest of the county is expressing this observation, but it is very prevalent in the Barrens, and is very frustrating! I am fearful that my 16 year daughter, who is still looking to harvest her first buck, is quickly loosing interest. I'm guessing that she isn't the only one who is feeling this way! This is one of the reasons that we are loosing the future hunters! Respectfully my opinion.
I've hunted in the same public county forest in Burnett county my entire life. The quality of the deer hunt has declined substantially in the past decade. Poor management and overharvest years back combined with increase in predation leave the public woods void of deer. Our group is experienced, dedicated and patient, devoting full days in the woods. I've seen approximately 10 deer from my stands over the past 3 years combined. Less than a deer a day over the course of a dozen days dawn to dusk. I'm a good hunter. I scout, I position my stands, I am careful about scent. The deer density is very low. Deer sign is lacking. The lack of deer in the woods is reducing my interest and excitement in the annual hunt. It has caused our next generation to lose interest in deer hunting as well. Our camp is now just adults in our 50's. It’s disappointing how the quality of the hunt has gone down. You need to reduce the antlerless harvest and raise the population. You’re losing hunters.

Please make archery an either sex tag again. For most of my hunting life I’ve only been able to eat one deer a year and would like the opportunity to only have to buy one tag. I hunt a mix of public/private land and have forgotten to buy a doe tag the previous two years (my fault) but I feel like the DNR should be able to look at the amount of antlerless deer killed by archery and factor that in to their anterless tag quota. Having forgotten to purchase a doe tag for public land the last two years before they sell out has forced me to hunt buck only making a challenging hunt all the more challenging. I have the date saved in my calendar to buy doe tags now but I would rather have the flexibility of being able to harvest what I want should I not be able to obtain a public land tag. I feel the data the DNR has on hand could easily make this happen without ultimately changing the anterless harvest numbers. Thank you

Please go back to a tag system that’s valid, the not tagging at site with permanent tag is impossible for the dnr officer and too many people take it to casual. If a deer doesn’t have to be tagged with a good tag at site anything goes especially for the less honest, there’s no fear of dragging to truck and arranging who will tag it. Your tagging ideas are the worst for controlling good count numbers. You want good deer management manage the way it’s manage and this will never work. 25 plus year non resident hunter and I’ve seen when you think numbers are high or low and no one believes the numbers, the actual kill and registration could be part of the problem. In MN the first thing you do is put the tag on because you fear moving it without a tag then you fear not registering them because that’s how it’s just how it’s been done make that important then you’re numbers will mean something

Please consider an increase in antlerless quota and permits on public lands. Deer numbers look very good at this time. My observations last fall were better than for a number of years. Observations over winter and this spring have been very good as well. While the number of private land permits is likely close to the maximum number that deer hunters will currently harvest we need to ensure that there are enough tags available to continue to harvest as many antlerless deer as possible from private lands while adding harvest opportunities on public lands. The presence of CWD needs to be considered in coming years when considering quotas. Lowering deer populations in the county needs to be considered from a long term management standpoint. Hunter behavior has changed so drastically over the past few years that observations during the nine day deer season are of limited value.

From what I see, living here, the deer population in northern Burnett County remains among its all-time highs. Too many deer represent a driving hazard throughout the year; damage to gardens and ornamental plants is unbelievable. It is impossible to grow native plants that the deer have decimated. The old system of many more management units was more effective at controlling deer numbers; e.g., the dense forests above Highway 77 are vastly different than the agricultural lands south of Highway 70. The Namekagon River seems to be the dividing line; north of it you'll see fewer deer, and fewer still as you enter Douglas County; south of the river deer numbers continue to increase well into Polk County. Yet the new system treats this vast area as a single place, from its boreal forests and sand barrens near the St. Croix in the north, to cornfields and Trade River in the south.
First of all I want to thank the CDAC committee for the fine job that they do and the time they put in doing it. Even though I personally, did not see a lot of deer this season (hunted 5 days) I know that they are there as I saw many while doing late season crossbow hunting. As a group we did very well, had eleven deer hanging with two of those being does and only one came from private property. Everyone one went home happy with one deer and some guys had two. We had five doe tags unfilled because we had enough meat. Maybe this year we will not see the bucks and shoot more does. One thing else I can say is that the hunting pressure was again real low, we hunt primarily public land and did not have any conflicts, where as in the past we might have to wait to drive some areas that other hunters were in. Hope this helps and again THANKS again for the job that you do.

my property is next to public hunting land. since the public land was gated off hunters have been restricted in there activities therefor most of it is not hunted this effects all the land next to it as no deer are moved by hunting pressure. I don't think many hunters want to drag a deer up and down hills for a few miles. I hunt in Minnesota also and they allow hunters to retrieve there deer with atvs ect. I don't know why wi doesn't allow this you would have more hunting in public land after all the land belongs to the public not the state or the dnr. the additional hunting on public would improve the deer harvest and add more hunters. I used to be able to drive my truck to the trout stream on an logging road thas was high and dry now I have to walk more than a mile just to get to the creek at 73 I soon won't be able to do that.. thank you

I think they need to stop changing everything around every year I have been hunting my whole life and it’s so confusing all these new rules every year. I know several guys with family's that used to hunt and now have given it up cause of deer numbers and stressful rules that change all the time. The Dnr needs to start killing wolves or open season on them that would be a good start. I have land and I shed hunt a lot of land in Burnett county. I found more deer carcasses this year then I have ever found. Let’s keep this a fun and enjoyable time for everyone and there families. I also think splitting the bow and crossbow season is a joke. My wife loves hunting and the crossbow has made that possible for her. I own 300 acres and it would be a shame to tell her she can't hunt certain times of the year cause she shoots crossbow on my own land.

I have hunted the same properties in Burnett County my entire hunting life (57 years). The past 10 years have been among the poorest in terms of deer seen/harvested that I have experienced. In good years sightings of 100+ deer were not uncommon. In recent years deer sightings have dwindled to single digits for the 9 day season (and in two of those years, zero deer sightings). Were it not for the fact that the land I hunt is part of my family's original homestead I would hunt elsewhere in the state. The area surrounding us has not seen a significant amount of development or a reduction in agriculture. It is adjacent to the Wild Rivers area so habitat is not the issue. My recommendations: 1. It is imperative that the wolf population be reduced. 2. Archery season should be suspended during the rut. 3. Baiting of deer must end.
Hello, I believe the antlerless numbers are too high because while listening to the phone conference in April the numbers were copied from 2019 because of the late deer seasons and the low harvest rates. The 2019 antlerless season was based upon deer populations from 2018. If we adopt the same numbers for antlerless harvest in 2020 we are basing it off of the 2018 pollution all while Burnett county has seen a declining deer population recently. I believe the 2020 antlerless quota should take into the percentage decrease in deer population from 2018 and decrease the antler less harvest by the same amount. Population estimate for 2018 was 23,500 and for 2020 it is 19,700. 17% less deer should result in 17% less doe tags. Thank you for listening to the public and I hope you take this into consideration.

WI DNR has destroyed gun deer hunting. What's next a mother in law doe hunt during the rut. Keep it simple stupid. We see very little deer for gun hunting. The pressure is way too much with all these pre hunts. Go back to one, I said one gun hunt, 9 days. As a young boy we all hunted together young and old. Now they take the kids out early, hot weather, rotting harvested deer. Then a few more hunts of the drunks road hunting. Leaving no more of an opening day, a special Saturday. It's all watered down. Straight up, you can see the statistics, hunter numbers down, buck kills down, total harvest down! You have destroyed WI gun season. This is not only in Burnett cty it is state wide.

I am pleased with the work you all are doing. I do all my scouting/hunting on public lands and I see a bigger issue with predation. In 2019 I ran 8 cameras for 6 months (June-Jan.) where I was seeing very few fawns. This concerns me that the population will not be a maintained status with an increase in antlerless permits. Most of the wolf kills I find over the year are young antlerless in fact I've never come across a buck wolf kill. Another thought is the new breed of deer which are wise to the weekend warrior syndrome. For some numbers, I noticed a 70% drop in photos taken on Fri-Sun. Lastly I had almost as many bears on cameras as did fawns. Thanks to the DNR for trying to get the wolf delisted for us, hopefully in time it will happen.

The quality of the deer herd has diminished over the last 6 years. Antlerless deer harvests have taken many of the fawn bucks out of the herd. I have about 120 acres in Burnett County and have had as many as 25 does in my fields at one time, but only a couple of bucks on camera all year. The deer I have seen are young. I have not seen a mature buck on camera in 2 years. I have killed enough deer in my life to where I have little interest in harvesting a young animal. My family doesn't eat venison, so I see little reason to kill them. I do enjoy the thrill of hunting mature bucks. Sadly, I have been forced to travel to other states with better management to find such animals. Quality deer hunting in Wisconsin has really declined.

First, "Thank You" for your service on the CDAC. However, in my opinion, the number of antlerless deer harvested must be drastically reduced in order for the herd to recover. Look at the statistics, how can there be so many deer when so few get harvested? Mild winter for temperatures but not for snow depth must not be considered? You're telling me we have no predators in Burnett County? If you continue to harvest a large number of antlerless deer you will never rebuild the herd. You wonder why the # of deer licenses sold keeps going down - look at the harvest #’s. You can not harvest a deer that isn't there. Shoot more antlerless and the number of deer available is less and less each year. Thanks again for listening.

The public deer population in Burnett County is disappointing. We have a camp that has been hunting deer on the west side of the Fish Lake Wildlife Refuge for over 50 yrs and we have seen the population plummet the last few years. I firmly believe that we should be building the herd rather than just maintaining it. The buck numbers are especially disappointing. I attribute this to selective buck harvest by bow and crossbow hunters. Their technology and success rate continues to climb and they primarily shoot bucks. Being able to hunt during the rut allows them to selectively cull the herd and that is frustrating. Bow hunters from the Twin Cities target this area and take a lot of the bucks with bow and string.
S. half of burnett has MUCH more cropland. N. Half is very similar habitat as Douglas co. Please group them together, at least north of danbury anyway. Douglas has a much better population. Small gmu's equal more accurate data. Please take it easy on doe tags until the population can handle the harvesting. Having a hard time keeping my wife and daughter interested and it's not for lack of trying. Corn piles and crossbows a death sentence to the deer population. I dont know anyone who was upset with the deer hunting around 2000....I will forever tell stories of those to my wife and daughter! Not saying I know everything but please listen to the public...we care about our hunting.

Baiting needs to return to legality. People are cheating and it's not being enforced or can't be. My party shot 3 deer opening morning and all 3 were full of corn. The nearest cornfield was over 3 miles away as the crow flies. We have well over 100 acres of land and were not cheating by baiting yet shot deer on our land that obviously had been fed. By making it legal at least it doesn't put law abiders at a disadvantage. Btw, without baiting we saw significantly fewer deer than the year before when it was legal. However our cameras showed us throughout the summer that the population had increased but suddenly became scarce a week before gun season......hmmmm.

I am a bow hunting and I love spending as much time as I can in the woods. The last couple years of has become very difficult to harvest a mature deer buck or doe. With all the youth hunts, gun seasons and crossbows it’s my believe that the deer have so much hunting pressure from long range weapons its getting very difficult to get a deer into range. I would also like to add I and many more in the burnett and polk counties are very sick of road hunters and poacher, I feel that a lot more effort needs to be put into stopping this problem and the fines should be raised to a point where people will be more concerned to get stop for these kinda of crimes.

My father in law owns land in this unit and 25 years ago all the hunters respected the land and managed it well. But since the DNR has allowed the predators of the 'endangered' species to 'protected' i have had several close calls while hunting and the deer population has dropped immensely. I now carry a handgun while hunting for my own safety and question how much longer i will hunt. I am the last person to say what species will stay or evolve, but is if nature makes that decision, then you should not override it. Please stop trying to believe you should be controlling all of the creatures of the world.  A Very dissatisfied Wisconsin resident

Raise the price of non resident deer tags. The location I hunt in Burrnet County when I see other hunters they have Minnesota plates. Majority of them are hunting public land and are from the northern Minnesota area where they have a 16 day hunting season. A few years ago at the local sporting goods store some people from Minnesota were buys there licenses. They got doe tags for southern Wisconsin County's. That raised a red flag to me when they were hunting Burrnet County. With the new one registration they could of killed a doe and never registered it or registered it and claimed thats where they were hunting. There needs to be a change to that.

I’ve been hunting in Burnett Co since 1977. I’ve always had an opportunity to see and harvest bucks. Since the last 5 years the pulping has effectively hurt my area. I continue to hunt in the same area as my grandpa and my father hunted for Years since 1957. We need to see more deer populations in what was called Zone 10. I did see a spike in Accorns crop in the woods witch is great. Hopefully that continues. I think the pulping of woods have effectively had an effect on deer movement and no hunters moving them around. I need feedback on what you as a management team think. Please respond to me .

Growing up, graduating, and getting married in Osceola, I have hunted at our camp in Burnett county for 40 years. I have been a nonresident for the last 25yrs. I have been in a financial situation that makes the nonresident fee affordable. But in my opinion this was always high priced. Think about the nonresident who has 1-2- maybe 3 kids, who wishes to hunt in his or hers home state, good old family deer camp. They can't afford to introduce their kids to hunting in good old Wisconsin. You always hear license sales are down, while here is a way to get more hunters in the mix. LOWER your nonresident fees!!!! Thanks.
Bring back baiting with certain restriction on amount placed down and spread it over wide area so it's like browse, makes no sense on a county next to you, its legal and your county isn't. Baiting is done across country with no problems, let the public hunters make the decision to use bait not a few DNR people, we bring in $$$$$$$ hunters are a dieing breed cuz younger generations are not doing it anymore. you need to make it easier for hunters to see and harvest a deer, that means you will attract newer younger hunters!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I think it is fake news that because CWD is found on a fenced game farm that you ban baiting on public land. Also that you give out tags that are private an DC public specific. I took 3 kids up for youth hunt and had to deal with ATV and UTV trail riders ruining their hunt if you want more kids involved maybe you should close the trails for that weekend or do it after trails are closed. Nothing worse than some jibbertyjabber blaring his music and ripping down the trail while u sit with your child and have to explain why no deer will show up and he is bored.

Last gun/bow season, we were once again robbed for a chance to harvest a deer. We saw more wolf tracks than deer all season. I pay hundreds to hunt my own land as a MN resident only to get skunked. I do not plan to pass along the four generation tradition of hunting to my future children. My father spend the last two decades designing trails and food plots, providing deer resources to grow and thrive. And for what? I love wolves, but they are ruining our hunt. I wouldn't advocate a hunting season for wolves, but there has to be another way.

Three years ago I had two daughters and four grandkids hunting with me. Two years ago I had one daughter and two grandchildren. Last year I had one grandson hunting. If they don't see any deer it's not likely I will have anyone with me this year. My grandson saw two doe last year, period!!! I saw the same two doe and a spike buck. If you want more people to hunt you better figure out a way to make it more interesting while they're out in the woods. If I don't have anyone hunting with me this year it'll be my last year also. Figure it out!!!!

I have never seen an antlered deer on public land in the 15+ years I've been traveling to Lake 26 yet, that is all I can get a tag for on public land. I consistently see a very fair amount of mature does both on and off the private land we have a cabin on and all the public land around the area. It's very frustrating to pay an out of state fee only to get an antlered tag. I enjoy harvesting and eating the meat as much as being in the woods but, I would like the ability to harvest antlerless whitetail in the Burnett forest region.

I want WI develop a system where spike and fork bucks are not being shot. We need to adopt a rule to protect smaller bucks so they can grow. I cant stand passing up young bucks just to be slaughtered by MN hunters who come here to "meat hunt" Also why do MN residents or any out of State resident continue to pay the same price for antlerless tags. This is seems crazy. They should not be able to purchase a antlerless tag for the same price. WI needs better manage the mentality of Meat hunting in our state.

I would strongly recommend a shorter bow/crossbow season and a longer or split gun season, which would include muzzel loader. No other season. I also recommend we go back to a tag system, keeping all honest and a method by which we have a better idea of the kill numbers. I have been hunting out of state as well and where it is only a call in system. Can't figure out how the DNR has any idea of their deer population in their zones or counties. They also ban natural deer scents, which is a good idea.

The VERY uneven distribution that is present in this county is concerning. I now hunted 18 days last season on 3 pieces of land, public and private, and only saw a total of 4 deer. However while driving to/from hunting spots, there are areas I would see 5-8 in a field. Overall we need an increase in the population to provide a reasonable opportunity of harvesting animals. I will likely only hunt 4 days this coming year as it's not worth wasting my time in an area with little chance to harvest.
We need more older deer in the herd to be considered a healthy population. There is too much stress put on young deer to sustain the population. Buck harvest must mirror antlerless harvest to have this. These questions do not address heard health with age structure just total numbers. This is a poor management practice. IF you limit the amount of does you have to limit the amount of bucks harvested, it is the only effective way to keep a large amount of mature bucks alive.

Need shorter bow season it is way to long, state wide baiting ban, get rid of the public, private division of antlerless tags and just make it antlerless tags county wide, stop holiday hunts, go back to the either sex tags. There are just to many hunts and this has changed the way the deer act, like going nocturnal. In the 70's and 80's I could see deer every day of the gun season and they would move all day. Now I am lucky to see one deer a day or even one deer a season.

I bowhunted this the burnett county public land regularly threw the fall and was lucky enough harvest a mature buck in November. The two major negative impact I witnessed on deer movement and hunt quality was 1. Bear season and the amount of traffic and dog noise significantly impacted deer movement and deer hunting. 2. There is an over abundance of wolves in this area which directly negatively affected deer movement and many chances at harvesting deer.

The whole county was declared a CWD county when only one deer was founded to be infected in the extreme southern portion of the county. I think Minnesota instead uses a 15 mile radius circle with the location of the infected animal as the bullseye to delineate the infected area. I think this is a much more effective and accurate way of designating the infected area and suggest Wisconsin follow this procedure.

I haven't seen a deer drive in at least 5-10 years, public lands that used to be fairly crowded on opening day, now you have to look hard to find a track of a person...the hunting camps that had a pole full of deer, the camp is there but they look like they don't hunt much...a few fawns and does hanging...can't remember when I have seen a young hunter...lots of the over 65 crowd buy a license but hunt sparingly. Nothing new with any of this...

I'm a nonresident. If it weren't for family I would not hunt anymore paying the fee. My family including me have seen a small population of deer during gun season. It’s tradition so I’ll go but it is very frustrating getting excited seeing a group of does once in the day. The population needs to rebuild. Quit handing out doe tags. I would advise going to a one buck per hunter system. Follow Indiana rules. This will increase buck population.

With the mild winter we had in Burnett county this year, I've been seeing quite a few deer this spring out in the fields just before sunset. I'd like to suggest starting the gun deer season on 11/14 instead of 11/21 this year on a trial basis. It would be interested to see the success rate (private / public) with being able to hunt the rut. Experiment with an early start this year and re-evaluate. Thanks for allowing my input.

I see far fewer deer in Burnett County than I used to 30-50 years ago. We used to be able to spend an afternoon or even just drive around at dusk and see lots of deer. Now we are lucky to see any at all. I am now considering hunting elsewhere, even in another State, which is sad. I recommend 1 buck permit per hunter per year. I agree with your video that I don't want to kill 3-4 deer per year. Not really even 1.3. Just one.

Thanks for all your hard work, I own land in Anderson township for the primarily hunting. I would like To see the bow/crossbow/gun/ black powder season stay as is, but maybe go to one buck per year any weapon. I also saw that the no baiting reg. Made harvesting deer harder and I had to fill doe tags with a firearm instead of a crossbow that is more fun. The people with food plots or fields seemed to fill tags sooner. Thanks.

We need to get things streamlined again. Leave the seasons alone, we just got crossbow season let it be the way it is. The DNR tried to fix a problem that wasn't happening and created a problem. Have the late doe hunts, let the youth season happen in October, keep it going so we can bring new hunters into the sport. Let's just let the seasons alone, if we need revenue for lost license sales raise out of state fees!
The issue in Burnett county is the county is NOT only Northern forest in the south half. So the information you gather is not valid. The DNR needs to divide Burnett along hwy 70 so that the numbers of deer and the harvest quotas reflect the actual deer heard in those two diverse areas. You get many replies saying there are lots of deer and that is true when you are south of hwy 70 but not so true north of hwy 70.

All in all, I feel that the DNR has us taking out WAY too many antlerless deer. The population of deer is so much lower than what it used to be. I do not feel that the DNR is doing a good job of managing the deer population. In fact, I think humans need to back way off of trying to manage the population of any animal. It isn’t our job. I do enjoy hunting, but we have taken the deer almost out. Not good. Shame!

As an avid hunter in Burnett county for the last 15 years i can personally attest to the decline in the deer population. It is time for us to attempt to restore the deer population to past levels. The area has never been the same since the large harvests in 2007 and 2008 (if I am recalling the years correctly). Thank you for your service and you consideration of my comments.

Predators and physically requiring deer tags are, in my opinion, have the biggest influence on the deer herd, excluding a severe winter. Predators are what they are. Requiring a physical tag on a harvested deer would promote registration and reduce the ability to go out and illegally take another deer. Our deer sightings have dropped dramatically once doe tags were available again in Burnett County.

I feel corn left in the fields all season kept deer from moving normally. 2018 season deer were everywhere, 2019, saw 3 deer through out entire season in the woods. Saw plenty of deer bedded down around fields while traveling to and from hunting areas. Also, less hunters in the woods over the past 2 years. Cabins around me sit empty all season now, before, they would be packed like a holiday weekend.

I believe that on private land of 40 acres or more, we should be able to hunt for ANTLERED deer with a rifle in the same season as bowhunters. It irritates me that as a farmer, I have to feed the deer all year so some nonresident can shoot a trophy with his bow. Also, I live in farmland that is included in the Northern forest area. We should be going back to the old units of mgmt.

My group hunted the Namekogen Barrens wildlife area during rifle season. Four of us sat in ladder stands the first weekend and saw 1 deer and very few shots. During the week we made a few deer drives and scouted around. We saw no deer and an abundance of wolf tracks. A few years ago the hunting was good here. Something is failing with the deer management in the northern Burnett County area.

Far too much pressure on Deer on Public lands in Burnett county. Numbers have been awful for years, too much predation & too many out of state archery hunters. I hunt 7 days each year during gun hunting, have not shot a deer in 10 years & see an average of about 6 deer a year. Even though I have a Doe tag I don't kill any because I feel sorry for the few that are left.

When it was buck only, the second year I saw a significant increase in numbers. It went from zero deer to five deer in one year, then to 13 deer the year after that. This was while sitting for at least 7 hours a day on private land. When doe tags were issued the numbers plummeted again. Two or three years of buck only would help the deer numbers significantly.

1  Buck and your license is filled. Have license on back of jacket. Skip a year of multiple deer licenses in some areas I mean only 1 doe license in specific areas. Have In person deer registration again from what I hear as skittle but many deer aren’t registered. Only 1 deer in certain areas as operated in larger areas Mann western states do this. Thank you John

I think you got it about right. 2019 was a weird year for hunting (for bow and gun). Where we moved around to new areas on public land we actually saw some deer. Traditional hunting spots were very slow. The deer we did see were large and apparently very healthy. We just couldn't connect on any of them...that's just hunting. Keep up the good work.
1436 I seen many many does last season, probably 50, some being the same ones and only 2 small bucks, compared to the year before I seen several bucks, some very nice, I would like to see 1 or 2 years of no buck hunting in Burnett county, in my opinion too many hunters are taking bucks only, we need to give the bucks a break, please consider this. Thanks

1437 More enforcement on hunters trespassing on private land would be greatly appreciated. Would love to see the deer population boom and keep predator population managed through hunter support. How can I support coyote and wolf reduction in my area? Bagging a deer is great but simply SEEING a few deer warms up any hunter on a chilly November hunt.

1438 Please keep the 10 black powder season and add a special 10 day traditional black powder season during the rut. Flintlock / cap sidlock open sights patched roundball season. This is comparable to crossbow shooting ranges today. Also keep the crossbow hunting season the same. I would love the traditional old style hunt with loose powder. Thanks

1439 I feel Burnett county should be split in half. The north half of the county differs drastically from the southern half. There is many fewer deer in the northern half. The one size fits all approach doesn’t work here. The numbers have obviously been set exclusively by people from the southern half of the county in recent years and it sure shows

1440 Over the past few years it has seemed like the amount of deep present on the public land I hunt is directly impacted by the amount of wolf sign I see in the woods. I spend lot of time out trapping and years with high wolf sign seems to have low deep populations. I would like to see wolf population control measures put in place.

1441 I’ve noticed we’ve been shooting smaller deer. If one hunts public land, there should be a rule that only allows buck harvest with a minimum number of points on the antlers, for example. Up here you’re only allowed to shoot a buck with more than 2 points on one antler so spikes have a chance to grow into a decent sized animal.

1442 Get rid of public vs private tags. Land owners get more tags. Also, please keep the crossbow season as it currently is. Hunter numbers are declining enough already. Don’t pit hunter against hunter. As long as people are out hunting legally and ethically, it shouldn’t matter the weapon of choice. Thank you for what you all do.

1443 Need to address the wolf population. Saw more wolves and wolf tracks then ever before. I believe that predation is starting to take a major toll on the population. I also believe that baiting keeps the deer staying on private land. I do believe that baiting has a large portion of the deer herd migrating to private lands.

1444 Please move the season earlier in November like the first two weekends. Late November most deer come out at dark and we never see them. And it gets cold end of November less people want to hunt in the cold weather. Also thanksgiving is in the season now I wish it was not we have go home for that and not hunt that day.

1445 Public lands continue to be over hunted and contain far fewer deer than posted, private land. The policy needs to address the over hunting on public land by decreasing antlerless permits rather than increasing the number of permits, just to sell more permits and balance the harvest at the expense of the public land.

1446 I’ve seen a crushing amount of business impact due to the lowered antlerless tags offered. Some businesses are no longer opening during the early AM hours of the first day’s hunt. This has greatly reduced the number of hunters, and it did increase the antlerless deer in that area. (I didn’t see any bucks in 2019)

1447 I have watched for past few years as more doe tags and taking of young antlerless deer the deer herd has reduced drastically. Creating a youth only antlerless tag with some manageable numbers of doe tags for both private and state land will correct the herd, create good hunting, increase of revenue of tags sold.

1448 There is a lot of deer on private property. (Too many) I think your doe quota is a little low for private property. The deer had an easy winter and the does are going to drop a lot of fawns this spring. I’m noticing much more car kills the last two years. Please consider more doe tags for private property.
Before increasing the amount of antlerless quota, predators need to be reduced by significant levels. Since the inception of bear licenses, the deer population has steadily fallen as the bear population has grown. A bounty on coyotes would also be a help in making sure fawns would have a chance to survive.

Personally, on private land, we are still hoping to build the herd a bit so we can feel comfortable shooting a doe for meat. Right now, numbers are low enough that we feel harvesting does around us is detrimental to the population. We’d like to grow the herd so we can take 1-2 does per year for meat.

I believe that all the studies and opinions being formed about our "northern" county deer populations are not taking into consideration the high amount of predators the deer are facing. Something must be done about the wolves or else we are going to lose our deer numbers and hunters in this area.

We noticed a lot more Minnesota Hunters makes you wonder if they do have license removing the back cage with a big mistake they should have one bag tag for life and anybody can call it in to see if they’re legal we hunt Forest land the owners asked us to leave because they had family coming to hunt.

I do not live in WI, however I own acreage in this DMU and pay property taxes just like everyone else. I spend a lot of money at the local stores, bars, restaurants, and shops, year round. I feel, as a property owner/tax payer I should be able to receive a discounted hunting and fishing license.

I do not support the feeding ban in Burnett county. The ban was caused by CWD found on an “antler farm”. There we 0 found in the wild in 2019 with CWD. Please reassess this. There are many people up here that rely on deer for there freezer and this ban makes it allot harder for them. Thank you.

Changing from being able to bait to not being able to bait had a big impact on me personally. If I would have known in early May that we could not bait this year I would have planted more food plots for rifle hunting. Bowhunting you have a lot of natural deer movement because of the rut.

From what i seen on public and private land was even less deer in the 2019 season. We did not see many fawns in the summer, in the fall or this winter so I think we have a problem the numbers will be even lower in the 2020 season in our area I hope my input is helpful and Thank You.

The biggest issue is the late start of the season. You might want to start the season before Minnesota instead of after? The late start diminishes the harvest rates significantly. Would be better for ALL Wisconsin deer hunters and bring more business to Wisconsin. Just a thought.

I would whole support moving to antler restrictions for adults. Kids should still be able to shoot legal bucks but adults should have antler restrictions. I understand there is usually a lull in bucks taken but after 2-3 years areas like southern MN have had great success.

If we don’t get rid of deer/elk farms and get serious about cwd all of the above survey questions will become non-issues. Buy out the deer farms and increase funding for cwd research and mitigation. We’ve got a fire in the basement and you’re worried about patching the roof.

Quitting giving out antlerless permits. Our hunting group of 10 has gone from seeing 20-30 deer opening day to seeing maybe 1 or 2. Local farmer has killed over 150 deer with his crop damage permits, lots of bear and wolves and hunters killing every deer they see.

2019 was one of the poorest seasons we've had in our area and its tough to understand why. The coyote population seems very high with multiple packs heard howling at sunset. They could be impacting deer movement but have not witnessed much depredation by them.

Three years ago I saw one deer that was very sick and this spring I saw one on my game cam. I hunt a great deal in the fall. Shouldn't these deer be put down and handled so as not to contaminate the soil around the kill and brought in for testing some how?
Hi. Was wondering if a antler size minimum to harvest was ever thought of. I was against it in the past but have seen it do wonders in south east Minnesota. Bigger bucks and healthy herd of deer. Also the population has grown to a healthy number. Thanks.

more kids would hunt if they saw more deer, DNR needs to make it a law= 4 point restriction on bucks, no party hunting or cross tagging of deer, only you can tag a deer that you have harvested, more public land doe tags for those hunting public land,

I oppose the ban on feeding deer because of a reckless high fence operator screwing all of us regular guys. Get rid of the game farms ------ Let us hunt the way we always have - don't screw thousands of hunters to protect one game farm moron.

There are still very few deer in the Crex Meadows area on the public land. There should not be many, if any, antlerless tags available. This used to be a premier hunting spot for hunters from many states to hunt. Now it is not.

A) Doe tag preference should be given in this order 1) resident of the county 2) resident of Wisconsin 3) non resident  B) The Burnett County CDAC should oppose the current push of the DNR to eliminate winter time feeding of deer.

I feel there are to many hunting days per season (sept-early Jan). Youth seasons are good too try and get new hunters introduced. It seems to me also many people are giving it up on account of changing regulations and license fees.

Deer populations have been down for years. Limiting public tags is a good idea. Allowing crossbows during regular bow season is ridiculous, it just allows gun hunters an easy alternative. I quit hunting due the DNR regulation

Deer numbers where we hunt do not match what the DNR has been saying. Last 3 years we are supposed to have a “deer around every tree”, but very little deer period. Due to many factors, predators, winter, poor estimates, etc.

Burnett County is under a baiting and feeding ban, due to a captive cervid (elk) testing positive for CWD. There should be an outright prohibition of baiting and feeding statewide. No exceptions, and it should be enforced.

I also favor leaving the deer gun season run during the week of Thanksgiving like it has been. If someone feels there is a need for a longer one, add a week on the end of the traditional week. Thank you

I have watched the actual deer numbers seen when hunting decrease over the last 10 years. If this continues I will no longer be deer hunting. I hunt the entire day all 9 days. Deer sightings are very poor.

For season 2019 I saw the fewest deer I have seen in maybe 10 or more years, hunting 7 of 9 days. Six of those seven days on my deer stand I saw zero whitetails, hunting exclusively in Grantsburg township.

I have hunted mostly private land over the last number of years, hunted the weekends of the season and have seen only 1 live deer during legal shooting hours. I have hunted an average of 8 hours per day.

We see a lot of deer in our area of Burnett County. The population appears very good. Proposed permits are fine. Last year was a “off ” year - late season and a lot os snow in the second half of the week.

Keep the same season structure. It is a tradition. Make the baiting ban state wide. Baiting is not hunting. It is just shooting at that point. Scouting and a little luck makes for a good experience.

I would like to see harvest authorization be valid for both public and private again. I feel that the current harvest authorizations overly limit hunting opportunity and reduce predictable deer harvest.

Please consider using more of a selective timber cut of forests verses the current practice of clear cutting entire sections. Public lands are looking very bare in the county now days. Thank you.
we need better numbers of deer in this area east on A towards A & H. i have hunted this area and have went back to polk county hunting land because of lack of numbers lack off mature bucks

Last 2 yrs havent seen a deer in woods really down great area least pressure is down no deer drives till after opening weekend raise outta state tags price lower antlerless stop harvesting wood

The number of deer is low, more wolves kill we need to preserve for the kids an let bucks grow for a year, an 9 days are plenty for a season. way more does then bucks, exstend the youth hunt

Burnett County population and chance of harvest has been pleasantly consistent over the past couple of years. In previous years, the quota and chance of harvest seemed inconsistent.

Manage the deer population and when having antler-less deer tags, limit it to ONE per hunter. Same for private land. Private land owners are hunting and harvesting on public land.

Although I didn't harvest a deer the past two years, the herd is in good shape and a dramatic improvement over the prior 5+ years, so I think the current approach is working well.

The regulations continue to to become more complex. Reverse this. Reduce or limit non-residents of management units to gun youth weekends and gun opening weekend hunting only.

I believe that archery and crossbow licenses should come both with an antlered and an antlerless tag. Having to buy the antlerless tag extra (if available) seems unnecessary.

I saw 4 deer in the area that I hunted. Lots of carcuses and to many Wolf tracks and occasionally seeing one. Everywhere I would see fresh deer tracks the Wolves were on them.

With the decrease of crops last year we saw a huge decrease in deer in our area. Seen more Coyote and Wolves in our area seems to of also affected deer in our area.

Dramatically reduce the number of out of state bow hunting licenses. Use a lottery system. Too much Minnesota bow hunting pressure where we hunt and own property.

Increase the permits we need to get the numbers down the does will have a good fawn crop this year and I have seen many buck with antlers into mid February.

Support wolf management by the state. Very low deer population on public land. Bear and wolf predation is higher than we think for Burnett's deer population.

Please consider a single license for all types of weapons. In other words a deer season that lasts from the third week in September until December 31st.

Although I do not believe deer numbers should be managed by issuing more tags on public lands, the data supports more tags can be issued on public lands.

Wolves are hammering the deer.. they are everywhere in our area. The deer herd Hasn’t been able to recover between high bonus tag numbers and the wolves.

I would like to see baiting allowed and making it legal to use bait as an aid while hunting. I think a gallon or 2 of bait would be a fair amount.

Continue to maintain the deer herd at current levels. Proposed antlerless quotas seem appropriate. Don't reduce public land tag numbers.

Very pleased with the great job you do managing this county. Would like to see more three year bucks. Keep up the good work. Thank you

We really have a Wolf and coyote problem in the area and need to do something about it. In areas they have wiped out deer population.
I do not support a quiet period before the rifle season. I do not support a longer rifle season than the regular 9 day season.

Keep the length, time and rules of both gun season and bow season the same as it was last year. There is no reason to change it.

I would like to see regular CWD testing being performed in the unit. I am satisfied with the number of deer I saw last season.

I trust that the DNR will make decisions based on the good of not only the deer herd, but the environment in general.

Hearing gun shots at night during the rut is quite discouraging. More enforcement officers would be a welcome sight.

We have had a significant increase in bear where we hunt and a decrease in deer sightings. Too many bears.

Glad to see the increase in public land doe tags. There is no shortage of deer on our public lands.

I believe the CDAC recommendations are good. Seeing a lot of deer in northeast part of the county.

Keep the 9 day gun season. People don’t even hunt the second weekend why would they hunt a 3rd?

We are seeing the wolf population grow as we are seeing them on all hunted property.

Wolves are out of control throughout the unit. Ag tags are out of control as well.

More field checks by wardens on pop up blinds with no blaze orange. Safety first

I appreciate your efforts. Very little public interaction in home state of MN.

Non resident hunting license for land owners should be at a minimum 1/2 price.

Leave the traditional WI deer season alone, open up a wolf season instead

Would like to see an earlier start to rifle season more in line with rut

again....the sky is not falling. Let people harvest some more deer.

I would like to see a 2 week deer season starting mid-November.

keep the seasons the same as it been for the last five years

Like to see you keep the band on baiting indefinitely

The population needs to go way up in our area

get rid of the wolves that would help

Need to get rid of the wolves!!!!

We have far too many wolves!!!!!

Way to many wolves in the area.

Way to many wolves in the area.

I do not want earn a buck!!

Keep up the good work

We need a wolf season!

We need a wolf season!
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Calumet, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

172 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 118
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 18
   - I hunt in this unit: 154
   - General interest in this unit: 29

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 141
   - Bow: 92
   - Crossbow: 64
   - Muzzleloader: 74

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.49
   - Maximum: 63

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 89
   - Mostly Private Land: 28
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 18
   - Mostly Public Land: 9
   - Exclusively Public Land: 8
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 12
   - Not too crowded: 18
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 11
   - Somewhat crowded: 11
   - Very crowded: 6
   - Not applicable: 5

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 41
   - Fewer: 59
   - Same: 55
   - More: 12
   - Many More: 4
   - Unsure: 1

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private</th>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License</th>
<th>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are starting to get too many deer seasons. The youth hunt is one thing, but then continuing to extend and add additional seasons is getting ridiculous. I want a healthy herd that is able to sustain itself. All my deer are taken to be consumed by my family and myself. If I have extra to spare, I will give meet to family friends or individuals I know who are in need of meat. I usually don’t have meat to spare though. This is my main source of red meat. My concern with all the multiple seasons and the extending of seasons is that it does not allow for deer to live in peace, without constant hunting pressure. In order for them to remain healthy, we need to take a specific quota, reduce the urban sprawl that is leading to large herds who cannot be hunted and are at risk of spreading disease. We also need to look at land conservation. The more these deer are forced by housing developments out of their natural habitat, the greater risk we have for disease increases across the herd. Many of the deer kills I see are on major highways, near urban areas. I would consider expanding the hunting grounds to include urban areas for bow/crossbow, but in the regular season. I believe this may be occurring with special hunts, but again, I think these areas should be hunted by bow/crossbow during the normal seasons. This past year, was very sad for me personally. I have always harvested at least one deer per year since I was 12 years old. This year, I saw one deer for a three second glimpse and that was it. The timing of the gun season hunt was awful coupled with the inability to get standing corn crops off the fields due to rain/saturated ground. I was blessed to have gotten a large buck the season before, so I have some remaining meat to ration until this fall. Thank you for conducting this survey.

I've seen a significant decrease of deer encounters over the years on the 1200 acres of private land my family owns. In my youth I’d see large groups of deer and have several opportunities to harvest an animal. Hunting was fun, everyone wanted to go, we had a high success rate. Now I’m lucky to see 20 deer over bow and gun season. I primarily hunt near the Hayton swamp. My father has crop damage tags which is hate but I’ve assisted his efforts for over 20 years. I’ve find it challenging even when hunting winter months when the deer are grouped up to meet the quota. Use of rifle has assisted in meeting quotas. Based on my observations around 2001 after the hail storm I witnessed a significant decrease of deer sightings and that has maintained. For 15 years of hunting I had minimal predator encounters I have had an increase of encounters over the past 5 years. I’ve seen a decrease of hunters in the area I hunt and the current hunters share three above observations according to their accounts to me. The style of hunting has changed the first 5 years of my hunting career there was a larger group hunting strategy with deer drives. However with reduction of encounters and success hunters that used to hunt in our group lost interest and quit hunting. Now we see primarily still hunting in our area, deer drivers occur out of desperation to see a deer. I believe there are many factors that attribute to the change in observations regardless I can say there is a shared frustration in my area and the owners don’t want an increase of tags or doe only seasons. I strongly believe if numbers do not improve future generations interest will diminish.

I will stand by this. I’ve hunted calumet county for nearly 22 years and cant stand what I’m seeing. Deer drives have to go on public. Too many people have filled tags and are still out filling more. They disturb other hunters trying to enjoy a fair hunt. For many years I experienced these issues. I watch fawns smaller then my dog get shot. For the thrill not the meat and enjoyment of the outdoors. I finally got private land and will very seldom hunt public until deer drives are banned from public grounds. Not only is it un ethical and un fair to others who have to hunt public its un safe. People don’t know the area and just shoot, not caring or knowing what’s beyond. On private you know who should be there and what’s beyond your target if you disturb your land and your hunt that’s by choice but hunters shouldn’t be affected by others who don’t care ro show respect to the hunter that was there before them.
In my opinion the seasons need to be less and simpler. No extra hunts, no extra doe tags, no earn a buck. No youth hunt, kids can hunt at earlier age now then ever, no need for early gun hunting. Keep it to something kids have to grow up and learn the right way, respecting the hunt and nature. 1 buck and 1 doe tag per license. Very against extending or changing gun season framework. Like most people getting a deer is important, but not as much as seeing more deer, having a larger herd, and not over harvesting is more important. I've hunted calumet count my entire life and the herd is about 3/4 of what it used to be. I live near winter staging areas and seeing 100+ deer in the field at a time was common 15 years ago. Last ten years that number is about 30 to 60 deer. All in all tho, still very enjoyable hunting in my area and I think management has been respectable.

Less tags for county over all. Ive seen less deer the last three years than in previous years across the county. I drive truck through all parts of county and only see a few deer per week. Also the public land numbers are lower than in the past. Harvesting a doe use to take 3 or 4 hunts now it takes 7 to 10. Last please change the tagging system to one doe tag for all of the central farm zone. It is hard to hunt public lands when your limited to one county. Give one doe tag for all of zone and additional for county. This would also help with simplicity for people. Last antle point restriction. 3 points to a side. I think it would help people shot does and in 2 or 3 years ther would be more bucks shot with bigger antlers. Hunter excitment might in crease with this also. Youth and seniors shot what they want. No restrictions

I think it should go back to the way it was when I started hunting. You have to buy your buck tag and apply for a doe tag everywhere in Wisconsin and also buy a bonus tag if you want one. No antlerless only hunts, no holiday hunts. Close bow season a week before gun season. After gun season have one week muzzleloader hunting then late season bow hunting. I would like my son to have good hunting like I did when I started hunting. I know that a lot of people would agree with me on what I said in my feed back. Thank you

One of the things that I believe would help harvest more deer with a cleaner kill is allow baiting to continue. In all the years I have hunted I have never seen anything transferred from baiting if we follow the guidelines you set forth. When you get a population of deer that we have you are going to see issues like CWD and like anything else needs to run it's course. I also believe that it has been around for longer than we even know and now that we can test we have things we can deal with. Thanks for listening

Earn a buck should never happen again in this state it was a joke, antlerless deer were being harvested during the bow season in other DMU's and out of state (Michigan). One archery season no matter what bow style is used (recurve, compound or crossbow) Starting the the gun season a week earlier is a poor decision, First thing said after the season is over "to much corn standing" you think starting the season a week earlier, more corn will be harvested?

I feel the only real place to see deer in Calumet county is in 2 or 3 places. It's where some people own alot of land and lit very few people on it. Most other places in the county have very little deer. Public land is very over hunted in the bow/crossbow season where people shoot every deer they see because there don't if they will see another one. So very year public land gets a real beating on deer population. Thanks.

This county absolutely needs to the goal of INCREASING the deer herd. It is a shell of what it used to be in terms of deer population and sightings. Take a drive around much of the county and you are lucky to see many deer out in fields --- maybe small isolated areas, but overall the population is down. Please do not support any extended gun seasons or 19 day season. That is unwarranted and unnecessary.

Those of us who hunt public land, know that there is a lot smaller amounts of deer located there. Somewhere a long the line we have to figure out how to get the private land owners to take more deer form those areas. Some of these private land areas have huge numbers of deer that eventually could cause or may already be causing issues with over browsing and eventually disease.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>I really feel you need to let the land owners manage their deer population on their land. I took my kids hunting for the youth hunt and regular 9-day gun season. We saw 1 doe the whole time. My kids were bored and don't really want to go hunting anymore. You need to let things alone and get the population back up. Or soon you won't have many hunters buying tags anymore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Every year for the last 10 years, I have seen less and less deer. Last year for all of the archery and gun seasons, I didn't see one buck. Gun season I've seen a total of 5 does. This will not get new people to start hunting. I'd like to see an 8-pointer or better and outside the ears implemented to compete with southern states for big bucks being harvested. Thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Too many deer on private lands is dictating the entire county. Deer in the Killsnake, Brillton, Collins is nonexistent compared to years ago. I have hunted the Killsnake since I was 12. This was my playground. Now at 48, I make it a point to take my kids out there once during the deer season to point out the good old days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Wisconsin should implement all out-of-state hunters are required to purchase a qualified license before being able to purchase a non-resident deer hunting license. The qualified license would be an annual non-resident fishing or small game license. Most western states require this and it produces significant revenue for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Deer populations on public lands have reduced dramatically over the last decade. I have not seen a Deer the last 3 years. I have been hunting on the east side of Chilton for 40 years now. Insurance companies wanted to reduce car crashes so the state reduced deer populations. Tell me I am wrong!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>I would like to have the holiday hunt and extended archery season for additional harvest and recreational opportunity. Also bring back the October antlerless season as another tool for managing deer population and gun hunting in warmer weather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide this. I love hunting public lands especially the Killsnake. Water was the biggest issue in 2019 with flooding. Need to figure out a better drainage plan as access was severely limited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Over the past few years, I have been seeing more and more does than bucks, actually if any bucks at all. From what I have seen through bow, gun, and muzzle loader people need to start taking more does or more mature deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Worried about the possibilities of CWD with the outlook for a growing herd in the county if one does not harvest more deer. Have already seen many deer in uncommon areas when out on the landscape and when driving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Please consider longer season and same or fewer tags. Changing weather patterns make finding time and a “sunny day” hard to come by. Thank you, also could consider handgun hunting during muzzleloader season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>I have hunted here for 30 plus years. In the past I could look out my window and see deer in the field. I see little deer now. The farmers get extra tags and just slower the deer. That needs to stop!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Would like to see more adult deer. My son is a new hunter and he has yet to see a deer on the hoof during gun season. I would like to see increased harvest opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>I dislike the DNR ‘giving’ away any bonus tags. I believe they should always be sold, folks that want to harvest an extra deer for their family will gladly purchase one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>I would like to have the ability to leave portable tree stands on state land similar to placing trail cams. This will increase odds of seeing and harvesting a deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>Eliminate enclosed structures/dwellings to be hunted out of. People see and harvest less deer because they don't move and rely less on skill and more on opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Please, please, please, STOP making me choose between harvesting a deer on public or private land. It makes absolutely no sense.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State lands are over crowded. Deer drives should not be allowed on public land until Monday after the opening of gun season weekend.

You need to improve conditions on public land. I do some hunting there and I would like to do more but it's not worth it.

I would to see an antler restriction put in place similar to what Missouri does with at least 4 points on 1 side.

I feel that the deer number in this unit are not as high as you think or they are all hold up on private property.

I would support shortening the season for allowing crossbow harvested deer to 2-3 weeks prior to the gun season.

I personally think that the regulations should go back to the way they were 25 years ago when I started hunting.

We need to make a rule that has to deal will hunting on line fences some people push the limits.

regardless of statistics we supposedly have there does not seem to be near the old days numbers.

Since about 2016-2017 till now are deer harvest numbers in our group are down 8-9 deer.

Youth hunt should be done after bow/crossbow season. Not before.

do away with having to choose public or private land.

Buck only for 2 years to bring Hurd back.

10921
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Chippewa, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

293 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 188
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 53
   - I hunt in this unit: 262
   - General interest in this unit: 50

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 245
   - Bow: 152
   - Crossbow: 98
   - Muzzleloader: 93

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.96
   - Maximum: 62

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 178
   - Mostly Private Land: 53
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 19
   - Mostly Public Land: 5
   - Exclusively Public Land: 6
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 1

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 9
   - Not too crowded: 26
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 13
   - Somewhat crowded: 17
   - Very crowded: 8
   - Not applicable: 9

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 33
   - Fewer: 74
   - Same: 111
   - More: 59
   - Many More: 11
   - Unsure: 5

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 90 165 38

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 133 129 31

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 36 230 27

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?  VALID NOT VALID Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Does anyone have any verifiable documentation of any domestic herd present day management administrative process, weather it be for dairy cows, horses, pigs, sheep, goats etc that promotes the random (nonselective) slaughter ( because that is what tag promoted hunting is ) of their prime and not so prime breeding stock, prime stud contributors, this years and previous year yearling offsprings? Does anyone have any verifiable documentation that this process of random slaughtering of the deer herd would promote a herd quality that would produce quality stock, especially inhibiting health problems, and further promotes quality herd numbers and herd quantity?” I don’t know of any efficient dairy or beef farmer that uses this sort of ridiculous random slaughter and irrational management method to control their herd populations or for any domestic animal health and populations for that matter. The sportsman should find this fact of the DNR counting the dead deer to estimate the live ones, a practice that has been accepted by the DNR for decades and has never been questioned by our elected representatives who are supposed to be continuously controlling these bureaucrats. Our elected representatives should be religiously questioning the DNR bureaucrats for using and promoting such ridiculous and irrational administrative deer herd control methods and ask for verifiable proof of the DNR using the dead to count the living. Those elected asking the hunters (their constituents ) directly probably wouldn’t be a bad idea ether - the conservation congress gathering in the spring isn’t close to the answer either. I know some quality deer hunters, and so have many others who have been questioning these estimations of the DNR White Tail Deer herd population control methods for sometime. These existing DNR methods of controlling deer herd are a total disregard and disgrace for any White Tailed Deer management method and existing privately controlled hunting property White Tail Management methods proves this beyond a shadow of a doubt by consistently producing quantity, quality, and healthy deer. There is sane reasoning why our federal government uses a live census to determine a living population.

I feel the CWD concerns are overly exaggerated, issues with baiting in these farmland counties are ridiculous. This notion that hunters are causing CWD to spread from baiting is outlandish. Deer are heard animals and group up all winter feeding the same corners of fields and same watering hole. It is not uncommon to see 15 to 60 deer working the same area of field digging and grazing the same spots as the deer in front of them. Or digging and eating under the same oak tree for weeks at a time scavenging for acorns. These kind of sites happen naturally drawing in large numbers of deer, from multiple properties so wouldn't having more options allow the deer to be more spread out, keeping them more centralized in their home areas? Granted that putting out extensive amounts of bait (corn) (+100lbs) is not acceptable by any means, adding mineral to areas that lack natural mineral sites only seem to aid in the health of the deer population. Why eliminate the ability for conservationist (hunters) to add mineral sites to these lands that lack them and increasing the over all health of the local deer population. Obviously bucks use the extra minerals during their antler development in the spring, but does are by far the main visitors of these mineral sites especially in the spring and summer months. The majority of hunters interest revolve around the health of their deer herd and how to have healthier deer.
I think that instead of issuing antlerless tags for the metro sub unit would better be handled by giving people the option whether or not to hold one. Because a large number will go unhunted and unfilled due to people who are not even interested in hunting the area. Whereas if someone that is very interested in that particular subunit is interested then they could have access to possession of up to 2 at the time. Option for more as issued ones are filled. I don’t believe that extending bow season would affect harvest substantially because archery already only makes up for such a small percentage of deer harvest to begin with; so no real harm in giving people more opportunity to be in the woods. Where extending Gun for probably have a very large effect on harvests and population because a couple days of really nice weather can dramatically affect # of deer harvest by rifle.. Also maybe take small steps in preventing loss of significant trees by means other than killing deer to prevent overgrazing. Or start really evaluating when that damage is occurring to narrow in on how to prevent it. Maybe compare the amount of cleared land to your brows data. Take brows away on this 20 acres then the 80 acre next to it is going to absorb that extra brows pressure. Thank you for taking the time to hear the publics opinions.

When I started deer hunting 46 years ago it was nothing to see 8 to 10 deer before 8 in the morning. But with the same token there were no free antlerless tags being given out by the DNR. Yes we had smaller bucks at that point but still we had more deer. Now ever since they started giving out free tags and extra tags the deer population has plummeted. Yes I do realize a lot of this is due to the lack of hunters compared to other years. But I feel a lot of that also is price of tags and people not taking the time to get their children involved in hunting. Myself and my surrounding Neighbors all started doing what we like to call herd management which is no buck shall be taken unless he is at least an eight point and outside the ears. Now to keep our kids and grandkids hunting we are allowing them to shoot antlerless deer. Because I’m sure as you know if you don’t let them do some shooting and all they get to do is watch you are going to end up with a kid that does not want to hunt. As far as myself I never seen ONE deer all gun and Black Powder season.

Hello, I would like to start with thanking you for this opportunity to give our feed back as outdoors men. I have bow and gun hunted the last 24 years in the NW part of Chippewa county where I grew up. Yes, I understand times change but I have never seen the deer population as it was when I first started hunting. I will say the last 3 years of the gun hunt have definitely been disappointing in numbers. I hunt several different properties and it differs some, but still scarce for a healthy population. I am a management hunter but willing to take that doe about every other year, but not of late. I have a son in the mentor program and a daughter partaking this fall and it is definitely hard to gain there interest and stay focused with a dwindling population. I feel there should be NO extra hunts (Holiday/TZone) and few if any Bonus tags issued. Hunters choice or Buck only tags until the population can bounce back. Hopefully this information helps and again thank you for the opportunity.

it seems we have more car collisions, more farms being sold off and that changes hunting ethics and amounts of deer killed and loss of habitat due to houses popping up, I think we need to do some changes with the crossbow buck kill situation. Its getting hard for older hunters to keep track of all the different hunts going on and not knowing the times to wear blaze orange when you finally do get time off of work to hunt. I think last year will allow us to see more deer and a few more bucks when we have these late rifle hunts. It seems we are hearing a lot about of arrests for non registration of deer. I almost wish we could not shine deer anymore, if it would help wardens find more poachers and shooting off roads. In conclusion, I think one free antlerless tag is enough, We maybe could do less bonus tags. We’ll see how this season goes and next year will be a new three year commitment for Chippewa County cdac.
I would like to see more mature bucks. Lack of bucks reduces my interest in hunting after I get my one Doe. I am hearing of more many hunting deer in other states or going West to hunt elk during WI gun season now. Most of WI is simply not worth hunting anymore because of low deer numbers and mature Buck quantity, especially on public land. Its just not as fun as it use to be 15-20 years ago. I would also like to see Non-resident tag prices increased. Other states have much more expensive tags than WI. I believe most of the people coming from out-of-state would pay more. Stop making all the rules so complicated. People cannot keep up with them. Require people to register deer again, No back tags, but must register at a station. this will reduce all the outlaws out their taking too many deer or using private land tags on public land, or tags from other units in wrong unit.

Thanks for listening. Please do not invalidate the archery tags during the gun season. I hunt the metro zone that does not allow firearms to be used. It's private land, and archery only. I would hate to miss out on the rut hunt in November just because gun season is taking place. If I can't go gun hunting, the metro private land is close to home and allows me to take my traditional bow and hunt the rut. Please do not invalidate archery tags during gun deer season! I don't feel that I should be punished because the gun season is taking place. Where I hunt is private land and archery only! I gun hunt up north, but if the season is going to be extended this year I won't be able to hunt the whole season with a gun. Nor would I want to. The land I can hunt with my bow is close to home and I get go hunt it daily. Thanks

I think it would be better to only sell antlerless permits and not include them free with hunting license. More revenue. Also, I like the way it used to be when I was a kid. Get an archery license and you could harvest just one buck or doe with that license and then you were done. Used to see a lot more deer when I was young, hunting in the same areas. That's how you get youngsters and new people interested in hunting - if they go out hunting and actually see the animal they are hunting, it's a big plus. I dont know why we've been so con earned with deer numbers the last 20 years. Hunting was ruined in the northern part of the state all because of trying to manage deer numbers. Leave it alone, let people take a buck or a doe with their license and dont play God, let nature take care of nature.

If Chippewa county is broken up into farmland and forest then the baiting regulations should follow the same boundaries. Baiting isn't ideal but for people with small tracts of land baiting might be the only option to attract deer. Even if you lease land the owner may have the fields in set a side and not allow you to put in a food plot. Anyone who spends time in the woods knows that deer at social creatures. Even if they aren't feed, they still groom each other and would spread CWD by nose to nose contact. The areas of Eau Claire County that tested positive have significantly higher deer densities than most of Chippewa County. Instead of having blanket policies it would be encouraging to see the state isolate the area and talk with the local hunters.

Explain to me why new hunters, of which I am one, enjoy the longest deer season in Wisconsin? Why do they get the first chance at deer? Is there something sacred about now hunting? Many compound bows and cross now cannot meet any definition of "primitive" Compound bows 80 percent let off, crossbows that shoot accurately to 75 yards? An individual proposed a deer season open in September through December; hunters choose what weapon to use a number of years ago. Have you given any thought to this proposal? I expect a response. If you continue to ignore us, why go through the pretense of engaging the public and then doing as you please. Why can you not respond to individual comments? Too busy?

There are way to many deer in this unit. As a young logger, timber regeneration is important to me. We are very careful to sustainably manage forests, it makes me sick when all of that planning and hard work goes to waste due to deer overbrowsing. I do deer hunt and would like to see a reduced deer population for that reason also. I could tag out by 8:00 opening morning every year, it's not even fun anymore. I would rather see hunters kill more deer than to let a disease get them all. I would estimate the deer population at least 60 per square mile, it's nuts. We need more doe and crop damage tags. I would also like to see crop damage tags offered for damage to timber regeneration.
I think the dnr has their head so far up their asses they have no idea what’s really going on. While there are enough and almost all of deer in these southern units go up north and hunt and tell me how many are up there. There should be another wolf hunt and many more bear tags given up north. With one bad season for a mix of reason the dnr wants to completely turn the hunting season framework upside down. Maybe it was just a bad year. Stop having so many hunts to irradiate the deer and keep the framework simple. It's getting to the point if the dnr keeps going the way they are I will not hunt deer in wi and I will take my money out of state.

Starting the bow season later into the season Moving the gun season up one week or extending it No buck harvesting until the last week of October Adding a 3 day no hunt between the bow and gun season Making meat processing businesses responsible for testing each deer that they process (I’m pretty confident I’m not getting my whole deer back every year with how busy they are with the number of deer they have to process) Requiring everyone that’s not taking their deer to a meat processing business to have the dnr test them at stations(somewhere utilizing a punch system on the tags to show proof of this) the old tags that is.

deer numbers in western chippewa are about the same or slightly below 3 previous years im retired and hunt at least 4 days a week it was a different year for rut i have 4cams out most activity was at nite hardly any day movement start rifle season on 15 run it to dec 1 this week before thanksgiving is outdated to say the least no body goes to hunting camps no one is in woods after noon on thanksgiving give every license hunter a vote see what the real results are meetings are nice but majority of people don't have time its 2020 we can vote on our phones i'm 64 and i get it

Year after year I purposely leave my antlerless permits go infilled in an effort to increase deer populations in my area. I am a land owner and should be able to put an antlerless deer in the freezer without feeling guilty for adding to the low deer numbers. I have introduced 3 grandchildren to hunting but after many hours of sitting and seeing sometimes no deer it is difficult to get them excited about the sport! I realize this is not the case everywhere but that doesn’t help the situation I continue to find myself in. Thank you!

Im retired hunt about 3*4 days a week everyday when rut and rifle to end of muzzleloader if you want more deer harvest and quality hunt start rifle on november 15 to dec 1 all this nonsense about hunting camos and thanksgiving is bull...t look at states around us no one goes up north there are no deer no one has off hardly for thanksgiving new economy plus i do not understand why when a cdc deer is found its location is a military secret wouldnt help to know specific location so one could make an informed decision on testing

Please do away with all the youth hunts and all the other special hunts. They do more harm then good. You have an adult shooting adult bucks and then claiming that a human under the age of 12 shot the deer. When you shoot a doe you end up taking up to 3 fawns out of the food chain. That in turn leads to bears, timber wolf’s and all other top predators having to find other forms of building fat in the spring. That brings them closer to area’s that humans are giving them a free meal. Garage and compost piles come to mind.

I do hunt mostly private land in Chippewa County farmland There is no where near the deer we had a few years ago it has been going down the past 4 years I had cameras out and only a 3 fawns that I seen, most years there are at Least 6 set of fawns . I talked with the neighbors that live by the land I hunt and they see the same a lot less deer. Plenty of bear and coyotes though is there comments . Not all private land has the deer numbers that we have on town. We do not need all those bonus tags. Thanks

Just curious on the boards position on CWD and predation of the Chippewa county deer herd. What have you seen works and why? What have you seen attempted in other counties/states and was a cluster you know what and why? What have you learned from this and how can we as hunters and and also stewards of our private lands do a better job at maintaining that balance of deer herds and ratios within those herds and also with other wild game species? Thanks for the update on your presentation!
Hello, I am happy for the most part with the Dnr structure of the annual deer harvest. But I'd recommend making it required to test your deer for cwd regardless of unit. Doing this could help locate more accurately where cwd affected areas are. Also bring back registration station to register your deer instead of online business. Bring deer to these stations makes folks more incline to register their harvest I think. Plus have cwd testing on site would also favor the stations. Thank you.

I like the youth hunt but feel there should be a minimum age such as 9 or 10 years old. I feel like 1 doe tag with a license purchase is all anybody needs. I feel like the debate on limiting crossbows is unnecessary, we are losing more people that hunt every year, we need to give more to hunters, not take things away.... I also believe we should go back to having back tags and registration stations, I believe the numbers are farther off due to people not registering deer properly.

I applaud the council for having a quota but how can they reduce it so much from last year? There are plenty of deer and the deer were not overshot. Look at the surrounding counties and what their quotas are, I do not see how Chippewa County is that much different. It is a farmland unit that to me the challenge is to shoot enough deer. With CWD, the population needs to be managed responsibly and at a lower level.

I think one of the biggest concerns for the 2019 deer season was the lack of deer sightings not only during the hunting seasons but also the lack of pictures on numerous trail cameras. With 3 young hunters in the group it was a tough season. It not all about the harvest of a deer but the experience of seeing and observing them for these youngsters. Eight hunters, 160 acres, saw six deer, harvested zero.

I like the idea of a longer deer gun season. 9 days is too short because things like bad weather can really impact opening weekend, and that's when most deer are shot especially bucks. After opening weekend.....the deer harvest seems to drop off considerably through out the week. Having another week to use rifle or black powder as an option will give more hunters a chance to fill their buck tags.

There are too many deer in this unit. The quotas for this unit should not be lowered. Measures should be taken to increase the antlerless harvest. More antlerless harvest authorizations should be given to private land license holders. If measures are not taken to reduce deer numbers there will be a devastating impact on the deer herd, Agricultural crops and forest regeneration.

The idea of extending deer seasons makes no sense. You have people that drive deer constantly and stress them to no end and makes it difficult for others in those areas that stand hunt. There are to many people that consistently try to hunt others property and or road hunt on a daily basis. People need to hunt with integrity and not just go out for brown is down mentality.

We are seeing too many deer in our area for the land to support. There is to much browsing in fields and forests causing crop and forest damage. We try to plant trees and promote forest regeneration but the deer are killing it. We support a much higher antlerless harvest in our area including multiple antlerless harvest authorizations with private land licenses.

I commend the CDAC for once again recommending 1 free antlerless tag to be issued with every license. We need to continue to keep deer numbers in check. That being said, the CDAC could increase the bonus harvest availability to levels closer to what was available last year, especially within private land....it wouldn't hurt a thing....There are plenty of deer!

I have hunted public lands not only in my unit but through the region. I watch the herd get decimated through past practices. Had to go find different places to hunt. I felt that I had to lease land to have some control over deer herd. I myself can eat so many deer in a year. No matter how many tags that are supplied I'm only shooting what I'm going to eat.
Be advised of Chippewa County and the land ownership. Acreage/Owner. The southern portion of Chippewa county is mostly farmland with larger tracks of land owned by less individuals vs the northern portion. Less hunting pressure equals more deer. The county is to large of a zone to manage across the board. It should be split from Hwy X. Have a north/south zone.

I would prefer a doe tag per gun and archery seasons. And if not then make it optional tag for either buck or doe. Then you have the same chance of taking a deer without hurting the herd with mass amounts of deer taken. I believe we need back tags back. Because I believe deer don't register deer or even buy tags since the new tag system started.

I feel the population on private land is very high in this unit, I have always felt tighter regulations for public land doe harvest has been needed for many years, this is based on my experience working for Chippewa County Forestry department for 33 years. I also feel that baiting(well regulated) should be allowed in this management unit.

Overall way too many does being killed all over the state. If it is brown it is down especially on public land. Not even fun hunting public land overall with the lack of deer even seen.I never hardly see an older doe over one and 1/2 years old anymore. New hunters/kids don't want to start hunting when they hardly ever see anything.

If you wish to have more happy hunters, please start the regular season earlier. Old folks don't hunt in cold weather; therefore, don't buy a license or hunt. The amount of deer in Wi. is great, but the kill by wolfs is too great in the counties were we did hunt when I was younger. Anyway, good luck, in making WI hunters happy!

Our family own and hunt 700 acres. Predators are a major problem in deer herd. Need to increase bobcat tags, also fisher bear, coyotes, are taking a toll. We have an area farmer claiming we have to many deer. The poor crops this past year were from late spring, wet spring, and poor farming practice. Not over browsing.

If we as wildlife managers aren’t aggressive with the management of deer in this area we will soon have overpopulation like there is in nearby areas. Antlerless tags need to come with the purchase of a license and not bought as bonus tags. Many people would use this tag if they had it but won’t bother buying one.

I heard reports that the X-bow season may be more limited in the future. I hope that is not true. X-bows help people be more accurate shooting and result in less wounded deer. I believe it opens up early fall hunting to more people during a time of declining hunter participation.

I heard reports that the X-bow season may be more limited in the future. I hope that is not true. X-bows help people be more accurate shooting and result in less wounded deer. I believe it opens up early fall hunting to more people during a time of declining hunter participation.

I have heard rumors about extending the gun season and possibly pausing the archery season around the first of November. On both these issues I am extremely opposed. If I had a vote I would rather hunt archer and not gun season. Archery is much more satisfying to me. Thank You.

I already voted no to it but want to emphasize that I am not in any form a supporter of the holiday hunt. In my opinion there should no extra hunting seasons other than bow/crossbow, rifle, youth, and muzzeloader. And I even think rifle season should be shotgun only.

I think the winter of 2018 was more severe than was predicted. When we had a record amount of snow and the length the winter lasted we lost lot of are older deer for there was know acorns to. So the winter had a bigger effect on the deer herd than figured.

Bring back baiting with a permit for bow, crossbow, gun and muzzleloader this way you know who's baiting and where and as stands the 2 gallon or 2 1/2 gallon baiting rule with the other standers 10$ or 20$ per permit can be a add on to the any license.
I think the committees recommendations are good. I think the free tags are good. There are lots of deer in the farmland. I just wish there was more public land available south of 64 because obtaining permission on private land is tough.

Leave season lengths as is. Talk about tradition and seeing deer compared to harvest numbers. You extend gun season I will not buy license. What a shame the DNR has done to public land numbers and hunting in general.

No baiting - free bonus tags (no charge) - no night hunting for wolves (brush) - more wardens - expanded cwd testing - lower license fees - permission requirement for running dogs on private land with enforcement- thanks

I think the muzzle loader season should be before the gun season to much snow and i think the deer yard up and its harder to see them, it would get more hunters who enjoy muzzle loading out in the woods

I have hunted each year since I was able. I only did not hunt 2019 because I gave birth to my youngest child. Hunting is a very important tradition for our family and provides food for us.

Stick with tradition! Cut the cross bow season, to many bucks are killed so it's wrecking the hunt and trophy quality for everyone else! Stick with the 9 day gun season! No holiday hunts!

If you do decide to extend the rifle season please think of making the muzzleloader season before the usual 9 day hunt I don't enough people get out after that do to weather

It seems like that all everybody wants to kill the does off, you do that and you are killing off the factory no new fawns and no additions to the herd.

I disagree with the no back tag number and registration by internet. Seems like this gives a green light to people who wish to skirt the rules.

Cut down on the amount of seasons. I saw 3 deer all rifle season and not much more than that during archery (about ten times out)

I would like to open up a wolf season. I've seen multiple wolves kill deer and let the body rot. We have way to many wolves.

I personally think that a shortened bow season would be nicer. If not a shortened bow season then a extended gun season.

Just not the numbers of deer that there are in surrounding counties and herd health I don’t think is as good either.

se Chippewa cty has an abundance of deer on private land that is negatively impacting habitat and ag crops

Whatever is done I hope to see more deer population and ensure a healthy population for our future hunters

There is a forty acre corn field and seen 100 deer in the months of february march not a big area.

The high volume of baiting should be a big priority as it affects many of the questions asked

Crossbow should only be allowed for disabled and hunters 60+ years old. Like in the past.

There is not much public land so why give out bonus tags when you already have free tags?

Go back to back tags and party tags for deer harvest. Also shorten the cross bow season.

I believe there should be two antlerless tags given out with each tag purchased.

I did not see much sign of a winter kill during the 2020 spring turkey hunt.

Let us enjoy our time with Family and do not make us shoot Bambi

No Holliday hunt. Seasons are already too long!

Chippewa county dmu should be split in two.

Do not extend the gun deer season.
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>627</td>
<td>We need to have a longer hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>628</td>
<td>Close deer farms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

160 forms were submitted for this unit.

### Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 53
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 39
   - I hunt in this unit: 152
   - General interest in this unit: 21

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 142
   - Bow: 93
   - Crossbow: 55
   - Muzzleloader: 53

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 20.73
   - Maximum: 64

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 59
   - Mostly Private Land: 26
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 33
   - Mostly Public Land: 7
   - Exclusively Public Land: 26
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 1

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 4
   - Not too crowded: 32
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 18
   - Somewhat crowded: 19
   - Very crowded: 18
   - Not applicable: 1

### Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 16
   - Fewer: 38
   - Same: 58
   - More: 31
   - Many More: 15
   - Unsure: 2

### Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is...</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Chippewa, Northern Forest
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
VALID 13
NOT VALID 136
Unsure 11

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10871 PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE INTRODUCE A MINIMUM ANTLER SIZE FOR BUCK HARVEST!!!!! I hunt all public land, and in my opinion I hunt very hard, I put my time in, do the research, and all the other things that involved quality deer/buck management... from what I have noticed in public hunting areas pretty much anything that is brown everyone shoots. I think that has to do with people not caring what they shoot on public land... if everyone practiced a little bit of deer/buck management it would better the odds for everyone on shooting their dream buck. Now, I’m not no trophy hunter by any means, I understand filling the freezer is important. But quality deer management would help fill that freezer just due to size factor of the deer after its first couple years of life. It also let’s the animal thrive for more then six months in its life. I feel and notice that in the most recent years of hunting public land, the deer body size is getting smaller and smaller. It is very hard and rare to find/see/shoot a mature deer on public land.

10872 Had the most trespassing we have ever had since back tags have been gone I think we should have a patch with dnr number visible on back of clothing. I’ve seen a lot more wolves and coyotes this last season and have found at least 12 predator kills on deer while scouting land and hunting. I also have resorted to hunting rusk county also to try and get a deer Chippewa has been over hunted in my opinion I haven’t shot a deer in quite a few years while rifle hunting because I either can’t get a doe tag for our county or even see a mature deer my father and I only try to take one animal per person but there’s years we have went with nothing we’re relying on deer hunting to help feed our families over winter two deer per fall get us almost through I hope many other hunters fill out this survey and voice there opinions I love being outdoors even if I don’t see or get a deer.

10873 Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the 2020 goals. From my observations, the idea to still, MAINTAIN, the deer herd for the next three years would be most beneficial in the NORTHERN FOREST region if Chippewa Co. It finally seems that there are slightly more deer than in the past 5 years, which is encouraging, and also indicates the management choices of the CDAC along with the DNR are working. Over the past three years I have not seen as many bucks, but the does are showing some increase. I still believe there is a problem with ALL predators in the Northern Forest of Chippewa Co. Keep making wise, informed, decisions and the herd will eventually come back to a good balance. This winter was very helpful for the general health of the herd. The majority of deer I have seen this spring look very healthy. Thanks for all your hard work!!!

10874 Our hunting party of 12 hunted hard for 8 of the 9 days of gun season and seen limited deer. we are being told the deer are there and we need to put in more effort. We pounded some ideal whitetail habit and are very successful deer drivers. Very few deer to be found. I am sick of the excuses! The DNR wants to recruit and retain hunters yet mismanages the herd year in and year out. I have a very sound background in wildlife management and I am dumbfounded that doe tags continue to be given out even after everyone complains about the lack of deer? Is this about wildlife management or money? One has to wonder and if the poor management continues I will be another hunter than forgoes the sport and invests my time and money elsewhere.

10875 I can see deer just about every night when I take a walk. It's not uncommon to count 10 or 12 in a radius of about a mile. I live 1 mile north of hwy 64. The summer of 2019 I found at least 2 fawns that were probably victims of bear. The reason I believe that is all that was left was the skin. Even the bones were gone. I observed bears crossing the road and the field. And I observed the bear in the same field where the fawns were killed. However, there are plenty of deer because they just about destroyed our apple trees. They come right in the yard to browse on the cedar trees next to the garage. We have deer tracks in our garden all summer long. I am pleased with the online information survey. Thanks.
While deer numbers are certainly increasing in the northern forest, consider increasing the quota to 500 instead of 675. The CDAC discussions over the past several years have emphasized the “lack of deer” in the northern forest. In my opinion, tripling the number of anterless tags for 2020 has the potential to swing the population too far the other direction. Since we’ve been so low on tags for the past few seasons, it seems logical that we should open the spigot more gradually and monitor the data for results. If it holds for 2020, then another gradual increase could be considered for the following season. Consider looking at the 1300-1400 range for 2020. Thanks for allowing the input.

Thanks for having a quota and for increasing it from last year. I think there is no shortage of deer, it is just hunting methods are different and hunters are not as dedicated, which can be why less deer are being shot. I have concerns for forest regeneration and CWD, which are both good reasons to keep the deer population at a reasonable level. Having said all this, they should do away with different zones in the same county. I do not think they are needed and it is confusing. Certainly some areas have more deer and some have less, but it is that way for everything.

Limited deer numbers and limited mature buck sightings are making it difficult for new hunters to grow their interest in hunting. I would like to see fewer bonus tags and go back to Hunters choice. I would also like to see limitations on antler size to allow bucks to grow. keep it simple. for example, Three or more points on one side. This will allow the spikes and fork horns the opportunity and also require hunters to get a solid visual before pulling the trigger. Hunters choice and antler restrictions could also reduce hunting accidents.

On public lands it’s hard hunting because there isn’t that many deer and not many bucks. And the few bucks are mostly taken in bow season. Which in my opinion lead to a sharp decline of gun hunters because the chance of a buck is slim. If it was up to me I would shorten bow season and make it earn a buck so it’s not just trophy hunters. Leave gun season 9 days to keep with tradition and make it buck only with limited doe tags. And eliminate late bow season and extend muzzleloader season.

In general: I would like to see the cross bow season stay as it is. Reducing it will reduce the amount of people hunting in general. Crossbows allow older people to hunt and busy people who don’t have time to practice a lot with a bow (all more likely to wound deer). I also would like to see the firearm season move a week or two earlier. More people would hunt as they would see more deer during the rut and the weather on average would be more tolerable.

First off I would like to say thank you to whomever put up the signs in the county forest last gun season reminding people that they needed a doe tag specifically for public land north of 64 to legally harvest a doe. I hope to see the same thing in 2020. I am in favor of the numbers that the cdac is recommending. I hope to see the county forest separated as it is for years to come. It is certainly allowing for the herd to rebuild.

Opening weekend we had a group of 17 hunters. It dropped down to 9 during the week and then back up on Thursday. We drive public land. In 7 days of hunting i seen 3 deer. All of them on Tuesday. I cant even imagine how there can be any quota for anterless deer. there should be a ZERO quota for antlerless deer in the northern forest zone of Chippewa county. I don't necessarily need to kill a deer but like seeing them.

My biggest concern with deer and the seasons in recent years comes with most deer I have seen are all those and very few bucks and any bucks that I do see are very small due to having not enough doe tags available for public land. the amount of deer I have seen in past years has also gone down I am unsure if it is due to the lesser amounts of hunters I see on public land or the deer herd size itself.

I think private land owners with 20acres or more should get an antlerless tag WITH the buck tag instead of charging them again for bonus tags. Between my father and I, we own 93 acres bordering the county forest and we have to buy bonus tags in order to harvest an antlerless deer. I feel since we support and feed these deer year round, we should have an opportunity for the deer to give back :)

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020  Chippewa, Northern Forest
I have hunted this area for a very long time and deer numbers are at and remain at an all time low and now with the amount of predation from increased Bear and wolf numbers along with the private land hunters filling there antlerless tags on the public land I don't think deer numbers will ever increase. I think there should be zero antlerless tags for the northern forest area of Chippewa county.

Tag numbers are still too high! The deer population is still trying to rebound in this unit so keeping the doe tags low is a must. The Chippewa county forest public land used to be a very good spot to hunt but now it is hard to even see a deer. We need to kill a minimal amount of doe so the heard comes back as well as the better hunting opportunities. KEEP THE AMOUNT OF DOE TAGS LOW!

There were way too many antlerless tags many years ago. Chippewa County Forest. The deer never came back. It’s buck only but way too late to do any good . There used to be a hunters choice license. Allowed one deer and you were done . Had plenty of deer every year . I’m so disappointed with the way this was done with the bonus tag system I quit gun hunting and only bowhunt.

I think that the goal of maintaining the population is correct. Also the number of antlerless tags is correct as a start to determine effectiveness of control this year. I think there are more deer out there than you think. While turkey hunting last week, I counted 21 deer in one hour (6 to 7 pm). They all looked healthy and most were does or yearlings. Thank you.

Would like to see the gun deer season extended more before Thanksgiving so hunters would have the opportunity to hunt in better weather and with more rut opportunities. Lengthing the entire season will help prevent injuries because gun hunters wouldn't feel pressured to take shots at deer that may be the only deer they

I seen far more does and fawns compared to bucks only seen two bigger bucks all small spick bucks landowners are buying for tags and not using them which is unfair to people who want to put meat in their freezers to much posted land surrounding mfl land and no access to the land but owner getting major tax breaks

It seems like a lot of hunters buy tags for every member of the family, whether they hunt or not. Just so they can harvest more. On a separate note, bear populations are high while the chance for a tag are low. Need more ability for residents to get tags before nonresidents.

Roughly half of adult does seen during the fall season have lost their fawns by predation or other mortality ! Bear numbers too high ! Along with coyote and wolfs ! Most of the hunters hunting public land are buying private doe tags and using them in the county forest

Lower quota limits on antlerless deer for public hunting land over the last few years seem to be working in reviving the deer population on public hunting grounds. I fear that to large of increases to quota limits will offset this progress.

Hunted many years and observe deer size is generally smaller. Crossbows should be regulated as shotguns. Equal or greater accuracy, silence contributes to additional trespassing, poaching, extended hours, and general lawbreaking.

In past 2 years I've only seen 4 deer and I hunt public land between 2 different privately owned land. If land owners have a problem with deer then let someone who needs a deer come in and help them out.

Leave the seasons alone. Charge for antlerless tags don’t give them away. Stop with the antlerless seasons. Maybe charge for a tree stand pass on public land for hang on stands or ladder stands.

This should not be maintain deer numbers unit. This should be increase deer numbers. There are too many predators and not enough deer to be shooting does, even on private land.

I love seeing deer again. I think that the recommendations are on track, but slightly too high for private land antlerless only tags. I think there should be fewer offered.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10899</td>
<td>Too many wolves and bear in this zone. Keep beat zone C with the cut off being hwy 64 still. It’s the front lines of keeping numbers down south of hwy 64.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10900</td>
<td>I believe we should be able to use salt and feed for attractant and it provides necessary food that they don’t get other places in this district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10901</td>
<td>I think we should go back to the way the zones were set up in the past no more farmland Northern lands just go back the way it was it worked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10902</td>
<td>For the Northern Chippewa Forrest zone I see about the same numbers as last year, which are considerably lower than the central zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10903</td>
<td>Leave the seasons alone, time frames and weapons! If we keep messing with it, you will lose more hunters!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10904</td>
<td>Deer numbers in Chippewa Northern Forest warrant a greater number of doe permits on public land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10905</td>
<td>The Farmland extra tags would be more attractive if there was more public land to hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10906</td>
<td>Adding more bonus tags for private land than we had last year is a good idea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10907</td>
<td>Need to make a bigger antler size for a legal buck for a few years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10908</td>
<td>I would like to see wolf tags available for deer hunters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10909</td>
<td>Please consider making Chippewa county one dmu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10910</td>
<td>I would like to see baiting allowed again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10911</td>
<td>To many wolves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Clark, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

312 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 119
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 72
   - I hunt in this unit: 295
   - General interest in this unit: 57

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 278
   - Bow: 160
   - Crossbow: 120
   - Muzzleloader: 88

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.68
   - Maximum: 67

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 179
   - Mostly Private Land: 56
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 38
   - Mostly Public Land: 7
   - Exclusively Public Land: 11
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 11
   - Not too crowded: 24
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 24
   - Somewhat crowded: 23
   - Very crowded: 22
   - Not applicable: 8

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 52
   - Fewer: 98
   - Same: 106
   - More: 43
   - Many More: 10
   - Unsure: 3

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Clark, Central Farmland
### Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

#### Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

#### If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
  - Support: 64
  - Oppose: 222
  - Unsure: 26

#### If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
  - Valid: 117
  - Not Valid: 161
  - Unsure: 32

#### If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
  - Valid: 29
  - Not Valid: 267
  - Unsure: 16

#### If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
  - Valid: Not applicable in this DMU
  - Not Valid: Not applicable in this DMU

### 11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

#### Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for  Clark, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.

i want the deer population to be what is was like 15 years ago when i could go hunting and see deer. I walk in the woods now and some days do not even see a deer. At night at the hunting cabin i can now hear wolves howling every night i did not see wolves 5 years ago. I have seen wolves and many tracks the wolves need to be managed better we don't need this many wolves in Wisconsin. We need to issue more permits to trap the wolves. If you add in the winter kill because of bad winters this makes the population even worse. I think we as hunter only need to harvest 1 deer. I would prefer to pay more for a licence and harvest 1 deer. As it stands i purchase 4 or 5 bonus permits every year so i have options in different areas to hunt because who know if you will see any deer in some of these areas. This gives me options to move to and area where their may be some deer. I end up paying about $60 $74 each year to have options and i will only hunt until i harvest 1 deer. The DNR could make some changed to manage the heard better. In some areas i have seen 12 to 20 or more hunters on deer drives and they slaughter everything in their path if they have the permits. I don't have a problem with this as long as they have the permits but the issue is their are no deer in these areas or very few deer for the past 4 or 5 years because they take everything they are permitted for. To sum it up you need to take the wolf population down and issue more trapping permits. This will help to manage the heard. the DNR cant manage our winters but you can do this. As a hunter for the past 40 some years it is disappointing when i go hunting now and see what i see in the woods. I want to take my grandson hunting here in a couple of years and teach him how to hunt and what are his chances of harvesting a deer in these days. It is slim because the deer population is not their and if the population is not their he will not be interested in hunting if he is not interested in hunting then no hunting license sales. Issue more wolves permits please. Thanks Mark

The youth & handicap hunt should coincide. You need to bring back the back tags. We have had many trespassers on our land during gun hunting and I have been advised to call the sheriff and give a description. So that description is "some guy in blaze orange with a gun". That doesn't help very much. Before I could give a back tag number and they at least knew who they were dealing with. I also know during the Rice Lake massacre, if one of those that was killed had not written a back tag number in the dirt before dying they never would have caught the guy who did it. If that had been now when we have no back tags those murders would be unsolved. YOU NEED TO BRING THEM BACK! I am very willing to pay extra for them. Deer season needs to be earlier in November like the 1st-14th. It needs to be extended past a 9 day hunt. The longer the season is the more people who participate, more money is spent in the areas they hunt in. Earlier in the month would also coincide more with the rut and hunters will have a better chance of success. When you go year after year and hunting is unsuccessful you then decide to just give it up. That means less tags bought, less money for the state & less money for the area businesses where we hunt.
As an advocate for sustaining the hunting tradition and past time that many Wisconsin residents enjoy (as well as license revenues), it is critical to create an environment that attracts the next generation of hunters to the sport. A young hunter that has a positive experience through the multiple interaction with deer, is a much more effective means to ensure the creation of a potential lifetime hunter. Conversely, a young hunter that has a negative experience (i.e. seeing no deer all day), is much more likely to limit the potential that the individual will continue in the sport. I equate this to taking a kid fishing for bluegills versus muskie for generating interest in a sport. As a result, it should be the CDAC's highest priority and objective to ensure the success and interest in hunting for the next generations. To achieve this objective, policies should be weighted heavily on strategies to increase the overall numbers and quality of deer to increase the likelihood of a new hunter having a memorable encounter. Additionally, similar to other states, antler limitations should also be considered and adopted to improve the quality of encounters as well.

First I would like to say deer are shot with bow, crossbow, rifle, or muzzleloader once you purchase a license you should have the ability to take a animal with whatever weapon you choose to take game. people think that since deer are on their property that they are theirs and if they don't want to shot a doe it is their choice but when deer move an round anybody can shoot. second I would make a comment on all deer laying dead in medians on our highways and nobody cares by picking up they are rotting and materials from rotting going into our water supply. third giving out more antlerless will not help if landowners will not harvest antlerless deer but the Mennonites will shot anything that is brown is down then wonder next year when they have no deer on their property and take out all brushy and woods for ag land fourth the whitetail has one of the best defensive system in the animal kingdom. Pumping gas in the same boots you wear hunting is not ideal but the same people that do this also complain about not seeing deer. Crossbows are NOT like rifles but people believe they are...not the case at all. The gun season over Thanksgiving week is long enough. Gun hunting during the rut will kill off all of our breeder bucks...our herd will suffer greatly.

I'm not sure if this questionnaire that I just filled out directly effects this or not. I am against any changes to the time frame of the 9 day gun deer season. If there are needed antlerless hunts like in the past so be it. I also feel that bow and crossbow should be considered the same weapon. I feel that there are many hunters who switched from hunting with a compound bow to a crossbow because it made them feel more comfortable that they will actually kill a deer instead of wound one and not find it (more ethical hunter). I know for myself I’ve never missed an bow season since I was 12 I’m now 38. A few years ago I switched to a crossbow because as a small business owner my free time has become very limited. Which was making it very hard to practice as much with my bow as I felt necessary. By being able to hunt with a crossbow during the bow season I’ve been able to still get out to do one of my favorite past times during one of my busiest times of the year for me. It will deeply sadden me if the opportunity to hunt with my crossbow is limited to less time than with a compound/long bow.

It is a horrible idea to extend the gun season or even to consider gun hunting during the rut. Proposed Nov 1st. If hunters aren't seeing deer it is not due to there being no deer. You can't smell like bacon and eggs on the stand. You can't be munching on dorritos or smoking a cigarette. Its frustrating to see people complaining that they dont see any deer and they are not doing the right things as a good hunter should to up the odds. The problem isn't the deer it's the hunter and the way they hunt. The whitetail has one of the best defensive system in the animal kingdom. Pumping gas in the same boots you wear hunting is not ideal but the same people that do this also complain about not seeing deer. Crossbows are NOT like rifles but people believe they are...not the case at all. The gun season over Thanksgiving week is long enough. Gun hunting during the rut will kill off all of our breeder bucks...our herd will suffer greatly.
We own and hunt on some land in Clark County. It is farmland in the Central Farmland zone. I run trail cameras all year round and observe a very large deer herd in the area in the fields and on camera. We had an aggressive deer harvest plan on our property to help reduce the population. The deer have wiped out the understory in the woods. We had a mandatory harvest in the woods last winter and we wanted to reduce the deer population so the next forest stand has a chance to regenerate. The timing and the weather conditions last season did not aid us in our deer management goals. We did not harvest as many antlerless deer as we wanted. We hope the DNR will offer the tags and give us the season framework to accomplish our deer management goals this season. We are not alone. In talking with the farmers in the area, they are concerned with too many deer too.

I hunt in the mead lake area exclusively on public land. I believe deer numbers are dropping again because they moved the farm land zone from highway 73 west to county rd M. Why that was done made no sense as there is way more forest than farm land. Doing that opened up thousands of acres of public land to the doe slaughter. Alot of land owners choose to fill doe tags on public land rather than shoot "their" does on private land. The over population of does is on private land so why give out free tags to be filled in the Clark county forest. The deer heard was coming back nicely once they quit giving out doe tags in this area and now the heard is dropping greatly on public land. I hope to see this changed in the future to keep hunting fun for all. I hope there is a decent years left in ten years to teach my young kids to hunt.

Gun Deer season starting earlier is a TERRIBLE idea! The best part of bowhunting is the rut which any hunter can experience with archery equipment or crossbow. Extending Gun season would in no way promote new hunters to bow/crossbow. If that is the case just open the entire hunting season up to any weapon. Another bad idea is a week of no hunting before gun deer and not being able to use lesser weapon during Gun season. Also by proposing a crossbow only season you just divide hunters the sport must grow and alienating any segment of legal hunting is counter productive! I realize their is a lot to juggle here - but it should be viewed through a lens of including new hunters especially youth in the Heritage and Tradition... Regards

LIMIT archery especially with the new bows and crossbow, cut there season, many of nice bucks and many does are killed off before gun season gets here. Many hunters around the area don't see any deer during the gun season. The past two years I haven't been able to fill my antlerless tag, we just don't see any deer. Many are getting frustrated and aren't going to buy a license anymore. Once season is done the deer are all over in the fields. Add revolver to the muzzleloader season. Think some hunters would like to try it. I know we can use them during the gun season, but can't get close enough to any deer, close all seasons for week then open a muzzleloader/revolver season

I hunt in the part of the farmland zone that was removed from the forest zone a few years ago. In six partial days of gun season hunting, I saw about 80 deer. I shot four and two of my neighbors shot a total of five. My overwinter snapshot Wisconsin trail cam had about 1900 pictures of deer with up to 12 deer in a frame. There are too many deer in this area, and the population needs to be reduced to prevent ag and forest damage. More bonus tags need to be available in this area. Also, it appears you have transposed the Public/Private bonus tags in your minutes. It is opposite of that stated in this survey. Steve Gress

I believe they’re needs to be a focus on restructuring the crossbow season and regulations. I believe for the length of the archery season a crossbow is too effective to be used by anyone. I would support either a shortened crossbow season or for implementing a system of age/health permitted use of the crossbow. I also believe many people using a crossbow are treating the weapon more like a firearm, the capabilities to shoot further with the advancement of the technology of crossbows is leading to more hunters to take unethical shots and is leading to an increase of wounded deer that are unable to be recovered.
I believe that the area between State Hwy 73 and Hwy 10 in eastern Clark County should be removed from farmland and placed in central forest. This area is mostly forest, and the public access section have low deer populations due to the number of available antlerless permits. I realize that Hwy 73 has been a unit line from the beginning. My observation is because of the number of antlerless permits available and the limited amount of public access this area receives it gets excessive pressure. Habitat wise it is closer to central forest than central farmland. Steve Schwanebeck 715-572-0865

With wolf numbers out of control the deer population don’t stand a chance between bear and wolves. The northern part of Wisconsin used to thrive with hunters from all over. Now it is a ghost town because there are no deer because of predators. We should also be charging non residents reciprocal of what we are charged to hunt their states. If a non resident can show proof of land ownership than they should be allowed to have a resident license. Wisconsin will continue to lose Hunter dollars if the wolf population goes unchecked.

Hunting Clark county Central farmland I have seen fairly consistent numbers with a slight drop in herd size over there last couple seasons. Unfortunately it appears to be both buck and doe numbers. We have always had an unbalance herd in our area with way too many does. However early antless hunts have also seemed to take a large number of button bucks. I agree with issuing antlerless tags along with the normal hunting season and late season hunts. I agree with the numbers being used to justify the current herd goals.

A area that needs to be addressed is the bow hunting, and high rate of buck kill, many bow hunters will only shoot a buck, many hunt until they have shot a large buck, you need to address this in many units, including this one. I would propose, only 1 buck per year, either with bow, or with rifle. If only a bow hunter, then he can only harvest a buck, every other year, the buck to doe ratio is getting way out of line, the longer you wait, the bigger problem this will be. Larry Oehmichen

I feel the deer licenses should go back to the way they use to be a buck or doe with a bow tag and buck only for a rifle tag unless you sent in and received a antlerless bonus tag. My concerns are also with the number of predators in this unit with wolves (not huntable) bears, bobcats and coyotes the fawn recruitment is not what it use to be and more doe tags does not help the matter. Wolves are the main concern there. I am also opposed to a longer rifle season frame work. Thank you.

I would love to see air rifles be made available for all hunters. I have talked to a number of hunters and they would like to see this as well. The air rifles out today have the speed and energy to ethically harvest a deer. We should be doing all we can to allow for our young as well to have other opportunities available. I know a number of hunters suffer with hearing loss issues and that’s another reason they would like air rifles to harvest an animal.

1. Change hunting season to the beginning of Nov.(1-14) 2. GO BACK TO ADMINISTERING BACK TAGS!!! That way hunters and DNR officials can identify trespassers. Remember when the family of hunters was killed by a trespasser I believe near Rice Lake many years ago, the killer was identified by his back tag # that one of the hunters scratched into the dirt before he bled to death. BRING BACK THE BACK TAGS!!!!!! 3. Combine youth hunt with disabled hunt.

With no longer having check in stations for deer, it really opens the door for not following guidelines and too many unregistered deer. I think we really need to go back to deer registration stations. One other very common consensus when talking with other hunters, is it really takes the fun out of talking with other hunters about the hunt and showing off their deer. Please take this into consideration as this is a very hot topic locally.

I hunt about 5-6 days of the 9 day gun season. Between my group and I we just don't see the deer we used to. I believe baiting is the biggest problem but also believe the numbers are low. Amish harvest is also a big part as I know many do not register their deer and they are shooting them out of the Buggy's with Crossbows now. This is a very efficient way for them to take deer as the deer don't run from the horse & buggy. It's a shame.
1937 Deer baiting should be allowed. It is no different than standing crops and natural fruit trees and acorns. The CWD concerns are low and have been used for excuse for poor deer management as hunters have cooperated and tolerated these changes with no measurable proof of damage to our deer herd. Data used from single deer farms has been used against hunters and does not reflect true picture of the deer herd health in my opinion.

1938 Wolves, amish poaching, and registration only being done via online registration has lead to severe numbers of deer not being registered in our area leading to seeing very few mature buck not even including buck just mature deer of any sex. Locals are killing the wolves as fast as they see them and still not keeping them in check. Would like to see the deer herd grow for a few years with limited doe permits.

1939 Is their any possibility to have a 4 point on side antler restriction for clark county. Their is way to many young buck getting shot with properties getting smaller. Many out of state tags could we sell with big buck running around. We could do a 3 year trial. We could still let junior an first time hunters shoot small buck... Or Make that only one buck a year per person.

1940 Quit giving out bonus tags like there candy. If you need the money that bad then raise the out of state license prices that we have to pay when we hunt other states. Tags should be on a lottery draw and should be at least $450.00 with a $30.00 application fee non refundable. If you are drawn for a license then the license would cost an additional $100.00.

1941 I appreciate the job that is being done to maintain and keep all of Wisconsin's wildlife numbers and viability at an optimal number for all to enjoy. I would welcome the opportunity to visit about any topics for which you would like additional input. Thanks very much for all that you do. We are all in this together, and Wisconsin is the perfect place to be!

1942 Too many deer on private land, but landowners do not allow other hunters because of overharvesting of bucks. And the no backtag law creates more mistrust. Also believe it is time to outlaw baiting statewide because of CWD, it's just foolish not to because it's changed the way deer behave by hunting season, and if you don't bait you almost feel disadvantaged.

1943 My main concern over deer population is predators (wolves) that are not huntable and too many antlerless tags together equals declining deer numbers. Most people I talked to in area agree. No questions on extending firearm season. NOT if favor of extending rifle season, think it appease low percentage of hunters. Not a good idea.

1944 Hunter numbers will continue to decline when little to no deer are seen. Young hunters have lost interest in the sport due to not seeing animals. They are interested in having the opportunity to see them, not just harvesting them. When they go out a dozen times and not see a deer of any kind, they find other things to do.

1945 I feel that maybe we should consider one either sex tag for archery season and gun season as well for a few years establish a very good healthy heard of deer then manage it at higher numbers. It is hard to get youth interested into hunting when you don't see a lot of deer, they get bored easily of it and lose interest.

1946 Please DO NOT support any extended 19 day gun seasons. Would like to see December Antlerless Hunt eliminated. It eliminates a bow hunting weekend for 200-300 does to be shot? How many more are taken than just an average archery weekend while we are eliminating the possibility to hunt a buck with the bow.

1948 Keep Clark county headed in the right direction! I feel overall deer numbers are just a little low but I would say quality from what I have noticed is down, hopefully that will start to get better in the near future! Thanks again for all your hard work and dedication to the deer herd in Clark county!

1947 There are too many special hunts. Youth hunt, disabled hunt, veteran hunt, enter-your-own name hunt... These do not seem to be included in the CDAC recommendations and they should as my impression is that they do take a reasonable number of deer that should be considered in the management decisions.

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Don't change or lessen the archery bow season, Don't make it a longer Gun Season, Don't extend the Crossbow season. I would love to see a 5 county area that would become, a Trophy Buck Zone, Only one Buck per year per person(Gun or Bow) and It would be a earn a buck area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>I think that the numbers set forth by the CDAD are about right. We think that the deer numbers have recovered significantly from the 2014/2015 winter kill and we are seeing enough deer on our property so we have started harvesting antlerless deer again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>If we keep harvesting all the does the way we have been the population is going to continue to drop! People will get as many tags as they can and just shoot whatever they see just to shoot something! Too many unethical hunters in this area!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>have you thought about doing a antler restriction, the number of year and a half old bucks shot are crazy, I looked into where they did it in Michigan and it got a lot of support and actually raised hunter numbers in those units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Do not mess with the bow hunting season. Let it open in mid Sept and run as is. Don't mess with tradition and what we've all grown to love n enjoy. Please raise all out of state deer license. These are our deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>I feel we have a deer herd very appropriately in balance with our carrying capacity and surrounding agriculture. (I believe the population certainly has some headroom to grow before it becomes a problem)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>You need to reduce harvest numbers, between hunters, predators, and the tough winters, there aren't no deer around anymore. Focus on more of the predators, i.e wolves and coyotes killing everything off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Please think about QDM state wide by restricting bucks to 3 points or more on one side Us older hunters on private land are tired of letting small bucks go by only to be shot when they go off our lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>I would like to know or see some information that talks about poaching or how to combat poaching in my area. I haven't seen a warden in five years. I would like to know how I can help prevent poaching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>From my observations deer populations continue to rise in this unit. While the 3 year goal was to maintain, the CDAC is recommending to lower the quota and the number of available antlerless permits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>The wolf, coyote, and bear predation on deer in Clark county is a problem that is impacting deer numbers. In addition to adjusting deer harvest numbers please look at a hunting season for wolves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Get rid of crossbows, trail cameras, and baiting OR if nobody wants to do that then reduce archery season by at least half of what it is. Haven't seen a buck during Gun season for over 5 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>I would like to see an antler restriction on Bucks with a (13&quot; Spread or better - outside the ears) this would promote more mature buck harvest while increasing the age of the buck population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Our land is on the far northern edge of Clark county, I personally do not see the deer numbers that central Clark has therefore don't agree it can be managed the same as central farmland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>The past few years have all been different but I've been starting to slightly see few deer as opposed to a few years ago the herd was just getting right then it started shrinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>i would like to see earn a buck applied in the farmland zone. We have to many does and With the crop damage encured we simply have to many does especially along the black river.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Open gun season one week earlier. And maintain 9 days. Close all seasons 3 days before gun season. Increase out of state license for all animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>The land in Clark county is large and abundant. I think the current licensing system is adequate to allow for a good amount of harvests in 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>I would like to see a longer gun season; from November 15 through November 30 every year. Also, eliminate baiting statewide to reduce CWD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Ag tags?? A lot of Ag tags have been given out and our deer herd is down. Don’t trust the farmers in our area to be honest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>The deer here had a mild winter and came out in good shape. I have Christmas trees and the deer do a lot of damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Deer had very good winter, abundance of acorns. The deer kill on hwy 29 near Owen is getting bad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>My observations locally, seem to be that there are many more deer present than DNR estimates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Keep the seasons the same. Do not extend gun season. Thanks for asking for public opinion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Too many does being killed along with predators! Have it one doe between archery and firearms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Bring back back tags and registration of deer at locations willing to do it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>I strongly oppose extending the gun deer season anywhere in the state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Get rid of the wolves also stop giving permits to out of state people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Can we adapt a minimum point restriction?? Let’s grow trophy bucks!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Make it illegal to bait and put out salt licks throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>No bow hunting one week before gun season, like the old days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>No need for an antlerless gun hunt after the does are breed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>There should be more doe tags for the central farmland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Please no gun season extension!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Keep up the good work!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 45
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 98
   - I hunt in this unit: 341
   - General interest in this unit: 49

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 321
   - Bow: 196
   - Crossbow: 134
   - Muzzleloader: 89

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25
   - Maximum: 66

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 85
   - Mostly Private Land: 29
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 58
   - Mostly Public Land: 62
   - Exclusively Public Land: 105
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 16
   - Not too crowded: 63
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 62
   - Somewhat crowded: 56
   - Very crowded: 54
   - Not applicable: 3

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 89
   - Fewer: 109
   - Same: 104
   - More: 34
   - Many More: 11
   - Unsure: 7

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
(Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID 154, NOT VALID 140, Unsure 60

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  
**Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wolves are taking over much of this unit and it's sad to watch and frustrating to be an avid hunter and see the deer population suffering due to the predation. You say you want more hunters afield, more licenses sold but how can we do that if the deer are not out there. A large portion of the hunting population is getting older, so they look at it as if I can't go out and see a deer what's the point. Want new hunters to join in, well if you can't put deer sightings in front of them yeah good luck keeping they're interest going. Add in the sound of wolves lighting up the evening hunts minutes before prime time and you have to walk out the direction that they were just howling, yep that's a great feeling and kids don't like the sounds of that either. I never use to fear anything in the woods back in the day but now hearing them on a regular basis and knowing they are out there it makes for less enjoyable hunting and a more hasty, nervous, hair stand up on the back of your neck walk out of the woods at night. How has that benefited WI hunting in any way, it hasn't negative cons down the list without a pro that I have found yet. I've taken up hunting out West and love it. I see deer every time out and it's great. I am 37 years old and a traditionalist and watching the structure of the WI hunting tradition and all the changes over the past years has been hard to watch and sad. I have a 10 year old son that loves to go with me hunting and its great and makes me a proud father but if Wi continues to go in the direction that it is and has been we will look forward to our out West hunts every year and spend our time out there verse here in WI. Thank you for the option to voice my opinion, I hope to see some quality ideas and suggestions in the future verse the questions that were brought about this year which seemed silly and poorly thought out if you ask me. 19 day gun season, come on, shutting down hunting for the week before gun season, taking away one of the most highly hunted weeks of the year, just so people with guns that have a huge advantage over bow hunters already might have a better hunt, seriously! Moving the bear season opened back a week and jamming it right into the bow openers lap was a poorly thought out mistake as well. Not sure where that idea came from but that was a bad one. I said with my last bear tag a few years ago I'd never buy another one and these new changes have solidified that decision for the time being until something changes for the better. The crossbow thing and the issues that revolve around that are another sore topic. Should have left crossbows to elderly people and people that can not draw a bow back.

There still is a lack of deer in the Central Forest compared to prior years dating back almost 10 years when i noticed the numbers drop off. Gun season has really been disappointing for several years now. The last 2 years of gun hunting, our group has seen less than 6 deer each season- we used to see 10-20 deer for opening weekend. My (2) nephews didn't even show up last year (2019) to hunt (teenagers). Why would a teenager now hunt in cold weather to sit all day and not see a deer? Yes our group hunts all day from dawn to dusk and that seems like a waste of time nowadays. There is a lack of gun hunters as well in our area compared to years ago-maybe many have quit because of the low deer population.... The lack of hunters in the woods means less deer getting pushed for others - primarily the midday movement. The deer numbers are not there, still. The State needs to eliminate bonus tags for adults and juniors. Give us all a bow tag (used for either sex) and then when you shoot (1) deer, your done for the year. That is how it used to be years ago. Gun tags should go back to a hunters choice - every other year you can shoot a doe, like it used to be. You get the deer numbers up, you will get more hunters back and more spending money on licenses, more for the local economies, etc,etc. Certain parts of Central Wisconsin are becoming like Northern Wisconsin - not much for deer to be had. Boulder Junction for example used to be a big deer hunting destination, your lucky if you see any hunters show up anymore. I can say this because i know people who live there and what a shame for that small town and the dollars that would bring in. Your losing the interest in all of us that once loved this great sport and tradition. Stop issuing so many tags and listen to us who have the real data going back 30 years or more of deer density in our specific areas of where we hunt.
I am relay concerned for the future of my family concerning deer hunting. If they can’t afford buying or renting some private land the grandchildren just won’t be able to sit and see hardly any deer. At my age of 72 and spending over 40 years of hunting the same area in Clark county (some years very good and some very bad) I still enjoy sitting out in the woods. The last few years have been the worse for me because I have not seen a deer but just think what that will do to the Grandchildren that want to begin hunting. The hunting pressure has gone way down (at least 50%) because the only people I still see are the old guys like me that have always hunted here. I can honestly say the biggest problem for the area I hunt with my two sons (saw one doe last year between the three of us hunting only the first two days) is the be wolf population right where we hunt. My son witnessed the killing of a small younger deer a few years back on opening day of hunting. The past few years I have talked with the wardens for that area about the wolves in this area and they answer me each time with the comment just come and listen after midnight. I was hoping that the wolves would leave for greener pastures. I know my kids will have to do something different if they want their kids the chance to enjoy the deer hunting traditions of my family. I listened and observed all the statistics, graphs and so on to try and maintain a healthy deer herd. I think they are doing a good job. For the most part my friends are seeing deer and that keeps them happy. I just can’t afford deer hunting land and I don’t have friends that are going to invite me to theirs.

First off, I'd like to thank the volunteers and professionals of the Clark CDAC for their contributions to the effort. I suspect it can be a thankless job, but I appreciate what they do. I support their recommendations. Our hunting party had a good year in 2019, which I don’t believe can be said for most of our hunting neighbors. I myself have not seen the numbers of deer while hunting, that I did when we bought our property back in 2006. We have seen 3 bobcats on our property regularly, bear, and also wolves are on our trail cameras. We have 7 grand kids; and the number of predators we see has caused me to mow a larger area around our playgrounds, and limit the kids playing in the woods by themselves. I wish the wolf lovers would contribute funds to the DNR in the same amount as all other hunters. The real wolf population needs to decreased down to the goal. I don’t think our deer harvest limits will help to increase the deer population as much as will the appropriate and regular harvest of wolves. Finally, I hear lots of complaints about cross bow users having an unfair advantage over other bow hunters. When I looked at the total archery harvest for Clark Central Forest for the last few years, the total archery kill has not increased. That tells me that folks have just chosen different tools (crossbow vs compound/longbow). As hunters we should stop whining among ourselves; we are under attack by "antis" and we need to stick together. I am in favor of keeping the traditional time periods for bow and gun hunting, and don’t favor all of the additional periods/seasons. thanks.

As an advocate for sustaining the hunting tradition and past time that many Wisconsin residents enjoy (as well as license revenues), it is critical to create an environment that attracts the next generation of hunters to the sport. A young hunter that has a positive experience through the multiple interaction with deer, is a much more effective means to ensure the creation of a potential lifetime hunter. Conversely, a young hunter that has a negative experience (i.e. seeing no deer all day), is much more likely to limit the potential that the individual will continue in the sport. I equate this to taking a kid fishing for bluegills versus muskie for generating interest in a sport. As a result, it should be the CDAC’s highest priority and objective to ensure the success and interest in hunting for the next generations. To achieve this objective, policies should be weighted heavily on strategies to increase the overall numbers and quality of deer to increase the likelihood of a new hunter having a memorable encounter. Additionally, similar to other states, antler limitations should also be considered and adopted to improve the quality of encounters as well.
**Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Over the last 20 years of hunting in this area the number of deer has steadily dropped. The deer population rapidly declined when the Bonus Tags and T Zone hunts were introduced and have not bounced back since. I believe over harvesting of antlerless deer and the number of deer the wolves are taking out are the main two causes. I spend a lot of time in the woods in the fall and see VERY few deer. It is getting to the point where it almost isn't enjoyable sitting days on end without seeing a single deer. The land can easily support a larger population as we have seen in the past. The numbers need to increase in order to keep people hunting. I have also seen a decrease in the amount of hunters in the area and I believe it is due to not seeing any deer while in the woods. If we want to keep hunters in the woods and introduce new hunters to the sport we need to be able to have them see deer when hunting. I also believe a reduction in the wolf population in this area would help tremendously. I appreciate you taking the time to reach out to hunters such as myself regarding this matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>I've hunted in Clark county, central forest, for 50 years and from my experience, there are less and less deer population in this area. My group of 6 hunters, feel very fortunate to actually see a deer on opening day. I actually saw 1 deer in 2019 opening day. First deer that I've seen in 4 years. And we hunt hard. My group of hunters (6) saw a total of 7 deer a few wolves and coyotes in 2019. So we summarized that the wolves are getting our deer. We sit in our stands all day and not go in for anything. In my humble opinion, we need to 1) eliminate the doe harvest completely with an exception for some youth hunters. 2) Going back to the past rules on crossbows where they can be used only by the elderly or handicapped. 3) Eliminate Doe harvest by all bow hunters. Suggestion: how about selling a deer permit where a hunter buys a tag and is only able to get 1 deer in any way that the hunter would like to get it. Bow, gun, muzzle loader, extended season ect. That would prevent the over harvest of deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Please ban baiting in this unit. Far too many hunters baiting over 50 lb bags of corn feed per bait. I've seen it personally at multiple baited sites while scouting the forest. I also know far too many hunters having 10 plus baits each on any given day of the week before and during regular hunting season. Every hunter using the synder and wild cat campground are 99% guilty of this practice. The majority of public hunting acres are littered with bait piles and that changes the deer activity/movement to nocturnal. Also a number of hunters at synder and wild cat don't register thier antlerless deer harvest. I've heard one group of 3 hunters harvested 23 anterless deer during the 2019 archery season while still holding thier one bonus doe tag because they never called in to register after taking thier deer harvest home. They bragged about it too some of the fellow hunters/campers at synder and wild cat. So many hunters using clark county central forest practice this. This is Unacceptable. Please do something about it soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Increasing available permits to hunters on public lands can further economic contributions to the local economy as compared to hunters on private properties. Anecdotally observed decreases in herd population over the years is also a major concern for hunter success rates and overall satisfaction. In my experience, overcrowding on Clark county public lands is also a major source of frustration and growing concern regarding hunter safety. I support an overall decrease in permits but increasing public/private permit availability ratio in order to protect deer populations and stimulate greater local economic contributions. Additionally, increasing the duration of gun deer season could further help local economies and possibly limit overcrowding to boost hunter morale and safety. Finally, an authoritative, consolidated, easy to access and understand source of information on public-private land boundaries and accessibility could further minimize overcrowding and again increase overall hunter satisfaction and safety.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1993 I have hunted the central forest for 15 years know and I can say it was great when we started hunting there. Through over harvest by hunters and the large predator increase the hunting has become less desirable. Numbers of bears and wolves have but a big damper on deer numbers every year. Most mornings I find. Fresh tracks of wolves. A reduction in predators would be great. Also in the Congress they were talking about removing the zone and only having units. I hope that it will stay separate because of the vast difference in the county land usage. Last I would like to see an antler point restriction put in. 3 points or more on one side. It worked in Pennsylvania and Missouri to increase hunter happiness. I believe that it would help with people's willing ness to shoot a doe to put meat in freezes. In lone run it would also produce a greater number of bucks that have big antlers. Which would increase excitement for hunting. Thanks

1994 I have one big concern. I had heard that there is talk about only allowing crossbow hunting for the month of October. I enjoy hunting during the rut but due to a bad shoulder I am unable to hunt with a compound bow. This is concerning to me. It actually may cause me to not bow hunt at all. I also heard you may extend the gun season. I do gun hunt and enjoy it very much. I would like to see gun hunting open a little earlier than normal. Maybe a week earlier and make it so that it can only be solo hunts. No party hunting, no driving, etc. Just a suggestion. Also, I do like crossbow hunting because you can achieve a quick humane kill with the crossbow where that is not always the case with a compound bow. A crossbow is not like shooting a gun. You still need a clear shot to ensure you get the shot you want. I see a lot of attacks on crossbow hunters. I have yet to get a trophy buck in the four years i have crossbow hunted. I got one younger buck. Thanks

1995 I think with the abundance of data available, including a couple of years now of the revised Forest Zone, and the unusual weather conditions during the 2019 gun season, the committee has arrived at a fair conclusion on how to provide an adequate hunting experience and on how to continue working to increase the deer numbers in the Forest Zone. In the early 1980s, there was an increase in the number of hunters when the economic times were a challenge. It is very possible that in 2020, a similar increase in year over year hunters may occur due to the COVID-19 crises. That could create an anomaly in the final results. The success rate on Bonus Permits has dropped off from 2017 by about 30%, but has been consistent the last two years (2018 & 2019) with the total kill down 10.84% in 2019, but with the total kill of Bonus - Public down 27.42%, thus cutting back on Bonus Permits, it may help bring the success rate up.

1996 I was very up set with the wording of the "Special Cross Bow season. I know a lot of people did not understand that question. You should have ask if the favor in eliminating part of the cross bow season. I think all of Wisconsin Bow Assc members should not be allowed to vote on this. Cross bow lic is the only lic that are increasing in Wisconsin. The cross bow is more traditional them the compound bow. I also think your bear baiting question was miss leading. To help the dear heard and help us bear hunters in zone "C" you need to get rid of the dog runners. Those dogs chase bears off other hunters bear bait pile.They also get deer wild up. It is not the baiting a bear that gets people up set it is those dog runners who do not give a darn about us private property. Eliminate dog running where dogs are not allow to hunt. Also make it legal to shot those dogs on private property they are trespassing .

1997 As someone who has hunted the Clark County Forest since I was a kid, I would love to see 0 antlerless tags (except youth hunters). The amount of deer in the county forest is very low compared to what I experienced in the past (my family used to do very well, we worked hard for them but it was worth it when we would actually see deer--not the case anymore). I have 3 young sons who I would love to hunt, but based on how the hunting has been recently, I’m worried if I’ll be able to keep them interested. If we do have antlerless tags next year, can we have some kind of arm band or something to mark the person has an antlerless tag? Otherwise, I sometimes wonder if people shoot antlerless deer on public and then tag them with private tag. Thanks for reading.. I really hope changes are made, like I said, i fear that future hunters won't have interest (unless they are lucky enough to hunt good private land)
I really dislike the new zones. I feel like it should go back to old unit numbers so you can manage more areas. Plus I have Clark and Jackson county border on my road so I would have to buy 3 different kinds of doe tags to hunt places I used to hunt. I feel like private tags and public tags are stupid as well. The deer are moving through both and just seems like something to write more tickets out. It used to be so easy to know all the rules and seasons when I started hunting. I used to see 8 times the amount of deer as well. Now every year you have to read through the entire reg book because there is so many changes year to year. Now thinking of a 19 day gun season. Just plain stupid. Since we brought in the wolf's and t zone hunts. You just wiped out the deer herd and now it's hardly enjoyable going out because you usually see nothing. Just my 2 cents why it sucked hunting the last several years

I heard that some people are complaining about crossbow hunters and that CDAC is looking to trim the archery season for them to two or three week of the entire season and excluding crossbow hunters from hunting the Rut. I think that is a very bad idea. In my opinion I would very much like a rule in place that would allow only hunters with a disability or hunters sixty years of age or older to be licensed and authorized to use a crossbow. This would be close to what the old requirements to use a crossbow used to be. I have been hunting for 50 years and in my youth never had the opportunities the youth of today have. I don't think kids under the age of twelve should be authorized to hunt with a mentor. They should go through the safety program and sit with a mentor to learn about hunting before, putting a firearm in their hands and at twelve years of age hunt with a guardian.

Seems to be plenty of hunting pressure in this unit. Have hunted in it my whole life and the deer numbers last year seemed to be lower than the previous couple years. I still was fortunate to take a buck and a doe but I know of quite a few hunters that didn't see any deer at all. I usually run about 15 trail cameras from late summer through late archery season. Predator numbers seem to keep rising. Lots of wolves, bobcats and coyotes on the cameras. Deer numbers seem to be down. Most all of the bucks that I had on my cameras had shed their horns before Christmas. Some had already shed in the middle of the muzzle loader season. I found 3 dead deer this spring in a pretty limited time shed hunting. I believe 2 of which were wounded bucks that were on my cameras after gun season. Do what you wish with this info.

They are logging Bald Peak lane during deer season. I understand it provides new habitat and economy but recommend no logging Thurs before thru Thanksgiving week. Also no hunters (Very few) indicate no deer if I am correct. Those metrics will go hand in hand if more deer. I cover a lot of land off Bald Peak and haven't seen a deer in 2 years. Been there 40 years. We may stop going and rely on our private land bow season. We used Bald Peak as a central family gather but that is dwindling. Heard wolves also chase deer out. Recommend review of that. No gutpiles...no chickadees...whole ecosystem seems wiped out. Maybe see a squirrel here and there. I would always keep Youth hunt and permits available. Let does reproduce to increase the herds. Plus meat industry getting slammed more families will rely on venison.

When I started deer hunting in this unit 42 years ago, hunting was fun and enjoyable because deer sightings were numerous. This past rifle season my son hunted for six days and I hunted four days. Neither of us saw a deer. We did capture numerous photos of wolves all fall, with one photo containing seven different wolves in the pack. As a result of our horrible hunting experience, my son and I went wild boar and ram hunting in Tennessee in Feb of '20. We saw tons of game and filled out tags. What a great experience! If something isn't done to increase the deer population (i.e., reduce the wolf population and stop killing any and all does) we will likely cease the purchase of hunting licenses in Wisconsin and will opt to spend our money in other states that are much more hunter experience centric.
Our family has hunted the Clark Forest unit for over 35 years. The deer herd really started to decline when the Party tag issuance stopped yet you still give out antler-less tags each year. I spend at least 3 full months in these woods each year scouting and just can't understand why the DNR wants to decimate the entire deer herd by over harvesting on a yearly basis since the early 90’s. If in fact as some say it is for the revenue, then raise the cost each year. That would be a wonderful trade-off rather then seeing no deer. Not only has the deer herd been declining each year due to over harvesting but with that also deer hunters have decreased as well. This DMU needs to stop anterless hunting for several years in a row so we maybe will see more then 1 or 2 deer seen in the season-PERIOD!

I have hunted the Koehler Ford Road area since 1988 and have seen the deer population drop to 20% of what it once was. We have a +/-15 man crew and do drives so it is not as if we just sit and wait. From 1988 to 2006 it was common for us to move 20-50 deer in a day. Now it is less than 50 deer a year. The deer that are there are much bigger (buck rack size) with 8 mounter size bucks taken in the past 10 years, only 4 in the 20 years before that. But my preference would be a higher population than bigger bucks. I have not shot a doe since 2007 in this area due to this fact. Trail cams now produce more wolf pics than deer. But even the wolf population seems to be a lot less than it was 10 years ago. After opening weekend there are very few hunters compared to 10-15 years ago.

I was to the Deer Committee about 3 years ago in Loyal, WI and there was about 6 spectators there and the DNR and the committee. First of all most on the committee do not deer hunt, the next thing at the meeting it was a consensus that the doe harvest was to high by all the spectators there or hunters as we are the ones in the woods. Seeing that the hunters thought there doe permits was to high did not make any action by the committee as they did not listen to the hunters at the meeting. So I quit going. I have hunted this land for over 64 years and know a time when the deer used to migrate to Rock Dam. I seen them going west on the first snowfall. Used to stand on what is Hwy M and there deer used to go right past me on both sides. in a bunch. Just for your info. Ken

I understand that where we hunt in the county forest, we are surrounded by farmlands heavy in deer. - but the forest area we still see too few deer. The establishment of 2 different approaches to management (farm VS forest) was the best thing the DNR has done for this problem! Please continue to manage these vastly different areas in accordance to their specific needs. As for deer kill quotas and bonus tags and additional seasons etc. My preference is to drastically decrease until the herd returns. Why are you offering any of these tags - until the herd returns? I am especially against the antlerless tags on the public land, where land owners go to public land to fill their doe tag, - (like they had done for so many years previously)

I live on 30 acres by Neillsville and we now have an over abundance of deer with some reportedly dying of disease. I have seen deer in my backyard with large patches of hair missing. It is very difficult to get a coveted private land doe tag. There are too many deer on private land with no one killing does, but the public land is where all out of town hunters have to hunt. I propose an earn a buck policy on private land only, with the does having to be killed on the private land hunted. The number of doe tags on public is a little low in my opinion as I’ve been seeing good numbers of does and fawns in areas without the overpopulated wolves.

To accurately control the whitetail herd in Clark County forest zone, we fist have to control the Timber Wolf population. I have more pictures of wolves than I have had of deer. As my children are at the age to start hunting it’s hard to get them into it, sit all day not to even see a deer. Ever wonder why hunter numbers are dropping every year? Hunters are sick of not being heard. We that spend most of our time in woods in the spring and fall are just feed up with it. Only if the state of Wisconsin officials had a back bone like those of the western states that allow a hunting season for the uncontrolled predator.
2009  Winter of 2019-2020 was relatively mild in this unit on public land. Over the winter/spring I found 35-45 sheds from many different bucks across the entire central forest unit in clark county exclusively on public land. The acorn crop this year was excellent providing an abundant food source for the deer over the winter. Throughout the winter and spring I came across about a half dozen wolf kills where the deer were yarded up for the winter. They were mostly last year's fawns. Only one of the 6 was an adult doe. Every week this winter/spring I spent 40-60 hours on public land in this unit between work and recreation.

2010  I hunted more this year than the last 10+ in the butler lanes area (early season archery, gun, muzzleloader and late season archery.) Definitely seeing an increase in population and quality deer. Based on hunting and deer cam slightly concerned with the lack of doe population. Had plenty of bucks in the area, but very few does. Overall, much better quality hunting than 2010-2015 +\- a few years. I do not miss the large groups making drives and shooting every deer they see when antlerless tags were abundant. Can definitely see the difference (positive) in deer population since cutting back antlerless tags.

2011  I left comments in the Jackson Cty Forest zone that could be repeated here. I'd like to add that archery season the number of hunters is manageable, but gun hunting is very unsafe in some areas. More private lands need to open up to hunting. It's a shame that QDMA and other programs don't have some sort of program they open up and share they're sanctuaries or do some sort of mentorship program. I've had a hard time going to their fundraiser dinners anymore when it's all about them and their sanctuaries...they can find other methods to raise money then getting it from this public land hunter.

2012  County has allowed *extensive* logging in a LOT of the last remaining hardwood/tree stand huntable areas. I recognize that this has potential benefits in terms of browse, but a lot of the logging the past two years has been in areas that were already recently select cut and are now extra select cut. It has turned a lot of forest into oak savannas and ruined some good areas. This has the added drawback of consolidating hunters into the few remaining hardwood forests. Finding and learning a new area only to have it logged out the following winter is getting damn obnoxious.

2013  bring back in person registration. distinguishing public and private land antlerless tags have helped a lot. We use to run into large groups of hunters that were only hunting the public land to shoot does because they didn't want to shoot them on their private land or especially when it was EAB. If EAB comes back without distinguishing between public and private it will once again destroy public land hunting in this area. We are finally starting to see deer while hunting!! Something needs to be done about the predator/wolf population in the central forest zone.

2014  In my opinion. Especially for young hunters as well as myself. Part of a successful hunting season is number of deer seen. The deer numbers have become so low that the hunt has become less desirable. I have refused to shoot antlerless deer for several years due to the population decline. Selling an antlerless tag per day allows those individuals that shoot brown it’s down to stuff their pockets with tags. Self registration allows for more illegal harvest. Failure to enforce baiting regulations also allows some hunters to actually charge the natural behavior of deer.

2015  I have been hunting in the Clark county forest area for 30 plus years and have seen the quality of the hunt deteriorated year after year we hunt both public and private lands. It has come to a point where my children and grandchildren don't want to sit day after day and see nothing. we have gone from a party of twelve to a party of five. This also has an economic impact on the area. We need to work together and resolve this and quit passing new laws that benefit somebody's agenda. The DNR has not made it better over the years they have made it much worse.
2016 I will use this space to repeat as I do every year that we need a wolf hunt in the state in my opinion if you look back to 2007 in Clark County which Black River was once called the deer hunting capital of the state the kill numbers are down by 66%. Much of this I blame on wolves and if you look at the auto accident numbers they are actually up with a lower herd then we had in 2007. I feel when the herd was up people drove more safer thinking they would encounter deer now we know when we hunt we don't see any so we don't drive with caution.

2017 Most people I know in this DMU are buying bonus tags to prevent the doe harvest. They and I would rather eat the 125 then let population suffer for years down the rd. In 30 years of hunting public and private in clark county the hunting pressure has declined substantially, but the number of wolfs have not. As a group we see them quite often and get numerous trail camera photos of them every year. I know we cant do anything to reduce there numbers but we cannot keep the deer population low and expect hunters satisfaction to stay high

2018 The past 3 years sitting on a stand all day opening day and Sunday morning my brother-in law & I did not see a deer. This was pretty much the case with most of the other 15 guys in our group. How are you going to get the youth interested if they do not see deer. How are you going to keep the interest of the remaining gun hunters. Thin the wolf population, Spring beer season to thin them. Cut back on all the bow & cross bow seasons. By the time gun season comes around everything is either dead or nocturnal.

2019 as i showed i have hunted the central forest area since 1973 ! beginning some time in the 90,s i have seen a yearly decline in deer numbers, I am not a rookie, I have 43 years experience in the same area, I feel I could almost name the deer in the area. because of the lack of deer and the growth of wolves very few hunter remain in the Clark County forest area, For years their were so many camps, it was so much fun to visit these camps ! Last year there was 1 camp and they said they are moving ! Very Sad

2020 Feedback from many indicated few deer seen on public land. Coyote population is huge. Dozens on trail cams. Would say that in general there are too many seasons. This comment voiced by many often. Let youth hunt with parents as we grew up with. Late for season a bust. It's a meat hunt pure and simple and a turnoff to most. I own private land that borders county land and I must say it gets old having people hanging on your line fences from Sept. Through Jan. Consider one buck per Hunter per year.

2022 People just complain to much. People hunt the first weekend of gun hunting and then don't hardly hunt after that, just ride around. You don't have to change the bow hunting seasons, crossbow seasons, or gun seasons, people just got to get out and hunt. Not sit in a box stand all day with 2 or 3 people or sit in them with a big chair and heater and take a nap, get out there and hunt, and not complain there are no deer. Just ride around the country side in the spring and there are deer all over.

2021 I am 56 years old and I have hunted in this area all my life. I honestly feel the deer herd is way down. Did not see near the deer this last bow season as we have in the past. Rifle season was even worse. We had three different guys sitting bye the blue swamp in the town of Butler. Three of us sat from dark in the morning, until hunting hours were over. We did this for three days and together saw a total 4 year. To me that says a lot. Just my opinion! Thank you for the opportunity to voice it.

2023 GET RID OF DEER DRIVES FOR GUN HUNTING! These have been dangerous tactics for years. What I really don't like, is that you find a nice spot on public land for opening morning and your in your stand for a couple hours and all these trucks roll up and they start driving the woods. This ruins your hunt for the day and the rest of the weekend. Not to mention the way half these people just open fire on deer wounding them and putting bad shots on them. In my opinion it's unethical.

2024 I believe between poaching, wolf and coyote kills, over deforestation from logging and antlerless permits, these factors are making an impact on our deer herd in a negative way. I seen 3 deer between gun and archery hunting last season. I hunted many days too. I dont understand why we the hunters are subject to these conditions year after year for the past 15 years. Before that everyone seen lots of deer. I pray you do the right thing and bring our deer herd back.
We are in the island of the Central Forest Land and we have deer coming out of our ear's. We manage our own herds of deer and they are thriving. The county land is what is getting hammered by hunters, wolves, bear etc. without much change in the past years. I don't know if all of the private land owners are having the success that we are but my thought is if they have the deer populations that we do private land shouldn't be included in the cut back.

I haven’t seen a deer in the public lands that I hunt the last five years. Oh there’s deer on land you can’t hunt. I’m done hunting in the state of Wisconsin. The dnr has destroyed what used to be a great time with friends and family. I’m sure folks from Minnesota and Chicago who bought all the land are still enjoying it. That’s why I’m for getting rid of the dnr. Your sure not going to get any money from myself if I can help it.

1. Go back to when you had a draw for a doe permit. 2. Eliminate some of the wolf problem. 3. Cut down on the number of hunting seasons. Like youth hunt, doe only hunt, holiday hunt etc... 4. Prosecute those people or nationalities that hunt out of season and illegal. 5. Quit handing out so many dang (permits) for every person who buys a license. People should not buy and license and end up with 10 doe permits. Its dumb!

Private land owner within the central forest zone should be given an antlerless tag for this zone with the purchase of their license and not have to purchase a bonus tag. You should have the opportunity to select that your extra antlerless tag be for the forest zone and not the farmland zone. This would provide us the same privilege's that owner in the farmland zone get "a antlerless tag that we could use on our own property".

The sport will die if we don't gain interest by younger generation. They don't see deer result in no return. Our group of six hunted from dawn to dusk in tree stands. We saw only a couple of deer. We had much success in the past. Now we are losing interest in the sport. Fewer deer + fewer hunters = dying sport. It is like church. Only the old people are going. When the older generation die, the numbers will drop dramatically.

We see a lot of Does every year. We see about 20-30 come through our stands every hunting season. During the off season these Does walk up to the cabin and are in the back yard all the time. There is only 4 of us that hunt there yet most years we can't even get a doe tag because they are all sold out already. For the last few years we have not been able to get a deer during gun deer season because all we see are does.

There is a reason the elders pushed the wolves away from Wisconsin. It seems that the wolves being back in WI is more important than having a good chance of harvesting a deer. The last few years the lands around our property as well our hunting areas are lacking the deer we had for decades. It's sad I seen more wolves then deer. Multiple times being followed and herded by packs. It's getting worse every year.

Way too many wolves. Why all the talk about changing the seasons and not even a single word about the out of hand wolf population? That is the biggest factor in a lot of units, and not a word is mentioned by the Wi DNR. Time has come to do something, just letting the wolf population go unchecked to the absolute maximum carrying capacity has decimated the deer population and that is the elephant in the room here.

I had trail cameras up through the entire hunting season on public land in Clark co forest near pray wi. More wolves on camera than ever, black bear are popping up Also. Bobcat coyotes. There is definitely plenty of predators in the woods I truly believe these deer of the year don't make it all the does I Caught on camera we're all single moms no little ones around definitely need wolf control in that area.

We need to go back the way it was in the 80's. 1 buck and 1 doe tag. Along with the metal tags and names on back tag. I think to many people are taking advantage of the call in. Don't call at all. Get rid of the zones. Open the state to all for where ever they chose to hunt. Or divide state in 4 sections. Down and across the middle or some thing like that. NO FARMLAND OR FOREST ZONES.
The wolves in this unit have done unmistakable damage, along with many concurrent years of T zone. Stop issuing public land doe permits until this critically low population can rebound. This area was a pumpkin patch 27 years ago. Now we rarely see a hunter not from our group. No deer left. Do not take youth doe tags away ever in any unit the future of our heritage hangs in the balance.

We hear very little shooting on opening weekend. I mean less than 10 shots. I has been that way for quite awhile. Our bow season has been very slow also. I have 80 acres and we hunt pretty hard. I say ban the baiting and go to one buck per person. Try to regulate cross bow hunters in some way. I hope we don't go to a county wide Cdac because the central forest will suffer badly.

I started hunting in the Clark County Forest in 1982. I quit hunting there in 2001 and went back there to hunt opening day of rifle season in 2019. I never saw a living thing from sun up to sun down...no squirrels, birds, or deer. Gun shots were heard from far away, but nothing within the area I was at off from Koehler Ford Lane. The big woods of Clark County were dead.

Aloha, Obviously I'm a non-resident hunter. Have hunted Clark County for 25 years, Sherwood area. I see less and less deer each year for the last 5-10 years, but more carcass, most times more than one in a bunch indicating wolf kill. Though bear may be an issue too. Many of us get bonus tags and never use them, hoping the does will increase and deer population as well.

Have a lottery system for doe tags like they do for turkey first you get 3 dollars for every application second it's unfair for people who work to think everyone can stop working and go on line at 10:00 on Monday its unfair for the vast majority of working class come on you guys can do better than the last few years don't want more tags just a fair chance to get one.

The goal was to increase the deer population. So why are you giving out all these bonus tags. Shows gross negligence and miss management. Not to mention going against the goals set. For me it's not about killing a deer. It's about seeing them and enjoying the experience. That experience has been getting few and far between the last couple of years.

I used to see 10-20 deer every gun season up until about 2010. Then the wolves showed up. Now we see more wolves and wolf tracks than deer. I personally have seen 1 deer in the last 4 years of sitting all day for 9 days. We need to go with a hunters choice system or totally do away with bonus tags for a few years to let the deer recuperate.

I feel we need to have less doe permits to get the herd numbers back up. I seen much fewer deer this past season. Also, is the DNR taking into consideration that some folks might not be reporting their deer kills since the new phone in system was implemented? Might want to allow for potentially more deer being taken than reported.

I have not watched most videos and not looked at all the metrics. However where I did look there were no, no mentions of predation. Wolves are a huge factor here and it seems nobody cares. I believe there should, at the very least, be an acknowledgement that wolves play a role in the size of the deer herd.

ATV use on the trails. ATV users were handicap exempt yet seen them use climbing treestands. Noticed more wolves in the area also. One big concern of mine is the higher number of cross bow hunters. I feel that higher crossbow kills at some point may limit the archery season to shorter season and or less tags.

Why do hunters have to pay for a bonus tag in the forest zone? It's like we are penalized for getting an antlerless tag while farmland zones get free tags. We should still have to apply for an antlerless tag for forest zones in August. The first tag should be free and additional tags charged 12.00.

I have criticized the dnr for their over harvesting of does since I have begun hunting Clark County in the early 70's. Starting at 24,000 doe permits and only slightly reducing each year. I have never received any response even when I would fill out the entire hunting season surveys.
Honestly the herds I have seen are very out of whack. There are very few mature bucks and from what I’ve seen hanging too many antlerless are being taken. Too many does for too long. Many nonresident don’t care what they shoot, it’s a cheap tag so they fill it with anything.

Over 300 acres of private land that I own and hunt, I have pictures of 12 different bucks. At the same time we were over run with does and fawns. Never saw a buck from stand from Oct 25 thru the end of gun season over 20 full days of hunting. I did see deer on every sit.

Please, please include predation estimates in your public statements concerning deer herd size, winter kill etc. Wolves are a problem not a solution! wis. DNR does not have a lot of believability without predation estimates and previous years actual figures. Thank you.

Go back to a lottery system for antlerless deer permits. The site has opened up mid morning on a work day making it exceedingly difficult for hunters working regular hours to be able to get antlerless permits if unable to log in and stand in queue while at work.

I believe more central FOREST PUBLIC ANTLERLESS permits should be available for a $20 permit fee instead of $12. That would increase funds for CDAC and give public land hunters a better chance of putting food on the table.

The bow hunting pressure on public forest is high. Would it be possible to spread these hunters out, i.e. less pressure in certain areas. By gun season the deer have been harassed for months, and thinned out.

Do not shorten the crossbow season to 2-3 weeks and not included in the rut. I’d like to see people 60 and older and with disabilities able to use crossbow. I object to special hunts and kids under 12.

I really don’t see the reason for lowering the antlerless quota and number of available tags in this unit this year. I think the deer population has been on a steady rise over the past 3 years.

I put down no opinion because I don’t know enough about managing the population, no hunter has the info you have. I just go by what seems to be out there in an area I have hunted for years.

Many hunters start walking or pushing on 2nd days gun deer. DNR should come up with the rule like days 4 hunter can start pushing so it respect other hunter who hunt only first 3 days.

Need to control the wolf population, I’ve had numerous in counters with them while bow hunting on public land, some are ok but there’s quite a few in the southern part of the county.

With the deer numbers down hunter numbers have followed. Also with the logging clear cut activity it has become a group making drives area. Stand hunters mainly sit over a bait pile.

I recommend suspending all hunting for a period of 7-10 days during the rut to allow dominate bucks to pass on their genes. If not every year, it could be done every other year.

I saw 1 deer (small buck) at 7:15 on opening morning. Hunted all day for 6 days and never saw another. 2 more people in my group hunted 4 days each and never saw a single thing.

I would like the DNR to consider allowing non-residents who work in Wisconsin and pay income taxes in the State of Wisconsin to purchase their license at the resident rate.

The land I hunt on is split between central farmland and central forest. This makes hunting very difficult. I would love to see Clark county made all one or the other.

I don’t want crossbow to be limited to only 2-3 weeks and be excluded from the rut. Bow hunting should end at least a week before gun season. Gun season suffers from bow.
I have hunted this area for 35 years and the deer population is nowhere near what it used to be, especially since 2000. It is getting hard to see any deer most days.

I would like the week gap between gun and bow reinstated! Also no archery during gun season whatsoever and bring back harvest tags and physical registration.

Your management of the deer population is extremely poor. There are so many wolves that the deer do not stand a chance.

The large tracks of land in this unit, now have a markedly lower population of deer and turkey numbers have plummeted.

I think you should consider raising the non resident game tag price an have a 4 point one side antler restrictions.

Ban crossbows (cross rifles) during BOW hunting season, let them hunt with the gun crowd where they belong.

In 4 countries Clark, Dane, rock, green I saw two deer from October to the end of January all public land?

Keep the Gun Deer Season at 9 days, please do NOT change it to a 16 day Season. Keep the tradition!!!!!!!!!

Don't take away our cross bow season! My grand daughters need that option or it's not gona happen for them

Too many wolves and way to much clear cutting of county forests with little to no grow back of trees.

Just like to express a concern that hunters are using central farmland tags on central forest lands.

Wolf population in Clark Co needs to be controlled. Dangerous to hunters and wiping out deer herds.

Get rid of the crossbows. Or no crossbows in November. Leave the gun season the same 9 day hunt

Not enough antlerless tags for public hunters. Especially if you're a bowhunter and gunhunter

over harvested deer dnr sold to many doe tags in the past look at the 90 s bad mangament

bring back the $ 3 doe tags . where u had to have them in by July or u didn't get one .

Dnr should bring back land owner preference for antlerless tags before general public.

Haven’t been able to harvest a deer in the last 6 years population of deer is very low

Possible to bring back hunters choice for both gun, archery and crossbow season.

Don’t have to worry about overbrosing with all the clear cuts available

19 deer season was the worst I have seen since I started hunting in 1974

Please leave the deer seasons as they are. Thanks for listening

Would like to see more antlerless tags for public land hunters

Crossbow changed to handicapped,males over 62 and females only.

Are they ever going to stop clear cutting Clark county?

Recommend increased antlerless harvest on private land.

Need more antlerless permit for public land hunters

Not enough antlerless tags for public land hunters

Not enough antlerless tags for public land hunters

Need more antlerless tags for public land hunters

Need more antlerless tags for public land hunters

More antlerless permit for public land hunters
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The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

646 forms were submitted for this unit.

### Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 345
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 120
   - I hunt in this unit: 598
   - General interest in this unit: 114

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 555
   - Bow: 353
   - Crossbow: 211
   - Muzzleloader: 186

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 21.72
   - Maximum: 61

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 388
   - Mostly Private Land: 100
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 33
   - Mostly Public Land: 24
   - Exclusively Public Land: 49
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 36
   - Not too crowded: 78
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 37
   - Somewhat crowded: 24
   - Very crowded: 21
   - Not applicable: 10

### Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 83
   - Fewer: 184
   - Same: 271
   - More: 65
   - Many More: 28
   - Unsure: 15

### Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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**Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? *Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 357 236 52

If the Population Objective is not “Increase”...

Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 78 536 32

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? *Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: *Friday, May 01, 2020*  
*Columbia, Southern Farmland*
I am an avid outdoorsman and believe keeping populations healthy and sportsmen healthy as well thru interacting with wildlife in any manner. It is extremely important to have plentiful game as it will keep our younger and new sportsmen interested and invested. I’ve been hunting since 1984 with that being said hunting is changed a lot over time it is no longer family driven yes they’re still our families and parties that hunt together. I support all hunters. The opportunity to hunt with a bow through January is a great opportunity for us to help control the population and get out back in the woods where there’s less pressure. Keep the holiday hunt as it provides family traditions. Don’t change regular gun deer opener. Hunting has changed and so do time frames Deer will always be there As well as sportsmen. A contributing factor in disappointment with later openers I believe is related to how society and individuals need the quick interaction and or attention span. True quick fact look at the average attention span of our youths today. It is around 7 seconds. This is a proven fact based statistic. This was Presented to me through a coaching clinic and how we need to adjust our coaching style for our youths. I believe the same thing holds true for the younger generations of hunters (youth thru mid 30’s). In this age. I believe everybody needs to see something immediately Patience is no longer relevant in most of our society today. I support a Standard Bow season mid Sept thru Dec 31 with an extension thru The end of January. No special bow or cross bow season all can co-exist as stated above. Yes to Holiday season Keep muzzle loader no change. Possible increase doe harvest by one additional free tag and have one earn a buck tag per hunter per season. So the most a hunter could harvest would be 3 bucks and the three buck tags could be shot with either weapon. As long as they had buck tags in hand or authorization numbers. If a proposal is created to increase the doe and or earn a buck harvest please limit it to Residents/Property owners of Columbia County only and accordingly to other counties in the southern farmland. With this please limit the number of out-of-state tags permitted in southern farmland zones. Other states currently have a lot of restrictions similar in number of out-of-state tags etc. Thank You

If you really want to shrink the deer herd in Columbia County you'll need to go back to earn a buck. I know it may sound crazy, but there is a large number of baby boomer hunters in the county that will absolutely never shoot a doe unless they are forced to by shooting one for a buck tag. I'll admit i'm what some would call a trophy hunter, but i'm also smart enough to see where the deer herd has gone after earn a buck was stopped in the county. For trophy potential hunting from 2003-2016 was dynamite and its no accident it coincided with a smaller doe population in certain areas of Columbia county. Some baby boomers can't see it that way and only want to see a massive deer herd. Maybe its because they grew up in the 60's & 70's with a very small deer herd, i'm not sure. Some will argue it would be too difficult to implement earn a buck again as deer don't need to be registered. To that i say, why can't the doe be registered still to receive the buck tag and if a buck is tagged it could be registered by phone or online? It's not a huge burden to drive to a registration facility to register a deer. Plus if those hunters that shoot a buck every year for meat really want that buck to achieve their man card every fall they'll shoot a doe and drive to town to get that buck tag. A registration facility could be added to every town again like pardeeville, Cambria, fall river, columbus, rio etc. I'd also debate the proposals to extend seasons to kill more deer this fall will actually kill that many more deer. There's a huge shift in human behavior the last 10-15 years and we've become lazier every year. Hunters are using every excuse out there these days to not head out to the woods. Add in the temps in january and good luck getting hunters out the door. Are archery hunters going to kill 500-1,000 or so more deer in January to achieve your objectives? I'd say no every day of the week and 5 times on Sunday. I'm not even sure extending the regular 9 day season would kill a huge increase of deer. of the 600,000 deer hunters every year how many of them hunt after opening weekend? How many of them make it past Thanksgiving day? I'd love to look at the numbers in more detail, but i guess i just don’t see it.
I run my pointing dog on Dane and Columbia city public lands, 2-3 times a week throughout the year (when legal), so I see a lot, very often. I am a long time Patron, although I rarely gun hunt (deer) any more. I bowhunt with traditional gear, for most all game. I bowhunt very often, generally from the ground. Being out a lot, I have noted the last two winters showed an big increase in over winter deer herd size, especially in Columbia city. In very selfish fashion, I bowhunt and find it exasperating that after mid November I have to share the woods with rifle hunters, whether they are present or not (meaning, I have to wear orange). My personal feeling is they don’t need a month and a half of gun seasons. Once it is cold most folks hang it up, unless they have heated blinds. I would like to see the season continue thru Jan, but reality is, its ****ing cold and the deer are scarce, obviously because of the gun season. I say obvious because I am out there seeing it. I would suggest you dig in to advising the public and hunters of the need to thin the herd, advertise and advise. Also, maybe, advertise and come up with ways to share the deer. As much as I hunt, I do not need ten deer a year, but would be much more serious about harvesting more does if I had a way and place to relatively easily give them to someone who might want some. Make sure we know about these avenues. Last...I am not gonna judge crossbows, although you can tell I have no use for one. I do, however, ask that you keep the licenses separate and the tracking separate so you continue to have fresh data to make good decisions when that time comes, and it will. Heck, why not ask if we killed the deer with modern (compound) or traditional (longbows and recurves) equipment, since we traditionalists likely constitute very little pressure on the herd dynamics. Since everything is computerized adding a category is no issue. I would even like you to consider some sort of traditional only situation or location. Ah....that probably wouldn’t work. Keep it it. Thank you for all your hard work and decision making.

I think that creating an antlerless only hunting season for 2020 would be a great mistake, many hunters want to see more deer in the woods. I am included in that large majority, for many of the previous 16 season I have seen minimal deer while hunting but the last 2 years I have seen an increase in the number of deer. I am very particular on what I am going to shoot, I will only shoot a mature doe or a buck that is 8 points or bigger. I did not harvest a deer this year but I did see over 40 throughout the season. I enjoy hunting much more when I can sit in the woods and see a lot of deer movement and sign instead of just praying to see one all season. I took my 7 year old step-daughter into the stand hunting with me during the 9-day gun hunt and introduced her to the sport I love. She loved that we could see so many deer but also understood why I wanted to wait for a bigger deer to show up. If you want the tradition of hunting to continue and get the next generation excited about hunting then we need to have the deer population larger and give them more opportunities to see and harvest great deer. I hate that so many tags are available to hunters because some of them abuse the system, they will go to public lands and drive deer and shoot whatever they see because they are allowed so many tags. That is the perfect example of what is going to kill our deer population and ruin hunting for mine and future generations. There is a lot of tradition involved in hunting but the new tradition that I am happy to welcome is seeing larger deer populations, it certainly gets me much more excited to get out of bed during the season, knowing that I have a much better chance at seeing a deer worth harvesting.
I have been hunting this property for over 30+ years. Prior to the DNR introducing the high permits available to harvest deer due to the CWD issues, we enjoyed an accepted amount of deer sightings during the hunt. Along with an opportunity to see a large mature buck. After the introduction of the high availability of permits to harvest deer due to the CWD issues, we no longer see deer every time we hunt. Along with not seeing a large mature buck. The past years I have spend more time in the woods and have seen less deer than the past. With the introduction of trail cameras, provides great opportunity to understand the deer herd on the property and nearby. Again the lack of deer and larger mature bucks. Why would there be a recommendation to decrease the herd when the majority of the presented data suggests a stable or slightly lower herd?? I don't have much confidence in the model currently used, raw data suggests the herd growth is stable yet the model suggests the herd is increasing....... I would strongly suggest not increasing the number of antlerless permits or opportunity. Also during last year's 9 day gun hunt after the first weekend it was very windy, deer tend not to move much during this condition. Also hunters don't go on drives much anymore so, deer are not pressured as they were when I started hunting this property. In the beginning, during the gun hunt the deer would be running by with their tongues hanging out; from be pushed continuously. Now the deer appear to be not pressured, browsing and walking during the gun hunt. Very few gunshots are heard than in the past during the opening gun weekend. There aren't as many deer in the area anymore.

You know back in the sixties I used to have over 100 deer go passed my stand on opening day. I could pick the buck I wanted to shoot. When I started bow hunting there was about 8000 bow hunters in the state. So our success rate was quite good. Now that was with recurve bows only. No compounds or crossbows, And no tree stands. These people now days don't have a clue about real hunting. I had a young man that owns the woods adjoining ours tell me 2 yrs ago that the deer in our woods ( meaning his n ours ) only run north n south, they don't ever run east n west. He has watched to many outdoor shows by the EXPERTS ! LOL! This past opening day I saw 12 deer 10 doe , 1 spike and one scruffy 6 pointer that I shot for some meat. I threw your 2 doe permits in the trash. With all the Amish families in our area and each have numerous offspring and each have 3 licenses . How many deer are left. Don't get me wrong I have a lot of Amish friends. They're good people. What I am saying is there is to many seasons and to few deer. A lot more hunters too. I would like to know just how you guys come up with your deer herd estimates. I worked for the Wi. Conservation Dept (rough fish Mng't) back in '65. However I was called into the service. But in the winter you guys used to get into a plane n fly the county n count the deer herd. What is it easier to ask a computer now days ? I can understand why a lot of older guys are giving up deer hunting in this state. I can name a few. I surely won't quit my deer hunting trip to Neb. That I do every year. But I'm not sure about Wi this next season..

The CDAC needs to listen to the people of Wisconsin in Columbia County when they show up to testify. time and time again sitting in the bleacher section I heard the Chair continue to say you do not represent yourself you represent your group. The people on this committee do not listen to the testimony given to them. no Holiday Hunt and stop these other foolish hunt let's go back to the nine-day hunt you either work for your deer or you don't get one. My kids and grandkids no longer hunt our 1800 Acres of owned and leased land rather stay home. A committee's members representing themselves is ending deer hunting in Columbia County. I hope you pay your chairman well. I don't know why he stays I can see the frustration in his eyes as members represent themselves not their group. The DNR and Governor need to reassess who is on this committee and who they are truly serving not the people.
A little background information first: I started archery hunting in WI in 1974 and have not missed a season in 46 years. I have seen many changes over the span of years, some I have been in favor of and some not, so I appreciate the opportunity to chime in on the future of Deer Hunting in WI. I would support a version of Earn a buck program but not to the extent of shoot a doe and get a buck tag. If the goal is to reduce the population with other hunts such as the Holiday hunt, I feel there is more opportunities to harvest deer during the pre-Rut and Rut, speaking from an arches point of view. So with that said, if a traditional archery hunter, not a crossbow hunter could harvest 2 or 3 does to earn an additional buck tag, as I pass up a lot of smaller bucks waiting for a Trophy. There are many, what I will reference to as “Cull Bucks” but with only one Archer buck tag for the entire state, I am very selective in what I shoot as well the group of hunters I hunt with. I know many archery hunters who follow the same rule and may not harvest a buck as they are holding out for a Trophy and do not want to waste their tag on a smaller buck. Again, thank you for the opportunity to inject my opinions.

Thanks to Sara for the very good presentation about the facts. In western Columbia County we have had a very high—and still growing—deer population since about 2008. Deer browse on young trees and the forest understory of herbaceous plants and shrubs is ridiculously high. In my area of the county (Caledonia) numerous neighbors have worked with foresters to regenerate oak through various shelterwood and other harvest techniques. Almost all of them I have visited have utterly failed due to deer browse, specifically on red oak. Furthermore, my wife struck a deer with her car this year; car-deer collisions are very common nearby. So, we cannot achieve the goal of 8800 antlerless deer harvested in Columbia County with the current season structure since we are consistently harvesting less than half that. The ONLY way we will ever come close to that goal is with an antler-less or earn-a-buck season structure. Short of that we might as well give up on the goal of reducing the population, because currently we are utterly failing and deer populations continue to grow. The devastation to crops, forests, habitat for all species and vehicles is OUR problem to fix rather than letting disease do it for us.

Hunter satisfaction is declining rapidly in this state. Personally, my level of enthusiasm has dropped to a level I would have never thought just a decade ago. Columbia County is NOT overly populated with deer. I live in Dane County, and question how it can be labeled as "Maintain", yet Columbia County is to "Decrease". I do not dispute science in managing this herd. But I do question the data and information that hunters have been fed by the DNR for the last 20 years. What is not fully appreciated by the DNR is that there has been SUCH a divide created between the DNR and hunters, that hunters are losing engagement. (Just look at the embarrassingly declining license sales). There is no single solution to this, nor is it a quick resolution. But, maintaining/restoring hunter engagement is key. Hunter engagement fuels trust. Hunter engagement creates action from hunters. Hunter engagement will help the DNR in achieving some of their management goals. Engagement, just like with any employer, will contribute to the success of restoring deer hunting in Wisconsin.

Two items come to mind while filling out the questionnaire. 1) There were issues that neither the hunters could anticipate which makes part of this inquiry invalid. That is the weather. Colder than normal temperatures last fall, way too much rain and freezing rain later in December and the corn could not be cut on time. Hunting gun seasons were extremely limited to access from above conditions. So to conclude, it was a bad year to conclude hunting effectiveness on the deer population. Leave the system alone and the same, and try again this year. 2) The number of deer processing companies is dwindling. Those still in existence in Columbia county have limited hours during gun deer season. This may have limited the number of hunters in that area. Most people don't have the time to butcher an animal on-site and go home according to current state laws for Colombia county. I don't understand why a hunter can't butcher a deer at home and bag the remains and put in a municipal garbage collection.
My family farm of approximately 1600 acres located in SE Columbia county is deer hunted by 12 Wisconsin residents who hunt all of the deer seasons and enjoy the current deer season structure. I feel our deer herd is slightly above adequate levels. I believe that the kill numbers were off during the gun season due to the late harvest, post rut hunt and what some would consider less than ideal weather. I think the DNR has to consider that people are not registering their deer kills. A lack of DNR presence and online/phone in registration allows for deer to be shot without concerns of being caught. Extending a gun deer hunt into early November would really disadvantage bow and crossbow hunters who are doing a great job harvesting the number of quality deer that they currently harvest. Please leave the quality of deer hunting and quantity of deer on private land to the land owners. We have worked for many years to build the herd to what we have today, a healthy and quality herd that we enjoy.

I feel the proposed idea of a 19 dat regular gun deer season is a horrible idea. This idea takes into favor of only a small part of the deer hunting community rather than the overall deer hunting community. The fact of most row crops were still standing due to wetter than normal conditions I feel was not taken into consideration as people saw less deer as more deer were able to hide in row crops such as corn. Strictly only rifle hunters were complaining due to this fact. I challenge these people to pick up a bow or crossbow and hunt during the archery season which runs about 3 months rather than 9 days. This would dramatically increase their chances of seeing and successfully harvesting a deer. By extending the rifle season, we are taking the interests of a small population of the overall numbers over the general welfare of the deer herd and hunting opportunities for the rest of the deer hunting community.

I believe the deer population is very healthy in Columbia County. My frustration with deer hunting in this county is the high number of deer hunters on public land. I feel private land owners have premier hunting while public land hunters have limited options. When I go deer hunting I like to see deer, not other people. I normally end up seeing more people than deer when in the woods on public land. I can't fault private land owners and the success they have deer hunting, but it is frustrating for me on public land. There are too many hunters on public land who have little regard for others. I actually ended up buying land in another state where I do most of my hunting now. I may rifle hunt in Columbia County this fall as I heard the number of hunters has declined. The last time I rifle hunted in Wisconsin was a few years ago. I was mortified due to the high number of hunters and little land to go around.

Private land owners seem to harvest at 1/1 buck doe ratio, do they feel that is appropriate for their land? Public tags need to be applied for, DNR can control harvest better that way and NO tag should be free. Maybe back to party tag system for public land. Columbia county has a lot of public land that DNR has to manage better, they need to make those tags worth something for financial reasons. Get rid of youth and holiday hunts, go back to nine day gun season, make crossbow/archery tag good for buck or doe with bonus tags purchased only good with weapon of choice when 9 day gun season starts. Go back to registration stations for better information, research data, and monitoring of the deer kill. Not to mention financial benefit to local business. Only 349 antlerless deer killed on public land last year? Let landowners decide how many deer they think should be killed by tags they are willing to buy.

I know this concerns Columbia County, but the sweeping changes to season structure/weapon use are crazy! The goal for Columbia is to reduce deer numbers, but we are proposing limiting choice to do so. We not only have to manage deer numbers, but realize that limiting choice WILL ABSOLUTELY REDUCE the numbers of hunters in the field. I am 57 and hunt with my 8 yr. old granddaughter. We both use a crossbow. If you eliminate or limit crossbows, you are destroying the experience that we have together. She can't shoot a bow, and I don't want to due to physical limitations (severe car accident injuries). I am not disabled but bowhunting is very difficult for me. And our kids have so many activities thrown at them, so hunting in youth has suffered. Please DO NOT limit crossbows to certain times/ages. And we both crossbow hunt during the gun season, do not take that away!
Deer hunters in this county simply will not fill enough antlerless tags to decrease the deer herd with the limited options we have. Earn A Buck has proven the only way to have a significant reduction in deer population. An entire season of antlerless only would possibly reduce the herd numbers but, I fear it would also reduce the number of hunters going into the future. Many, especially the older hunters, are frustrated with the many different seasons and changing rules. I feel a significant number are teetering on the edge of "giving it up". We would never get them back and also lose a number of future new hunters that they would possibly bring in to the sport. We need EAB! Limited to one buck only per license. Even that may cause a few hunters to quit deer hunting but, is the only way to harvest enough antlerless deer without going to an entire season of no horns.

I have a recommendation to the way that licenses are appropriated. I would love to see a bundle where gun and bow licenses are sold together. Between the two buck harvest tags, it would be hunters choice of harvesting bucks with a bow and gun, or two bucks with a bow. I could see many advantages to allowing hunters an option. Most important, would be extending the season for archers who harvest an early season buck. With this option, they could continue to hunt and take an opportunity at an even bigger deer later in the year, especially during the rut when every hunter wants to be in the field. If I had this choice every year, I would almost certainly never touch my rifle again. But, I would still be hunting MORE and contributing to the goal of herd management. I would just be doing it in a way that I find more exciting and enjoyable.

I have not seen any significant increase on deer population where I hunt. When we had the EHD come through our area a few years ago it took out about 75% of our herd. It has slowly started to get a bit better but nothing like it was prior. The deer hunting seasons have been way over extended over the years and I strongly feel that has depleted the excitement of the gun deer hunting season. Families and friends used to get so excited for the 9 day hunt but now with so many other options for other seasons, it has lost so much of what it used to be. That's sad! The deer are chased down for way too long of a period and they start to become more nocturnal. The animals need a break. Once the 9 day gun hunt is over....all deer hunting should be over. That would bring back the excitement of the set seasons that are offered.

Judging by the 2019 numbers it looks like private land hunters are doing their part to shoot does, so it would have been a terrible decision to have a doe only season. Looks like more does need to be harvested on the public land. When getting 2 free doe tags in the southern farmland I understand why you have to pick private or public, but why can't a private land hunter also choose to hunt public; as that might help to shoot more does on public land if hunting with a group of people as well as to increase new hunter license sales. By not allowing private land hunters to also harvest does on public without purchasing another tag, the number of hunters per acre is limited, but I feel that the private hunters could help public only hunters to harvest more deer on public land. Thanks for considering my input.

The unit is large, I understand that. But there are still areas recovering from EHD that severely affected the area I hunt. Combined with the overall wet weather the past few springs, the number of deer is significantly lower than when I bought my place in Lewiston township. I happen to leave 8 acres of corn over the winter for wildlife, and I still have probably 25% of it remaining in the field. This, along with the significant amount of time I put into my property tells me the numbers are lower than thought. I hunt close to 45 days a year. So I do put my time in, and have been reluctant to shoot too many does. I also get pics of wolves (confirmed by your biologist) almost on a weekly basis. Predator harvest as confirmed by finding animals may be more significant than thought.
I do oppose the early season youth hunt but not the disabled hunt. The extra doe only seasons are a great tool for reducing the herd where needed especially considering the deer are starting to herd by late December in areas where it's needed most. However extending the rifle season or having special early season gun hunts could make this more difficult considering deer are easily educated and prolonged pressure from gunfire would drive them to be nocturnal, that being said the traditional 9 day rifle season with scattered antlerless late seasons is the way to go, also extending the archery season would give more opportunity to hunters that don't have that much time earlier in the season and keying in on deer with a bow arrow is less challenging when the deer are focused on food.

As a dad with young daughters and no private land to hunt. It was very difficult to set my daughters up for success this year. We hunted for 5 days on public land and did not see a single deer. We did however have a lot of hunter pressure. I heard no shots on the surrounding 500+ acre public parcel during opening weekend. That was very suprising. Is there any possibility to make the youth seasons longer to help get the kids a better success rate. I'd love to see some statistics about youth success rate in your data. Can we evaluate if the youth season is "working" -- i.e. are youth who are successful using that weekend? or is their success more likely to come during the regular seasons. This would be very helpful to a dad who wants his kids to enjoy the outdoors like I do.

I hunt private land surrounded by mostly private land where people's idea of qdm is harvesting only bucks of trophy size. I firmly believe this has resulted in genetic mutations since a majority of does I've harvested have shown no signs of reproduction. I also think that the number of does is so high that bucks don't need to be as active during the rut therefore reducing daylight sightings and harvest opportunities. If we are ever going to have a well balanced population people need to be more educated on what a healthy deer heard is and get out of the idea that if they don't see high numbers of deer everytime they go out that there's not enough, most of those people aren't educated enough to know that deer smell them or see them and aren't going to be active as a result.

Please don't Change the Crossbow season. Keep it Simple. No hunting group should own hunting during the rut. I decided not rifle hunt the 2020 and future gun season's and I am just going to crossbow hunt the bow season. What is the difference between shooting a buck with the crossbow or a rifle, it is still one deer. If you would stop bringing up input on crossbows all the negative feedback would go away and hunters will get use to it. Focus on encouraging hunters to get in the woods not scare them away and anger both sides to this topic. If you decide to change the crossbow season then put a provision in there that if you don't rifle hunt you are allowed to crossbow hunt the whole season. Thank you for taking the time to read my input.

Plez... 1 buck per year per hunter. I live in Lowville Township and own 200 acres in two parcels. Doylestown being the other. The buck to doe ratio is so poor...about 8 to 1 at my house and 5 to 1 at Doylestown I won't let anybody shoot a buck on my land. I also own 360 Acres in Northern Dane County. My employees hunt there... doe only... or Mature Buck. This will never fly... cause you are funded by license sales. Sad. I hunt out West and in Alberta every year on private land... you should see the difference. I will never convince idiots not to shoot yearling and 2 year old bucks.. But pkez.. 1 buck a year. My neighbor has 40 acres hunted by 3 "good" hunters with crossbows and rifles... they tagged 6 young bucks and lost 2 more... pathetic. 1 BUCK TAG A Year.

Thanks for the presentation. I run have run a lot of trail cameras the last couple years. Deer numbers were down slightly in our area. I do agree that the poor season success of gun hunting was related to a late start and bad weather. To the presenter... for being a data nerd I do not understand how you can dismiss car/deer collision numbers. Yes they may or may not be reported, but that is the same for every year. To me there is a clear trend down in those numbers. Stable harvest over the last few years suggest that deer numbers are close to the same. It was not presented here, but I do not want the return of earn a buck. Thanks again.. I prefer this format versus having to attend a meeting and yes I filled out the spring survey.
I believe the best course of action would be to require people to harvest a doe before harvesting a buck again so EARN A BUCK because currently some hunters shoot a buck then they quit for the season which means more doe are left. I have counted over 200 plus deer in my area mostly being doe because of this reason. I would also recommend going back to having people go in to register their deer because I believe some people are not reporting their harvests... It also helps our economy by doing so because people would go into town for social gatherings now that is pretty much been taken away! These numbers are most likely completely inaccurate. Our Family took out 31 deer two seasons ago and it still was not enough I counted over 30 just the other night.

Please monitor the new king road target range I (Larry Saager) have deer habitat next to the ranges south boarder and the shooting of automatic pistols is non-stop sun up to sun down and I think it adversely affects the quality of hunt in the king road public area. Also who's brainless idea was it to leave it open DURING OPENING WEEKEND in 2018? I don’t object to the range but it needs to be closed during gun hunt. There also needs to be a 30 foot berm round the entire facility to force the noise up. As of now the noise is being reflected south/west towards CS/22. And it wakes me up every weekend. Nobody deer hunts this area anymore like the good old days. 9-5 hours would be great plenty for the range us locals deserve a little peace and quiet.

Hunted public for 46 years, and not just deer. I spend a lot of time in a wide area of our public land. The public land deer herd has been destroyed in Columbia county. As a result, hunting pressure and interest has dropped. The inequality of the private vs public herds is laughable. Feast vs famine. I bow hunted 21 days straight in Pine Island and saw 3 deer. I hunted through that cold snap and stuck it out every day. 3 deer. I hunted 2 areas, and scouted after the snow to see where the deer were moving. No tracks to be found. Stop killing off the doe on public. Any earn a buck just brings more private land people to the public land to get their doe. It is bad and getting worse. Please ban crossbows too, except for the disabled.

Hunted public for 46 years, and not just deer. I spend a lot of time in a wide area of our public land. The public land deer herd has been destroyed in Columbia county. As a result, hunting pressure and interest has dropped. The inequality of the private vs public herds is laughable. Feast vs famine. I bow hunted 21 days straight in Pine Island and saw 3 deer. I hunted through that cold snap and stuck it out every day. 3 deer. I hunted 2 areas, and scouted after the snow to see where the deer were moving. No tracks to be found. Stop killing off the doe on public. Any earn a buck just brings more private land people to the public land to get their doe. It is bad and getting worse. Please ban crossbows too, except for the disabled.

I do believe years ago the deer population was to high. After all the years of earn a buck and the antlerless permits handed out like candy the population is in my opinion down considerably. I hunt all day without leaving my stand. I do not see anywhere near the amount of deer I saw in years past. I really wish you would cut all the special hunts down some. My favorite season is bow season. With all of the special hunts that have been added it has really screwed up the bow season. I also feel the youth hunt for kids should be a one and done. Once they harvest a deer in the youth hunt I feel that should be it. not year after year until they are 16. Please consider scaling back on all the special hunts that have been thrown into the mix.

Please do not bring back earn-a-buck. I get the idea but for some hunters it becomes an obligation rather than actually enjoying their hunt. Also with online deer registration there is no way to prove if an antlerless deer is harvested. The amount of deer I’ve seen over the past decade has decreased dramatically. During gun season it’s almost impossible to get a deer after opening weekend. I’m not sure of the numbers but I feel as though when we had the earn-a-buck for some many years is the reason for the decreased number if deer. The 2-3 years directly after those seasons were by far the worst with some of us not getting any deer on opening weekend. Although I will say the past couple seasons I have “very slightly” more deer.
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2137 I farm here in Columbia County, the deer damage to my crop is extensive, I have contacted the USDA about ag tag hunting and found that it is more difficult than it is worth because I would have to hunt when I am most busy farming, so I consider it a no option. We had a CWD deer confirmed on our farm last season (2019). I really enjoy hunting and have been quite successful over the years. I am concerned about crop damage, the health of our overpopulated deer herd and all of the car deer collisions. We need to drastically reduce the deer heard. I would be in favor of earn a buck and four antlerless tags with your buck tag. I would also support hunting through February when I would have the time to hunt.

2138 I'm tired of AR's in the woods with no clip limit. I'm not against the gun, but shotguns require a plug. why the heck is there no enforcement for the AR's? makes zero sense to me? why are allowing crossbows for people who are not of a certain age or handicap in some capacity? Hunting is not just about killing!!! Why are farmers spraying fungicides and pesticides that eff the wildlife up? I saw two deer last year with giant tumors on public. these are growth issues from farming. My neighbor just removed his entire tree line for farming, and one of your questions was "did I care about deer eating new growth?" Sounds like you do, but you are attacking/blaming the wrong thing here.

2139 Find a way to encourage access to private land. Zero dollars should be awarded for crop damage unless those lands are open to the public. That will solve multiple problems. I will not be purchasing a deer hunting license this year. I have deer hunted (bow and gun) for 30 years. I have purchased the patrons license for roughly the last 20 years. This year I didn't. It still bothers me a bit. I hunt public land and it has only gone down hill. I used to see deer every outing. Sadly, now about one per ten outings. My kids (now teenagers) have zero interest. Reluctantly, I have many better things to do with my time. I wish you the best in making impactful changes.

2140 First of all the proposed 19 day gun season is absolutely ridiculous. I just had to get that out there. Now for Columbia County, all the southern farmland zone really, should look into muzzeloader or bow to the end of January. I've seen more good bucks out-feeding because they have to eat- than any other time of year. Keep the 9 day gun season the same. Some years are just better than others and it happened to be a down year last year. 86 the holiday hunt-pointless and not many people I know enjoy or partake. Don't threaten bowhunters with withholding days to hunt to possibly better gun season. That is losing license sales for the state and nothing else.

2141 No doubt deer numbers are too high in 'some' of the area. Would hope at some point in the future that biologists would visit the major landowners and help establish 'neighborhood' goals--one small parcel landowner can be next to a many parcel landowner that has tons of deer, and not see any on the small parcel--and then you folks hear from the small parcel landowner as seeing 'no deer'. We do not segregate opinions --everyone has been given a voice--tough job for you all until you get out to each neighborhood and evaluate from there. Yes--this takes resources--appoint some folks in the field to help. Do not envy your positions--grateful for the efforts on this.

2142 I am over 60 and I believe that bring crossbows in for everyone was the biggest mistake the DNR has made, making it easy isn't the answer there are a lot more dead deer not recovered. I believe 1 buck, pick your weapon and sell doe tags I relize that it is all really about money, so charge more for the buck tag, and doe tags 5 dollars don't give any away. It is time to stop making everything easy. Over last 20 years the DNR has made a lot of mistakes yes there are a lot of deer but that isn't all good, I own farm land rent it out, so understand the farmers that want all deer killed, but I really enjoy see deer everytime I go out and remember the days when I didn't.

2143 I, for the most part, agree with the information presented. I will put forth some food for thought. With the current reporting system, how would the DNR ever know who is accurately reporting a doe harvest if the earn a buck concept returns? I am certain that there will be hunters who only want their trophy buck, that can, and will report harvesting a doe via online or phone that does not exist. I will say that I am not against the earn a buck, however, I am against an antlerless only season. With that said, the only truly effective way to implement the earn a buck would be through the registration sites of the past to actually prove a doe was taken.
I feel like the deer population is in a very satisfactory spot. The introduction of more antlerless tags is un-needed and frankly disappointing. Every hunter has a responsibility to harvest and maintain their own deer herd on their own private property without added tags. Since most of Columbia is private land this should be more than enough. As the holiday hunt has been ok, I completely disagree with an extended archery/crossbow season. The last month of the year, the deer are on food sources and finally unpressured. Allowing hunters to harvest for an extra month is basically extending the gun seasons with the crossbow hunters.

I appreciate that the county offers a holiday hunt, but believe that both gun and bow hunters should still be allowed to harvest an antlered buck using any unfilled buck harvest tags for that year during the hunt. This will potentially get more people in the woods and increase the chances of a few more does being harvested. As a private land owner, I feel that we play the most critical role in deer management. I would support an earn-a-buck format for those of us on private land to ensure an adequate number of does are being harvested in the county and in order to better mitigate the spread of CWD and other zoonotic diseases.

I am opposed to choosing public versus private lands. I have bought licence and hunted all but a few when i was in the service. My dollars have helped purchase and maintain public lands, if i receive an invitation to hunt public lands it limits or eliminates me. Property owners adjacent are even more so if they wound a deer and retrieve such a good chance they do not have proper tags, vice versus if it gets on private lands. Is not reporting where it was tagged enough. I took a resolution to this effect to congress and Columbia Co. two years back. It bothers me to not be able to hunt on public lands because of this. Doug Cole

The larger problem in Columbia County is that private landowners and hunters shoot a big buck opening morning and then you never see anyone in the woods the rest of the week. This seems to have gotten worse in the last decade. Also I am seeing a lot of deer over the winter and Spring with leg injuries. One doe has a back leg where the ankle is almost turned backwards. Another doe has a large growth around her right front leg. They seem to have made it through the winter and the coyote. That is the larger problem in my area the coyotes seem to attack the fawns before they are able to protect themselves.

In my opinion I would reinstate earn a buck. Reason being many people I know hunt for buck Only, I would even consider 2 doe for a buck tag. The reason for this, in the 2019 season on my property we killed 3 buck and 13 doe. It didn’t make a difference because the rest surrounding area were hunting bucks only or my shoot a doe for 5 people. Shooting the 13 doe at this point hasn’t made a difference. And this years fawns aren’t hear yet. Try to manage, how? You can’t even put in a food plot they nip it off before it can get established. Have a nice day!

I have read that there is the recommendation to shorten the crossbow season to only October and then after the gun seasons. I don't believe that is good idea. A lot of young hunters start bowhunting by using a crossbow when they aren't old enough to draw enough poundage to be deadly using a vertical bow. I have young kids and know a bunch of other families who have used crossbows to get their young hunters started. Limiting their opportunities during the prime of the season is going to hurt the number of young hunters recruited into the hunting community.

With opening up the use of cross bow’s, the harvest will be higher. I use both!! The population of deer has greatly dropped over the past two years, seeing a deer during the gun hunt and while bow hunting has decreased to the point that the numbers will never get back to where they should be. When harvesting a antlerless deer, you are not dropping the herd by one, but possibly by three. ( doe with fawns ). How can harvest be down, but amount of deer increase???? I do not agree with your numbers. I can only report on what I am seeing out in the field.

There are too many hunts before the traditional 9 day gun deer season. Because of this pressure the traditional 9 day season has become less appealing to many hunters. Furthermore, allowing crossbows, other than for disabled hunters, has significantly increased the number of large bucks taken before the 9 day gun deer season. I believe in a youth hunt to encourage kids to get into hunting. I also believe there is a place for crossbows similar to muzzleloader. There should be a separate crossbow season after the traditional 9 day gun season.
As a Wisconsin deer hunter for well over 50 years I've concluded there is no longer the sport of deer hunting but rather harvesting. There are complaints about the number of hunting licenses decreasing - IMO there can be only 2 reasons. First, fewer deer on public lands where hunting for the masses takes place and second, the introduction of sniper towers and tents to hunt from. Here's the crux of the whole thing. It isn't very much fun to kill an animal innocently browsing in a food plot while sitting inside a motel 6 in the sky.

The Biologist stated "statistically the desired antlerless harvest has been inadequate due to the selective harvest of deer by the private property owners. Bonus tags will not change that dynamic. Clearly there is a widespread desire to harvest Mature/Trophy Buck. Private property owners are not going to participate in this effort until the herd around them is too large, regardless of DNR Recommendation or Special Interest influence. The only thing that may change the aforementioned desire is COVID 19 driven economic depression.

I travel Hwy 33 from Beaver Dam to Portage between the hours of 9pm and 5am with both my car and the truck I drive. This winter I struck 3 deer with my personal car and one with the truck between 12-2019 to 3-2020. Toteled my car In December due to this. I see many deer each night on this stretch sometimes more than I can count. This area has an over abundance of deer especially from Hwy 44 west to Portage. I have traveled this route for 12 years and have not seen a decrease in deer at least on the road in front of my vehicles.

Columbia County should consider implementing 1 buck per year only. One buck tag only that could be filled either using a bow or a gun. This would allow for more opportunity on public land to harvest a buck. This would allow the age class to increase in the county. Currently the average age class of bucks is young due to the high amount of pressure on the bucks. Lastly, going to one buck only would entice hunters to harvest more does in the county as they would want to continue hunting after harvesting their one buck.

When I was a child, I would go out hunting and see deer every time I went out! Throughout the years I have witnessed the decline because of the dnr interaction with the herd numbers. Even to the point that I was sickened and disgusted at the very few numbers I’d see. It is finally starting to come back because of hunters that care about the future of hunting for our children! I’m a firm believer that one doe and one buck per tag would be the way to go. Nobody wants to go out hunting and not be able to even see a deer.

I did not see it anywhere so I am hoping that the proposed 19 day gun season is not happening for Columbia county at least for 2020. I had heard that this may be a possibility and strongly oppose it. The structure of the standard nine day gun deer season and tradition should not be changed. Many many people in this county work very hard as archery hunters to ensure success and management practices. Archery season should run through most of November as it always has with a gun season being the last week.

If you’re serious about decreasing the population, expand the gun season by at LEAST a week. That should be a no-brainer. I also support a week of non-crossbow hunting at the beginning of the deer season. (I am a crossbow hunter, by the way...) While the effective range of a crossbow is about the same as a standard/compound bow, it is easier to remain concealed with a crossbow. Non-crossbow hunting is a greater challenge and I think these hunters should get the first week all to themselves.

I would be in favor of a later muzzle loader season, using primitive or even flint season away from the regular gun season. Muzzle loader season as it presently is; (using scopes, 209 ignition and pellets) is just an extension of the regular gun season. I would like to see a real muzzle loader season at a different time allowing only primitive weapons; perhaps January instead of the extended crossbow season or at same time would work, just get it away from the regular gun season. Thanks

Not only have you let the female deer numbers in Columbia county get out of control there is getting to be a large concentration of smaller racked bucks which nobody wants to shoot, last nite I saw a group of 30 deer in an area I’ve never seen that many before and in the winter it’s nothing to see over 100 plus deer in our area. I think it’s about time you start to manage the deer herd and not the dnr’s pocketbook!! If you think I’m kidding about the numbers talk to Phil Peterson at aphis
2161 I sent a separate email to the Columbia County CDAC chair and DNR Liaison today 4/24/2020. In summary: do more to reduce the herd. Such as have an extended archery/crossbow through January. Maybe have a bonus harvest area in the portions of the county that are so over-populated. The harvest is way below the quotas. Need more innovation and maybe statutory options. Otherwise, it's doing the same and expecting for/hoping for different results. Not a recipe for success. Thanks.

2162 We have not seen on our property the numbers of deer or damage done as shown in your information. Our numbers seem low for our area compared to the decades of hunting information given by our neighbors. This may be due to a recent outbreak of EHD. We purchased this property primarily for our personal hunting. We spend a lot of our time and finances managing our property for deer hunting. We would like to be able to judge ourselves when to take antlerless and when not to.

2163 I would like to see the holiday hint be authorized to shoot a buck if u have not used your buck tag already. Mainly for military and family members that come together for Christmas gives them a chance to enjoy the outdoors together and put some meat in the freezer! Outdoorsman that are nice enough to help the health of the deer herd by putting in food plots every year would maybe get a chance a one of their mature deer since he/she has passed many younger deer so far

2164 In my area just south of Wyocena, mostly all my neighbors and I have not shot any does for at least 4 yrs now. Our doe population just stays about the same with no increases. The doe population in my eye is that its low. We do have a coyote predator problem which is really hard to control. If we would have been shooting the few does we have we wouldn't have any right now. Don't know the answer but shooting more does is not the correct answer here!

2165 Please keep in mind that the 9day gun season was actually 1 calender week later for 2019 I feel it did affect some hunters, but not me I also feel that the 2020 deer hunt should remain the same as previous years I noticed more dead deer on the roadsides since January 1, 2020, I think the slightly warmer winter got them to move more, and some farmers did not get fall tilling done so there was also more corn trash on the surface for them to eat

2166 I have been hunted for 45 years. And have been seeing a drop in deer. There are properties around with a ton of deer on them the big land owners. That have everything to keep them there. Its not fair to smaller tracks or public lands. Where you can sit all week and not see a deer. I tried to keep my kids interested in it but not seeing deer its hard. I also think we should raise the non resident cost. if we go out of state we have to pay a lot more.

2167 Lets face facts, the only way to get private landowners to shoot antlerless deer is earn a buck or only getting one buck tag for all deer hunting. Meaning you get one buck tag that a hunter can use for bow, gun or muzzleloader. If/when you fill the buck tag, hunter can only shoot antlerless for the remainder of the deer seasons. Otherwise it doesn't matter how many permits you give away or sell, landowners aren't using them the way you want them to.

2168 Too many specialty hunts. Hunters who have always hunted the regular gun season only do not see deer after the number of bow hunters and special hunts take place. Deer have become nocturnal by the 9 day gun hunt. Specialty hunts should all take place after the gun hunt or move the gun hunt to an earlier date. With the gun hunt often taking place after the rut on the land we have hunted we are seeing less than 10 percent of what we used to see.

2169 I appreciate the Columbia CDAC’s attempts to reduce the deer population in the county, especially in light of CWD. I wish their were better tools in place to increase antlerless harvest, as we clearly are not meeting the necessary harvest objectives to reduce the population. I fully support the high quotas, extended holiday hunt, and I would support an extended archery and crossbow season as well if it would contribute to antlerless harvest.
Ten years ago we had a run of 3 or 4 great years of hunting. Including a mix of bucks and does. I have not seen a buck during hunting season in 4 years. And the does are few and far between. It's getting really hard to get behind any dnr plan to decrease the deer population when I don't see many to begin with. We have 100 acres of property and 7 hunters. We have not filled all our tags in several years. It gets very frustrating.

I would like to see a shorter season for people using crossbows who don't have a doctor's recommendation or over the age of 65 or a youth hunter who can't shoot a bow yet. I think that crossbows are much too effective to be used for the full archery season. They are just like shooting a gun at animals at close range. I have no problem with people using them I just think they shouldn't have as long a season as other archery hunters.

The 2019 season was maybe one of the worse gun seasons I have had in Columbia county. I did see a few deer while archery hunt but the 9 day deer season seem to be a flop. It wasn't until the Holiday hunt that I was finally successful. The other option would be is having an early gun antlerless deer season in October again. Like when the earn a buck program was going on. It wasn't much but it gave some people that extra chance.

I don't understand why antlerless only season is the only option presented. Earn a buck would increase the anterless kill and still allow the taking of a buck. Statistics have proven that hunters will take a buck over a doe in most cases. Issuing more bonus tags will not significantly increase the anterless kill. Forcing the taking of a doe first, before a buck, will reduce the dies and still allow you to hunt bucks.

Maybe Wisconsin should track how many deer are actually getting registered with this new on line or phone registration, think u would see more deer are being killed than registered. Deer population is definitely not over abundance, from what I used to see 20 years ago, but if these doe hunts are going to take up more hunting days, it would be nice to see an extended bow season for us who truly in joy archery season.

Columbia county should consider going to one buck only per year per hunter. One buck only per year that could be harvested with a gun or a bow. This would create more opportunity for hunters on public and private land. This would also increase the age class of the bucks in the county. Also, this would encourage hunters to harvest more does as they would want to continue hunting after they harvested their one buck.

I would hope that the DNR would keep the cross bow season the same as the traditional bow hunting season as it a peers that there are some ladies and younger generation kids getting into the sport because of the cross bow. as long as we do our part and the DNR does there part from a harvest number, I believe this is of great value to hit the numbers we want from a kill perspective and an economic prospective.

Antlerless only would be OK or even go back to earn a buck that would help knock down some of the population of deer. I would also like to see the archery/crossbow season either stay the way it is or have it extended . For deer gun season I would like to see it stay as the nine days instead of an extended season. Thank you for allowing us to voice our opinions and also for including us in this conversation.

Too many predators, espescially wolves, bobcats and coyotes. We’re shooting too many anterless deer. The private sector does not allow hunting it seems unless you’re related. I wish they would allow access for the second weekend of gun and late bow seasons. Maybe DNR could help developer a program to assist in finding areas willing to allow long time hunters with no records or violation a place to hunt.

Go back to how hunting was in the 1980s before the state and DNR ruined Wisconsin deer hunting. GET RID OF ALL THE EXTRA SEASONS AND ALL YOUTH HUNTS. The reason the numbers have gone down is because people stopped hunting because deer herd has never had a chance to grow back since the herd was eliminated because of CWD. Put things back to how it was in the 1980s and your sales will go back up.
I have a question about CWD. I have never heard any determination about the origin of this disease. Is it related to deer farms or escapes from them? Has there been any advances in a vaccine for deer to prevent them from getting this that could be applied to food plots, woods, etc? Overall I am glad to see the improvements in registration etc. You've been doing a great job, keep it up.

certain parts of columbia county have more deer then others. when you get in the farm region by Cambria on the prairie there are few to no deer at all so i beleive each county should be split down more into 4 different sub zones. Not just public or private. if you dont have a marsh by your farm land you dont see deer but I cant hunt a doe on puplic land because my tags are for private.

Realistically leave the 9 day gun season alone, cancel all antlerless deer hunts and put a limit on crossbows again. Go back to the registration stations because your numbers are off due to the amount of people who can and will shoot deer and dispose of them before they ever consider registering them. That gives them the opportunity to carry a tag and continue hunting.

Deer population is extremely high in areas where crop damage tags are implemented and the population does not decrease. The 1000 acres of private forest land we own a small portion of does not have a tree younger than 25 years old due to over browsing. I would propose a earn-a-buck program, I know it was not liked, but it reduced the doe population in our area.

If hunters do not want to harvest antlerless deer, there will always be over population. Not sure how to get hunters to harvest. Earn a buck may have to come back. I personally will not harvest antlered deer this year. I love to eat deer. Worried about CWD. Always get mine tested. Most people do not. Hard to get good data if there is not a enough tests. Good luck

I don’t support the holiday hunt or the extended hunt until January 31. I support the traditional length seasons. Longer seasons overlap into other hunting opportunities and into snowmobiling season. Later hunts limit the ability to put in trails before frost and snow. Attempting to put in trail during a hunting season could disturb a landowner's hunt.

Public land I hunt gets hunted very hard. I did not see a decrease in hunters and I hunt 7 different public areas in the county. I hunt 5 to 7 days a week through archery,gun,and muzzleloader. How can we get the land owners to open up their land to help control the deer population? I don’t think the public land has a problem with population control.

CDACs for each county should collectively decide on a statewide deer season framework. We need a continuous 16 day gun deer season. The current archery season is correct. Crossbow or longbow should remain a hunters choice. Emphasize mentoring and family hunting opportunities. Extend CDACs scope to decide on collectively on statewide deer management.

I and many others believe the countless attacks on crossbow hunters are a reason you will lose many hunters now and in the future if the rules are changed to appease the archery clubs doing the complaining about crossbows. Also and I realise it is a federal issue but wolces need to be addressed as they continue to deplete our deer heard. Thank you

I think overall the seasons are consistent I have seen personally population growth in my area which is great. I haven’t seen too many mortality rates from other sources ie predators or starvation I am out quite a bit and only saw a couple which in my opinion is great. I have seen lots of healthy herds keep up the good work I know I notice it

I would like to see a better choice in the harvest of antler less as to land type. When I choose private land both antlerless are for private property. I would like to have one for each private and public hunting. The private properties I hunt are bordering public and many times haven't been able to shoot onto public due to tag restrictions.
I am in support of all of the preliminary recommendations for this unit, other than not having the extended bow/crossbow season. Considering the decrease population objective, failure to meet antlerless harvest quotas in previous years, and the rapidly expanding distribution of CWD, this option should be included in the season structure.

I think earn a buck would reduce the deer herd and still allow the taking of a buck. Why is anterless only the only option provided? The issue isn't the number of tags issued but the number filled. We have proven the most hunters will take a buck over a doe. If you want to reduce the herd you have to force the taking of a doe first.

Please do not change the crossbow season. I'm 64 years old and the only way I can hunt during the bow season is with a crossbow. I also hunt on my own land that I have paid property taxes on for 36 years. I should absolutely be able to use a crossbow on my own property - regardless what they compound bow hunters say or want.

I am strongly against an elongated rifle season. 9 days is plenty, to get a deer. I saw a large decrease in deer seen especially on opening weekend where there is usually deer running around all day. I am unsure of the reason for that, but I think a little more preservation of females to produce fawns is important for a few years.

No holiday hunt. If there are so many deer then why aren't more killed during regular firearms seasons. Holiday hunt interferes with snowmobiling, cross country skiing, late archery, waterfowl, small game, and any other activity on public land. Everything is held hostage to shoot 100 deer that should be killed in other seasons.

Deer populations in Columbia county are VERY property dependent. Giving out more tags and having more seasons does not manage these high density populations, it reduces numbers on already overly hunted lands. The DNR should use a property specific motto that benefits land owners when the property manage their deer herds.

Since anyone can now hunt with a crossbow, I would like to see gun season started earlier, and longer, instead of all the other seasons and get rid of youth hunts, so many adults shoot the deer and claim a kid shot it. Also bring back the back tag so an owner would have something to go by when a hunter is trespassing.

Bow hunters have to much say over crossbow and gun hunters unequally hoarding the rut period. Bow hunting and crossbow hunting should be equal opportunity not separated times. Gun season should be given the opportunity to participate in the rut hunt late oct, early nov with earn a buck every other 4 years.

Give land owners an opportunity to get free antlerless tags. Reduce the ag tags and allow others the opportunity to harvest those deer and actually utilize the deer instead of it being wasted. Force the people getting ag tags to have to MANDATORY allow hunters on their property!

If the goal is to harvest more deer. Don’t limit anyone from hunting. No antlerless only hunts, no quiet time before certain seasons, and once a season starts it goes till the end. For example, don’t stop archery hunting during gun season and then resume after gun season ends.

Things are being made too complicated with too many seasons. No need for extra for seasons. Keep a standard bow season, gun season, and muzzleloader. We don’t need a bunch of special seasons. If people can’t get out and hunt during the regular seasons that it their problem.

In the beginning you ask the question if I think there are too many hunters on public land. During archery season there is not too many hunters during gun season there are way too many hunters. Structure your questions better to differentiate between gun and now hunting.

Go back to the 9 day season with a tee zone and you will get your kill up because it will get everyone One The woods at one time and will move deer around In Stead of having a Late season wear people are able to go and choose to hunt late season and deer don’t get moved.
I have seen more deer than anytime since the 1990’s and am concerned that there are too many deer to remain sustainable. I would recommend returning to an earn-a-buck format in the next few years. Maybe every other year to encourage the harvest of more antlerless deer.

Since CWC was established and implemented, the deer numbers were decimated and especially took a toll on mature buck sightings. Deer populations have not rebounded and remained low for the last 6-8 years. Need to keep regular gun season framework, and no holiday hunts.

It’s not just to increase my chances of harvest to be selfish. I wait for a 3+ year old and I do not see very many so my age class is gone. Lucky to see one per year, never more than 2 the last 10 years. I have some cameras out too. none on cam last 2 years.

Allow bucks to be harvested!!! Way too many does. For every 20 does I’d see a night I’d only see 1 or 2 buck, regardless of their maturity. Allow 3 or 4 does to be harvested by each hunter with the purchase of their licence instead of just 2.

Deer numbers are back to pre-CWD/eradication zone times, which were too high. Need to figure out a way to reduce doe numbers, maybe consider bringing back earn-a-buck. I am also very concerned about the number of positive CWD tests in our area.

Already killing too many deer. I am a farmer. My farmer friend want all the deer killed. Yet they make plenty of money with the crops they harvest. My forest land is doing well. Not too much foraging. Too many does killed. Too few bucks.

I haven’t seen a deer in almost 5 seasons. If you say the population is too high, I say B.S. Why should I continue to buy a licence and spend time hunting when most likely I won't see a deer let alone get a chance to harvest one.

We need to bring back earn-a-buck in our unit. Some landowners in this unit do not allow the harvest of antlerless deer. I shouldn't be able to take a 5 min drive and see 200 deer. We need to harvest more does! Please help!

too many coyotes and wolf's... need to have a wolf season.... and a Sandhill crane season as well... makes no since not to have a Sandhill hunt... most other states allow it.... "its the ribeye of the sky" Ted Nugent

I found the video very informative. I’ve been enjoying the online surveys the dnr has been putting out since public meetings cant be held. I hope the online surveys and voting continues. Thanks for all you do!

I was hunting on public land this last gun deer season and I only saw 2 doe... that was opening morning about 30 min BEFORE the season opened. I hunted hard for 7 days. I saw Tracks and deer sign but know deer..

If there is a holiday antlerless season it makes no sense that it is antlerless for archery. Or if there is a holiday hunt why can’t you fill any unused gun tag? You purchase and it is intended to be used.

I would support efforts to increase the age class of deer in my unit such as earn a buck, 1 buck limit per hunter archery, gun, or muzzle loader. Hunter could only harvest 1 buck by a weapon of choice.

I want to thank the group for the hard work they do. It is a tough job with little reward, but I think their recommendations represent the views of most of the people who live and hunt here. THANKS!

CWD is of utmost importance. Total ban on ALL baiting & feeding. In person registration. Testing of ALL deer harvested. Close ALL "deer farms" shooting preserves. Total ban on ALL live transport.

We need to Greatly reduce the deer population in the core CWD area(s) to prevent the spread into other areas (like Columbia county). I had my first CWD positive deer in Columbia County in 2019.

Things should be alot more simple...you should be able to fill unfilled gun tags with archery equipment...who care what weapon harvested the animal. We pay for the licences let us fill them.
I didn't see the number of deer that I have seen in the past especially does and fawns. It would be nice to see more deer possibly by harvesting less antlerless deer for a couple of years.

Would like to see earn a buck brought back so that more bucks could be harvested due to the overall amount of deer present in the county and not as many hunters attempting to harvest them.

In light of CWD, high deer numbers, hunters unwillingness to focus harvest on antlerless deer, and a population objective of decrease, I support having an antlerless only season framework.

I feel that it should be a straight 9 day season you get 1 buck tag & 1 antlerless tag extended season's and extra season's are not a good idea in mine and majority of other hunters minds

Drop the license requirements for selecting public vs private hunting when buying the license. For research just have the type of property noted when you register the deer.

The DNR and CDC. Are very interesting on how they can screw up tradition and camaraderie..thank you for screwing up so many years of hard work and dropping hunter numbers.

Remove early firearm seasons (early antlerless, youth etc) close archery/crossbow season 5 days before firearm 9 day season and allow buck harvest during holiday hunt

Our Wisconsin deer population in no way could ever overturned. I am not a Trophy buck hunter or a buck hunter. This is the only red meat to eat for us. Thank you

I saw very few doe this season. I saw 15 different bucks. I did not have a doe that I could have harvested with the bow. I saw NO deer during the gun season.

To eliminate the youth hunt. I ask for this due to most kids already hunt at a young age and if they are interested they would go out with an adult either way

2019 was by far the worst hunting season i have seen in many years. The population is down and the gun deer season being a week later then it normally is.

I would like to use my gun buck tag as a late season bow buck tag. Gun season is getting more dangerous every year. Or let's be like Iowa, no rifles.

There are not enough deer in our area. Disagree with extending bow season. It should start earlier not go later. Gun season needs to be longer.

To reduce or at least limit deer numbers, seasons and restrictions for Columbia County should encourage maximum harvest of FEMALE deer.

There is no need for a doe only hunt or holiday hunt. The deer population is already significantly lower than it was even 5 years ago.

Would like to see earlier gun hunt for buck. Extend the length of gun hunt. Less over lapping of bow hunting into gun hunting.

Too few deer in our area. Does are off limits due to low numbers and a doe only season would deplete the population for us.

Extending the rifle hunting season will limit other use of lands for winter activities. Somebody innocent will get shot.

Earn A Buck should be used again to reduce the deer herd. It worked well when we had it and horn quality was much better.

Give landowners more FREE tags if you want more deer shot, but not a fee for all like the days of getting 4 tags a day!
I would love to see either choice and one doe tag per hunter for archery and gun seasons. The deer numbers are down

Do not extend the gun season and remove the antlerless only hunting seasons (or limit it to one in early December)

The doe to buck ratio should be dramatically reduced in my area but the issue is where do you donate the doe kill?

Let the people that own the land do what they want with the deer numbers. The DNR does not own the deer herd....

Add buck harvest to the holiday hunt. Leave the bow and crossbow the way it was. Leave the gun season at 9 day

Not a fan of youth gun hunts during archery season. Keep the seasons simple with no special season dates.

seeing few and few deer every year, go back to the old systems. one antlerless state wide with license

In the 70's and 80's I usually saw 60-80 deer opening weekend. Last year I saw 8 and we shot 3.

Do not change the structure of the white tail seasons, if anything limit the use of crossbows

Instead of antlerless only consider earn a buck. Take a doe first to qualify to take a buck.

A crossbow should only be allowed for older people or people with documented health issues.

Continue the holiday hunt. Our family really likes to hunt together during the holidays.

crossbow should have it own season and run shorter than regular compound bow.

Get rid of the holiday hunt. Lower the amount of antlerless permits.

Make crossbows be only available for hunters with disabilities.

Bring back earn a buck or hunter's choice for buck harvest.

Strongly support a holiday hunt and extended archery season.

More shotgun muzzleloader areas. rifles are too dangerous

Open the gun season a week earlier for a longer season.

Our deer numbers are lower then what people think.

Leave crossbow bow and gun seasons the way they are

Holiday Hunt open to both bucks and does....

Please keep current crossbow framework!

Please continue the holiday hunt.

Increase non-resident tag fees!

do earn a buck this fall

Hold the holiday hunt.

Not enough deer
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Crawford, Southern Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

437 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 140
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 115
   - I hunt in this unit: 413
   - General interest in this unit: 91

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 386
   - Bow: 242
   - Crossbow: 139
   - Muzzleloader: 129

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 19.92
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 274
   - Mostly Private Land: 74
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 33
   - Mostly Public Land: 11
   - Exclusively Public Land: 18
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 16
   - Not too crowded: 45
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 27
   - Somewhat crowded: 17
   - Very crowded: 21
   - Not applicable: 10

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 75
   - Fewer: 140
   - Same: 167
   - More: 31
   - Many More: 14
   - Unsure: 10

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Crawford, Southern Farmland
**Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020**

**Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 198, Oppose 197, Unsure 42

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 254, Oppose 143, Unsure 40

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 36, Oppose 376, Unsure 25

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID, NOT VALID, Unsure Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020**

Crawford, Southern Farmland
Comments for Crawford, Southern Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
19 day gun season: - From what I understand, the 19 day gun season is being proposed in order to promote more opportunity for hunters to harvest a deer. However, us hunters have from mid-September to January to harvest deer between the opening and closing day of bow season. Within that timeframe, there are already more than enough opportunities to harvest a deer with a rifle or a muzzleloader. The deer are already exhausted from rutting for the previous 2-3 weeks so extending the rifle season to 19 days to pressure them some more makes no sense. We absolutely do not need to extend rifle season to 19 days. 4 harvest authorizations per license purchased: - Like the majority of the hunters in Crawford County (I'm assuming), I purchase a bow and gun license. With that, I am allowed to shoot 8 deer myself. If everyone I hunt with shot the amount of deer that we are allowed to (4 of us hunt 400 acres), there would be hardly any left for the future years. How does 8 tags per person per year correlate to healthy herd numbers and not mass harvest? Instead, my way of thinking is this: if the goal is to shoot more antlerless deer, Crawford County should implement earn-a-buck, each license purchases 1 doe tag to start with in order to get a buck tag, with the opportunity to purchase additional doe tags for 15$/apiece, with the limit stopping at 2 per weapon (archery/crossbow and rifle/muzzleloader). The 15$ price tag is the key to this, as it is cheap enough that if someone really wants to go shoot 2 more does they have that opportunity, but on the flip side each hunter isn't just given 4 tags to go shoot 4 deer with which eliminates the "I have the tags so I'm going to use them all" mentality. Lastly, the number of allowed harvest authorizations still stays the same (4), but if a person wants more they will have to pay more hopefully meaning only the people that need to kill more deer will buy them. Out of State Price Tags: - This issue, to me personally and others I've talked to, feels like it has been so neglected. Sometimes issues are as simple to fix as they seem and this is one of them. Let's erase Minnesota from the picture because their out-of-state tags are way too cheap as well. How is it fair that if I want to purchase a bow buck tag in Iowa, I have to pay and send in for preference points for multiple years just to spend more money on the tag itself but if someone lives in Iowa (lets just say close to Crawford County since it is right across the bridge) they can spend $150 or $160 and get 1 buck tag and 3 doe tags. On what planet does that seem right? Let's not even mention the comparison of the cost of turkey tags between the states. My recommended solution is simple: Wisconsin should copy what Iowa does. They are a premier whitetail state, as Wisconsin should be considered as well. People from all over come to hunt counties like Crawford/Bufalo/Grant/Vernon/Richland etc., and can do so for such a small price tag. Wisconsin needs to treat whitetails like Iowa does, plain and simple. We have the genetics and large tracts of timber to make this state an even greater whitetail power house. If Iowa doesn't have a problem getting out of state hunters to wait 3 years to get a bow tag, Wisconsin shouldn't fear it either. I would also like to make a quick mention regarding going to hunt mule deer in other states. For a Wisconsin resident to draw a tag in a zone with trophy potential and a decent harvest opportunity in Utah, they can expect to wait at least 5 years while paying 70$/year for a preference point then the actual tag purchase price which is exponentially higher. Let that sink in. In conclusion, Wisconsin needs to raise non-resident license fees. Changing the crossbow season dates: - I do agree to this proposal. Closing bow season 5 days prior to rifle season: - This proposal is absolutely absurd. Taking away 5 of the best days of bow hunting to appease rifle hunters is not what the hunting community in Wisconsin wants. The reason I say it as "appease rifle hunters" is due to the fact that if you are an avid bow hunter, you would never want this proposal to go through as it only benefits people who are mainly exclusive to rifle hunting each year. Again, this is probably going back to the creating more opportunity argument which is completely flawed. If this happens, the opposite is happening no matter what way people try to spin it. To piggy back off of that, the next thing that goes along with this is having opening weekend of rifle season be the closest Saturday to November 15th. This would destroy archery hunting opportunity during the best time of the year, especially if this is coupled with the above proposal. The avid archery hunters wait all year to hunt in November and these proposals would eliminate that. In conclusion, Wisconsin should not extend its rifle season as 9 days is more than enough time to harvest a deer (don't forget about Muzzleloader season directly following), non-residents do not pay nearly enough or have to wait long enough to have the opportunity to harvest deer in Wisconsin, hunters are given way to many harvest authorizations with numbers already dwindling (not according to "estimated" numbers, but actual in the field observations with a mention to the EHD that hit last year), there should be no 5 day relief.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

period prior to rifle season, and lastly, opening day of rifle season should not be on the closest Saturday prior to November 15th. We as hunters in Wisconsin have 4 months to harvest a deer/multiple deer with multiple different weapons. If a person cannot get an opportunity in 4 months, they are not putting in enough effort or simply just don’t care enough, it really is that simple.

I have hunted in the Kickapoo river valley for the past 8 years. We were slammed with EHD and I do not believe the numbers reported accurately reflect the deer mortality from EHD. many were never reported as many were never found. I had 2 on my property that I found pre archery season. During the hunting season I found over 20 carcasses and I know farmers found many more during harvest. Our group of 30 hunts over 2000 acres of both public and private land. While shed hunting this spring I came across several more carcasses. How do I know this was from EHD? Because the predators/scavengers do not eat these. The 1st deer I found had not been dead long and was 100 yards from my cabin. I watched it decompose to a mush within a week. No vulture, Eagle, possum, coyote, I mean nothing came to eat off this. It was a perfect skeleton of bones as were the ones I found later during the season and while shed hunting, no broken bones from a bullet no bones pulled away from scavengers just a perfect skeleton. I support the antlerless hunts but do not support 4 tags per license. Drop it to 2 per license and increase the bonus tags to generate more finances for the DNR. As seen in the video increasing to 4 had very little effect on the number of antlerless deer harvested. I am retired and hunt 75% of the archery season as well as 100% of the firearm season. On my private 158 acres I saw 2 deer during the firearm season and I hunted all 9 days. Yes I move around. Out of 8 of us that hunt on my property I took a fawn doe during the archery season and 1 buck was taken during the firearm season. Sightings were down drastically during both the firearm and bow season. You mention the low red oak density, how much of this is due to poor land management and land clearing for both agriculture and housing? I support any and all legal means of hunting to include crossbows. If we had 20,000 deer pre-harvest (not a chance with the EHD and CWD) and we harvested 4000 deer that is a 20% harvest bringing us to the 16,000 goal. I doubt we will be at the pre hunt level of 20k deer even though I support the antlerless hunts. As I said I support the use of crossbows but do wonder how many people have went to crossbows and no longer hunt the firearm season? That may explain the drop in the firearm license sales. Never during this presentation is there any mention of the affects of poaching or anyone "forgetting" to register their deer. Yes it does happen as I read about it all the time. Now moving forward if any county was to implement earn-a-buck you will see your success rate on does sky rocket. Why well you don’t have to register them in person so how many people will call in a false kill on a doe? I have heard about several un-ethical hunters that shared a doe so they could get their buck tag back when earn-a-buck was around. I heard stories of one doe that was registered 7 or 8 times. Earn-a-buck was considered a joke. I personally like earn-a-buck as it helps the buck population grow older and more mature I just don’t think you can have it without in person registration. In person registration would also help with the collection of lymph nodes in the study of CWD. Up for discussion was also the possibility of making man made waterholes illegal as it "MAY" spread CWD. So a 300 gallon cattle tank MAY spread CWD. How about the 3 small natural water puddles that are loaded with deer tracks on the lane between my fields? This is ridiculous. You better require every land owner to fill in any ruts that hold water (a lot less than a 300 gallon tank does) as well as cut down any tree that holds water in the base. I have several of these trees and actually use them for my dog when we are out walking in the heat. I have cameras set up on these trees and have several pictures of deer drinking from them as well. A small water source like a tire rut will contaminate at a ppm faster than a large water source. Please use science and common sense.
First off, thank you for having the presentation Dan Goltz put together available for viewing and reviewing. It really helped get a better understanding of what information is used to estimate the deer population in each county. I do not live in Crawford County, thus I am not able to attend the CDAC meetings. As a Wildlife Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, I like this type of data. Having this information this year was helpful in forming my opinions on deer management in Crawford County. It was a good overview of the trends in the deer population. After looking at the graphs associated with each portion of Dan’s presentation I differ in Dan's opinion that the population of deer in Crawford County is clearly showing a trend of increasing population. I see a stable population over time. The fawn:doe ratio data seems to have a small sample size as is evident by the long 95% Confidence Interval (CI) lines. It also says that the recruitment of fawns into the population is less than 1 fawn per doe suggesting fawn mortality is high. This does not support the narration in the presentation that the population is increasing. In relation to the Deer Population Trend Post Hunt graph I again see a stable trend line not an increasing population trend. I do not know what variables are used to develop this model so I can only comment on what the graph shows. The CI’s look to be +/- approximately 3,000 animals while the actual estimate fluctuates approximately 1,000 animals along the trend line drawn. The population is maintaining not increasing significantly over time. The commentary suggests that it shows an increasing population but it is evident by the words used in this commentary that it is a subjective opinion and speculation, not a comment completely based on the data. I fear that these comments might influence the CDAC committee's decisions and wanted to point this out. I think the allocation of 4 free doe licenses is too high as well as the extra doe licenses available for purchase based on the recruitment data presented and my own personal observations while hunting Crawford County. The data and my observations leave me with the opinion that you are not reaching your doe harvest quotas because the does are just not there to kill. I hunt mostly public land in Crawford County. In 40 hours of tree stand hunting last year, I saw 14 deer during the peak period of rut activity. Of those 14 animals, 3 were does. This was during the peak chase phase before lock down occurred. During the last 4 years hunting Crawford County the buck to doe ratio I have observed has been similar. The data in the presentation back up my observations. 6 does out of 100 Bonus Public Land tags were killed. People who buy extra tags when they already have 4 free antlerless tags in their pocket are most likely going to hunt to kill those animals. Having a 6% success rate for these tags suggests the antlerless deer density is not very high. Raising the Bonus Tag allotment from 100 to 200 doesn’t make sense to me as a way to kill more does as a 6% success rate is biologically insignificant. Selling more tags does equal more revenue for the WI DNR though, and if that is the goal, the CDAC board and the opinion of it’s constituents are not needed. One final note, I am concerned the Crawford County CDAC board is not taking the responses to these questionnaires seriously. I have read all of the responses to this questionnaire the past 2 years and the majority of the comments regarding the Holiday Hunt and the Extended Archery Season have been against this recommendation yet these two opportunities are implemented in the season framework. Please value the opinions of the individuals that actually take the time to fill this questionnaire out. It has been evident the last couple of years that those of us who fill these out don’t have much impact on the decision making process. Thank you for your consideration.
First of all I'd like to start out saying, I scout whitetails 8 months out of the year, I run a good amount of trail cams throughout the county and I hunt about 3 months out of the year very hard. But being out there all the time I am able to see what's going on. I hunt mostly public because I have better success. I think we should be the first county in this state to set the bar and pass a 3 pt on one side antler restriction. Not to grow trophy bucks but to protect spikes and forks so they have a chance to go through the cycles of life and maybe they will have a chance to mature more. We do not have the quality of bucks like we did in the past. (One important detail I need to mention is this county was devastated by EHD which means our buck population is even lower). People like seeing a nice buck, it brings business to the area, and when one is harvested the business continues onto the taxidermists, maybe the butcher shops. If muskie fisherman can get a 50" size limit why can't we get something to help deer in the whitetail capitol of the world? We should try it, what's it going to hurt? People will have more success and they will be happy. This should be an option and many of us would like to see this. Otherwise we would like to see one buck per hunter a year. We are losing hunters not because they aren't seeing deer, because they aren't seeing any decent bucks. The extended rifle season will hurt our buck population, and the continuation of crossbows for anyone all archery season is really having an impact on the buck population, I do not agree with either. We need to have a crossbow season and stay with the traditional rifle and muzzleloader season. If people are in the woods with rifles at the tail end of the rut it will be devastating to our buck population, they are like sitting ducks. One way we could make things a lot easier is change the way the seasons begin. This is a suggestion for the whole state. There are years we hear how the season started to late like 2019 so that lowers the harvest of bucks. There is a simple fix, make rifle season open on the same date every year like MI. This is my idea on season structure and I believe it would improve our state and simplify everything: Archery Season - Sep. 15th-Jan. 15th statewide continues Crossbow Season - Nov. 15th-Dec. 15th statewide continues Rifle Season - Nov. 20th-Nov. 30th statewide, weapon of choice Muzzleloader Season - Dec. 1st-Dec. 10th statewide No extended archery hunts, no holiday hunts, no youth hunts, no baiting statewide, no CWD tags, let the counties control their herds as needed. Let's make this the greatest state to hunt whitetails because right now we are falling off the map, losing business and losing hunters.
1. Extending the gun season to 19 days? Why? No reason for it. Leading up to the traditional rifle season deer are already run down significantly due to running non stop for the past month during the rut. Bucks especially don’t eat hardly at all during this period, their bodies are weak and they have almost zero fat reserves. Then they roll right into the rifle season and have to run for their lives due to the flood of hunters pushing them from one property to another conducting drives. They do this for 9 days and then maybe, if we don’t have an early or long winter, they finally get to rest and replenish their bodies. Otherwise, we get large winter kills because the deer are too run down and weak to survive the winter. Now, let’s add another 10 days onto the rifle season so whatever deer are left are almost certain to be dead by spring. Those who aren’t, will likely have a low fawn mortality rate due to the added stress related to all the previously mentioned factors. Absolutely irresponsible idea....especially when we already have a 10 day muzzleloader season that immediately follows the current rifle season. The idea is to have a healthy deer herd, not a non-existent one. 2. Prohibiting hunting for two or five days leading up to the start of the November gun season. Prohibiting hunting in the week leading up to opening day? Again, why? Now we are contradicting what eradication efforts they are proposing. They want hunters to harvest deer but now they want to eliminate archery hunters from hunting for a week leading up to the season.....during one of the absolute best weeks of the entire year? Now they want to alienate archery hunters because they think the non existent deer will magically flood the woods two-fold during that week before rifle season and they will explode on scene and be running everywhere for the new 19 day rifle season? 3. Hunters could still legally use crossbows and bows instead of firearms but would need firearm tags for any kills. What’s the difference? I can legally archery hunt the gun season now and use my rifle tag if I shoot a deer with a bow or my archery tag. Now they want to just eliminate us from using an additional tag. I prefer to archery hunt during rifle season. My family doesn’t do drives, we prefer to hunt deer on natural movement so I like to bow hunt. Why take a tag away that I could use to help the DNR eradicate more deer. The only thing I did agree with was increasing non-resident hunter’s license fees and eliminating the 4-day doe only hunt in December.

Getting 4 antlerless tags for each license is way too much! If you buy a bow and gun license that is 8 doe tags which is insane, especially for public land, and you still have the option to buy more. No one should have 8 doe tags for public land. Private land is different, as populations can be much higher and the deer can be better managed. I support eliminating all anterless only hunts and going back to the archery/ crossbow season, 9 day gun season and muzzleloader. Leave it at that. I recommend if you buy a Crawford county public land license, have one doe tag included with that license. If you buy a Crawford county private land license, have 2 or 3 doe tags included. Public land in Crawford county gets very heavy pressure during gun season, busy enough where it is not safe at times with so many people in some areas. Having this many people around with all of these doe tags is craziness. I had more tags in my pocket during the gun season last year than I had sightings for deer, and I hunted 7 of the 9 days of gun season. I had 7 doe tags and 1 buck tag, saw 3 deer the entire season hunting exclusively public land. I would like to see the deer populations on public land increase. It seems all of the focus is on private land management by reducing/ maintaining the herd, which I agree with as some areas have too many deer. I know some private land owners that don’t shoot does off of their private land, but instead do deer drives late season on public land to shoot does. This is not fair to the public land hunters. I would like to see an emphasis on increasing the herd on public land which would be easy to do by reducing the number of public land tags. This would increase the hunting experience for public land hunters, many of whom are first time hunters that may not have the money to buy land or connections to hunt on private land. My cousin started gun hunting the last two seasons and has yet to see a deer either year. He said he probably won’t hunt this year. It is hard to recruit and retain new hunters if they are not seeing any deer.
First off thank you for looking to up the public land bonus tags. When you look at data the private land tags do not even come close to selling out. Even though public land bonus tags only harvest 6 deer last year at least the state is gaining revenue for license sales. If we do not come close to selling all of our private land tags why not open more up to public land and at least gain something. So again thank you for moving that forward. Now as far as an extended archery and crossbow season goes. I truly feel that this is something not worth limiting other wintertime hunting opportunities for. Last year a total of 18 deer were harvested in our county during the extended archery season. that is .44 % of our total deer harvest. When taking only archery equipment into consideration that is still only 1.8% of our total archery harvest being done during the extended period in January. I personally lost one month of other hunting opportunities so that 18 more deer could be harvested. My beagles had to sit home, my coyote dogs sat home so that the one or two people still out hunting for their deer on public land did not have conflicts with me and my dogs. I strongly feel that extending bow season an entire month for less than half a percent of deer to be harvested is not worth the restrictions it places on other outdoor activities. If Crawford county was to eliminate the extended archery season we will not see a decline in deer harvested and it will not affect the overall management plan. There is little to no added value to increase the length of time archery hunters have in the woods. Thank you for your consideration.

Hunting in the Crawford County Farmland zone isn’t hunting anymore. It’s just deer shooting. With the expansion of recreational land and the loss of small farmers more land is posted to access. Everyone is scared to hunt as they think it will move all of the deer off of their property. So everybody climbs up a tree and sits there. Most of the land that I hunted on for 54 years is now inaccessible. Deer drives and still hunting require land access. I sat all day on opening day and never saw a deer. Others in my hunting group had similar stories. Driving into the cabin after dark there were 20 deer in the field 300 yards from my stand. They simply don't move in the daytime as no one bumps them out of the brush anymore. The farm where I hunt has very little woodland and most of the woodland around him is posted. He feeds the deer that others hunt. I have no idea how the DNR could help with this human social change. Deer numbers will continue to rise because hunter access is blocked. Hunters that don't see deer will quit hunting and the young hunters won't start. I fully intended to take at least 3 antlerless deer last year but shot only the one that I saw. 20 years from now it could be like shooting prairie dogs. Kill them just to get rid of them. Perhaps the bobcats and bears that are moving into Crawford county will control the population or the wolves can join them and decimate the deer herd in the southern part of the state like they have the north country. Just the ramblings of an old man who has 54 consecutive Wisconsin opening mornings under his belt. I don't envy your job.

Overall, I agree with proposed season structure and harvest authorization recommendations. I do, however, feel that much of the data and observations are pointing to a need for higher antlerless harvest. Simply giving out more antlerless tags or making more bonus tags available is not the fix. The option of an antlerless only season for all seasons seems too extreme in this part of the state. I think a happy medium does need to be implemented. Going back to the data, it clearly shows that “earn-a-buck” or even “earn-a-buck light” as Dan Goltz referred to in the video, was an extremely effective management tool for antlerless harvest. I know this type of season structure was met with some opposition at the time, including myself. But the more I educate myself and think about what needs to be done for a sustainable resource into the future the more apparent it becomes to me that earn-a-buck should make a comeback. Not only do I think earn-a-buck needs to come back because it is the most effective herd management tool for herd structure, I also think it is one of the best ways we can try to buy more time with CWD. CWD isn’t going away and is a great concern of mine, especially for the next generation’s sake. I know some of my response gets anecdotal, but I try to base my opinions and thoughts in science and research and not just try to push a biased, opinionated and politically based personal agenda. I truly hope my thoughts reach out to many people and they take an unbiased look at things and consider what is the best for the long term sustainability of our resource.
4 doe tags with a license is ridiculous. I Hunt private and public in Richland and Crawford. I try not to shoot any doe on public because of the amount of pressure and I have some opportunities others don’t. If you look at the amount of actual acreage in the county vs. The amount of acreage of just public. It’s not even close if you used that ratio to differentiate the amount of tags public vs private there would be no tags on public hardly at all. The public gets the most pressure on top of that. The private that I can hunt has 4 other hunters on it so 5 total. We each get 4 doe tags and one buck tag for bow and gun. 10 deer tags per person 50 total deer in one group on not much acreage. I feel we have a pretty standard situation. I really don’t understand the 50 tags? Are we expecting one group on a small private tract to accomplish that? There isn’t 50 deer to shoot. You may have some large tracts of private land with excessive deer #’s but 95% of the hunters can’t help with that. But it seems to fall onto them to shoot more and more deer. The situation doesn’t have an easy fix but maybe some encouragement or kick back for doe only youth hunts on large tracts for youth, veterans, disabled, etc... we need to stop pretending the average hunter or recreational property owner can do his part on private when 40 to 80 acres is a typical piece. 300 or even more acres with 5 hunters is different than a 40 with 5 hunters. Public lands should almost always be set to maintain or increase the herd. So much more pressure and more deer get shot per acre.

The deer season should be as it was when I started hunting in 1988. Bow season would open around the 15th of September and close the Sunday before gun season. I believe in allowing a bow to shoot both a buck and an doe. No more tags are necessary. Gun season should be 9 days only. Again a buck and a doe for each hunter. This holiday hunt and doe only season is ridiculous. You want people to hunt and buy licenses stop exterminating our deer heard. Stop introducing wolves to our woods. Stop putting a liberal in charge of the DNR who has there pockets lined by the insurance companies to exterminate our deer heard. Deer hunting used to a family tradition, like a holiday for most. Maybe have opening day start Thanksgiving morning. Our how about run our state like Iowa does. Maybe have them shoot deer, they have there shit together there. I’m fortunate to have 110 acres of prime hunting land with neighbors that share in my beliefs about hunting so we can control our herd. Which is a good thing. I grew up hunting public land around Palmyra, it was excellent hunting until 2007 or 2008 when you all decided CWD was a problem and decided to exterminate our deer heard. I have my main home in Palmyra in the kettle moraine state forest. I see maybe a deer or 2 a month. That’s sad. So sad. No matter what you decide to do it will be wrong.

In regards to spreading CWD - Wouldn’t it make sense to stop the sale of all deer baiting materials?! It’s illegal to bait - so why does every wal-mart/sporting good store - have mineral blocks and other baiting products. Same goes for deer urine products. We know it spreads it - we know deer urine products are from captive deer - so why are they allowed to sell it. Do we think people are buying a mineral block in Viroqua and taking it to Texas where it is legal to bait... Literally makes zeros sense. It would probably be cheaper to make it illegal for them to sell it and subsides their sales -- which is absolutely ridiculous but there has to be a reason they are allowed to sell it and my guess is lobbyist and money. Also, outlaw captive deer herds. Again probably cheaper in the long run to buy them out. The sooner we get rid of captive deer herds the better. There is almost zero upside to allowing them to continue - and a massive lists of bad stuff that can happen. I think the state has done a great job with the kiosks and all the other testing sites, the dumpsters are great idea. We need to do all we can with the CWD keep up the good work. Thank you.

CWD is a large concern for me. Does are down as no one is interested in does for meat with CWD still being prevalent. Everyone is opting for large bucks only. The increase in the antler-less seasons coupled with the self reporting has led to numerous deer being taken illegally during these seasons and never reported. I have see numerous times were antlered deer where taken during an antler less season and never reported. I am a big proponent of quality deer management and would like to see more done around this effort. The chance at large antlered deer are what drives the increase in the number of hunters which feeds the local economy. What about a plan built around needing to earn your buck for the next year vs earn a buck for the current year? This will help you realize how manyucks can be taken, but will hopefully produce more mature bucks, and keep the doe population in check. Other notes: Don’t mess with the 9 day gun deer season please. What about making the whole month of December Muzzleloader season?
Please stop the antlerless only holiday hunt. This is very frustrating for many people as they finally get a few days off of work for the holidays but can only shoot does. Many people don’t even go hunting because they cannot shoot bucks. Does at this point in the season should be protected as they are likely pregnant. The DNR says the holiday hunt is a great way for families to get together and hunt. This is false since most people don’t bother going since they can only shoot does. The archery season should end the first weekend in January like it always has. It’s time to give the deer a break at this point, they have been hunted hard the past 3.5 months already. Many bucks get shot that have already dropped their antlers. The more gun seasons there are the more spread out the hunting pressure is. I think eliminating all extra gun seasons and going back to just the 9 day season will force everyone to hunt that one week, which will help push the deer around more and increase success.

Deer populations statewide have been greatly reduced since the 1960’s through the 1980’s. Since the onset of unlimited antlerless tags. I used to count on seeing 20+ deer a day hunting and now see 3-4 on opening day and days without seeing a deer. Most of the youth have given up on hunting because they don’t have a chance to shot at a deer and have gone seasons without seeing a deer. The low count is killing the sport and revenue that supports all of the DNR programs. Over hunting is going to end this wonderful tradition. I see more killing just to kill with kids boosting about it after hours. Get back to a program of no more than one buck and a doe (Not earn a buck) per hunter. I have watched herds that were 20-50+ Deer reduced to 2-6 deer. I have hunted all around the state and the story is the same. It is shameful that the people put in place to manage the herds are destroying the herds.

Re: late season archery (Jan - Feb) - this year was the first truly late-season hunting experience over my 25 years or archery hunting, and to say I was absolutely thrilled to have this opportunity would have been an understatement. This time period presents one of the best opportunities for hunters to see and harvest mature bucks, and can be a great time to fill that doe tag. I believe this time period will become increasingly popular amongst other archery hunters in the years to come. A few reasons why I support this: more time in the woods (more return on hunting investment), patternable deer herd (concentrated on food sources, more sightings), easy tracking and less spoilage (assuming snow and freezing temps), no bugs or ticks (enough said). I would recommend making Jan 31st the last day of the archery season, remove any if/then criteria (e.g. holiday hunt).

Thank you!

NO HUNTING EXTENSIONS< ADDED PERMITS OR HIGHER KILL NUMBERS PLEASE!!! SEE COMMENTS FOR REASONING. I think your original estimation of the number of deer lost to EHD/Blue Tongue, was way low. I personally heard of numbers close to 200 to me East AND West, and the deer sittings on my own private property almost went to null starting in early October and the rest of seasons. Now granted, my property is all higher in elevation the the property to my immediate East with creek bottoms and some marshy areas. During harvest time I spoke to the farmer there, and he told me they found upwards of 30 dead on this piece of property alone, and 2-3 times more then that,just 3 miles further East from my property, in Richland County, all this aside from what was mentioned the night of the call in forum, when you guys mentioned the 200 or so in the Kickapoo Valley area to my West.

I heard rumors that WI was thinking of closing the bow season at the end of October in hopes that more people would gun hunt because there would be more bucks for the gun hunters. I think this is an absurd idea. Bow hunting is challenging but hunting the rut is what makes it so much fun. I have harvested many nice bow bucks in mid November and would be extremely upset if you took that period of time away from the bowhunters. People are either going to gun hunt or they aren't and I doubt they base it on bowhunters. And I hunt both bow and gun. If you want more gun hunters focus on recruiting more youth and implementing other gun hunter friendly rules, but do not take away from the bow hunters as I feel bowhunting the rut is the most fun experience in the woods. And obviously the rut occurs primarily the first 2-3 weeks in November. Thank you!
Do not extend the gun season or place restrictions on bow/crossbow hunters that give them fewer chances to hunt. Women and kids are much more comfortable with a bow rather than a gun and bringing in new hunters is the whole point of hunting and make the DNR necessary. I don’t like crossbows but I still don’t want them to be limited in their use. In reading some of the proposed changes it seems like almost no actual hunters had any input. I know hunters of all ages who use all weapons and no one supports these possible changes. If someone is upset they aren’t shooting a 180” buck on opening morning tell them to scout more, work to acquire better land, try bow hunting, and/or put in more time afield. Changes to manage the herd are fine. Changes just to appease the loud mouths who didn’t get a deer last year are not.

Hello. My main concern with the deer population this year is the impact that EHD has had from the fall 2019. We own 70 acres and have now found 7 deer carcasses on the property assumed to be due to EHD last fall. Our neighbors have also found multiple deer carcasses. I realize not all of them may have been due to EHD, but there was a known issue last fall in the area and speaking with the neighboring property owners, they did not see the same amount or quality of deer during the bow/gun hunting season as previous years. Have you considered the impact of EHD when estimating the population and looking at why the harvest numbers were lower? Would an antlerless only hunt help with recovery of deer lost, particularly mature bucks. What are the risks of another outbreak this year? Thank you

I do agree that there is to many deer in certain areas.. I hunted around Steuben and i seen a huge decrease this last year but i am sure it will rebound just fine.. I think earn a buck would be a good thing if you would like to kill more deer.. There are a lot of hunters that are out there just to kill a buck so if you would like to get numbers down i think earn a buck would be a good thing.. Also i think there is a good percentage of people that don’t register deer with this new system so the numbers could be skewed a little bit.. i would like it to go back where people had to register deer at local business which also brings money into the county since most people stop and will buy something.. thanks for letting us put our opinions out there for someone to review during these times

I am concerned about the large deer herd, in that I fear eventually there will be a new disease or virus that wipes out many deer. However that may be nature’s way of bringing numbers back to a healthier level. However I am not saying I disagree w/ maintaining the current numbers, just concerned about growing the herd. A longer gun season would probably help to maintain. Another point - I believe the herd in the area we hunt is healthy. However our party of 5-6 have noticed (over the past 5yrs or so) the large number of smaller deer. There is always a good fawn crop but the yearlings (1.5 yrsold) seem to be small when compared to those a few yrs. ago, according to our memory. May be an inbreeding issue. We do have some decent bucks now, due to not shooting the small ones.

I know it was proposed to extend the gun deer season to 19 days I think that is a bad idea. I would be 100% in support in moving the muzzle loader season in front of the normal gun season. I would also make the Muzzle loader tag separate from the normal gun deer tag. I don’t know what price to put on this additional tag but to be afforded the opportunity to hunt deer prior to the normal gun deer season should come at a price. Depending on the dates you could be hunting during the rut with a muzzle loader. I believe this would increase the interest in the muzzle loader season and would raise more money for conservation through the extra tag fees. I know I would not hesitate to but an extra tag for that season. Thanks for your time.

I see that the Crawford county CDAC if offering 200 public tags for 2020 even though the harvest did not change with an extra 100 tags in 2019. What is the thinking behind this increase? If it is to just raise money through tag sales shame on you members whom voted for this increase, deer are a resource not a source of revenue. The public land in this county is deer poor because if you look at the harvest data the numbers haven’t changes since 2010 it is apparent there is only so many deer on public land. It is the land owners that control the deer harvest not the DNR, you need landowner input but from the attendance at the meetings I have gone to there is none. So if you feel the need to raise funds just offer unlimited tag sales.
Hello I been Hunting Crawford county now for the last six years. I on private land and I hunt with three other hunters. The deer numbers where we hunt is very very low. The only reason why I still hunt there is because there is mature animals on the land. We’ve been managing it now going on our sixth year the numbers are so low that we did not shoot one doe now In six years. There are so many doe tags per man in this unit I think it’s ridiculous. Even the farmers in the area state we do not see any deer. Usually a farmer that sees one deer states that’s way too many. I was convinced that in the area there has to be major poaching because of so many little deer sightings. No doe tags should be given out in this area.

My 40 acre forest is severely impacted by too many deer over the winter. This spring, some areas are showing little to no growth of spring plants. I have done some timber harvest a few years back and am trying to get oak regeneration, but am not seeing young oaks surviving. There are just too many deer, according to my forest health. In addition, less hay and more corn and beans offers little for deer to eat in the spring. Many plant "deer plots" and feed deer near their deer stands for the hunting season, and come winter, the large herd has to scour the forests for food. Coyotes are being heavily trapped in my area as well. I used to have an incredible array of spring ephemeral plants. Now most are largely gone.

I believe there is a few reasons why the deer kill was down in 2019 deer season, #1 2018-2019 winter was a rough year very cold for the deer to survive, does may have aborted their babies to survive the winter which means less fawns in 2019, #2 there was a-lot of crops left in the fields which means the deer stayed the corn fields.#3 private land has changed so much in the last 20 years that farmers sold their land now or in the past that hunters lost place to hunt and new owners don’t hunt or let you on to hunt, I lost my private place to hunt so I’m forced to find new place to hunt or try public land which is very unsafe in my eyes, public hunting I've seen people dressed in camouflage during gun season!!

Don't understand the reason for the Holiday Hunt or extended bow/crossbow season until January 31st. Barely anyone hunts during those times and the harvest numbers are very low. Why not just run the late bow/crossbow season until December 31st? There's a good number of deer both does and bucks but not an overabundance of them. Don't see why I need eight does tags if I purchase patrons license. Two or three would be fine. I think some does need to be harvested but not that many. I know hunters out there that will never shoot doe and others that shoot everyone they see. Both mentalities need to change. Hunters have to understand that some does need to be harvested but not every single one they see.

I have been hunting Crawford county for the last 12 years and I would like to see us get back to in person registration and laminated tags. Although this new system is convenient In its own way a lot of people in Crawford County do not have cell service where we hunt so registering over the phone can be hard to do at times without driving a half an hour and the local bars are hurting as well I know of several people that did not register their deer because the new system has many flaws. I know there where many more deer harvested than what’s reported and it’s throwing off the management plan for Crawford. And it’s frustrating to see as a law bidding hunter.

I would like to see no holiday hunt. Just put the bowhunting season back to the way it was and let bow hunters hunt through the holidays. Deer have been pressured enough by that time of year with gun hunting and muzzle loader seasons. Do not doe hunts and only issue one extra antlerless tag to hunters. Make a season for crossbows that is a week or 2 long. Hunting with a crossbow is just like hunting with a gun u just cant shoot as far. The deer numbers are down and I would like to see them come back some for the young hunters I take out into the woods. It's more fun hunting when u see some deer. Thank you
Leave the rifle season the way it is. Have it start the Saturday before Thanksgiving and end the Sunday after. 9 day season. Keep muzzle loading season the way it is. Bow hunting till the Friday before gun hunting should stay the same. It doesn’t hurt the gun hunting at all. Ever since the earn a buck season's the deer numbers have been down and it seems like they just keep getting worse. Predator numbers are up and they play a big part to them. Especially since we have alot of Bobcats around now. I see alot of does without fawns now than I ever have before. Coyote numbers don't help either.

I would highly recommend the state would not alter the deer seasons and leave them as they were in 2019. If we are to maintain deer population we as hunters need every day to harvest the deer each hunter has purchased and given. Extending gun deer season will not increase or improve deer harvest. An important item Dan Goltz provided was 89.9% of the deer harvested is on private land thus private land owners will manage their properties. We as hunters should not argue or oppose one hunting method versus another, nor should we allow individuals apply their thoughts to the whole state.

I feel you need to keep the Holiday hunt going. because of my job and ability to be out hunting during the 9-day gun deer hunt, I usually don't get to harvest a deer at that time. I really enjoy the Holiday hunt and usually, get my deer during that time frame. I would also like to state, I feel that it would be beneficial for you to allow buck tags during the holiday hunt. I see more bucks during that time than the rest of my time deer hunting. I usually don't get to harvest a buck because it is antlerless-only during the Holiday hunt. Thank you for the opportunity to share.

The only other piece of feedback I would like to offer up is a consideration for people that own land in WI but live in another state, like myself. While I don’t expect to pay resident prices, I would like to see a break for those that own land, pay property taxes, and contribute to local economies in other ways. We visit our land/cabin regularly throughout the year so it would be nice if there was some middle price point for folks like me. I only hunt my private land (no public) so Somewhere in between resident and non resident prices would be nice.

Giving 5 tags tota with each license is counterproductive. I do not shoot does because everyone with a license has 4 extra tags and I am concerned other hunters use those tags to the full extent so I need to pass on harvesting does to make sure the population isn't decimated. If each license came with 2 tags total I would harvest does to fill my tags to do my part, but knowing someone who hunts bow and gun can kill 10 deer makes me worry about overharvest. Online registration makes poaching very easy as well, so I advocate deer registration stations.

Please quit try to micro manage our deer herd. So many new hunters and old are so confused by all the changes they say its not worth it. Private land owners have started to just manage deer the way they want it. I have hunted for over 50 years in the same area around gay's mills we have more deer and larger bucks than ever before. I do own land and manage it for deer but so do most people around me. We shoot does not all of them. The one thing that i have seen is a large increase in bob cats and i think that will affect our fawn crop.

This Blue Tongue that took a large percentage of our deer population is a concern. I hunted 9 days of rifle season and saw 11 deer...total. I own 155 acres and live to hunt. I spend money on food plots and try to create an environment to harvest Quality bucks. We need to rebuild the deer population in Clayton township and not add any more seasons or doe permits at this point. I have a neighbor that harvested over 20 antler less deer because they can. Too many! Please limit the harvest in fall 2020.

This herd is the biggest in the history of our eastern forests, we will not have forests left if the herd is allowed to continue at such high numbers, we need our forests healthy more now than ever, mature trees are carbon sequesters. I'm a hunter and think that a hunter should not expect to have deer parade by the stand, that isn’t hunting, we need to address CWD by reducing the size of the herd, the reasons-arguments for a much smaller herd are plain and abundant.
I am a disabled veteran and only with the help from my brothers I am able to hunt and get out and enjoy the outdoors. It also helps with my cost on meat for the year being on a fixed income. Please keep the seasons the way they we're last year. It helps me see more deer with archery hunting going into the rut. I also think the use of the crossbow is helping bring new hunters to our sport. I am so blessed to be able to get out hunting and to enjoy the outdoors.

Do not bring back the Earn a Buck regulations. Please strongly discuss bringing back the either sex opening weekend, then buck only gun season. However, make 1 revisement. If you purchase an antlerless bonus tag, limited to 2 or 3. You can use those antlerless tags to harvest a doe, during the buck only part of the gun season. That will generate Revenue, still help maintaining the doe harvest numbers. But it will also help to manage the over all deer herd.

Would like to see deer registration stations again By not having this it takes away sales tax as most hunters will spend $ at the registration station, it is always nice to visit with other hunters and see their harvest. If the state is going to have an antler less season, which I do not agree with, however if they decide to, have a party tag like many years ago, 4 hunters go together and get a doe tag. I do not support earn a buck at all. Thank you

I understand there is talk of extending the gun season and slightly shortening the bow season, not allowing people to bow hunt during the gun season. I believe the way the season have been structured in the past are just fine. I feel it is taking away from bow hunters when gun hunters have an equal opportunity to purchase a bow and hunt that season. I also feel that people should have the choice to use either a bow or gun during gun season.

There was talk of having an earlier full gun season to help coincide with the rut. With exception of an October Youth Hunt, I AM OPPOSED to this early hunt if it's even up for consideration. Family traditions in hunting revolve around the week of Thanksgiving in Wisconsin, if Wisconsin holds an early Gun season other than the youth hunt, it will screw up the tradition and i believe you would see a rapid decline in participation.

To remove more deer from the Crawford County hunting area. You need to consider implementing a harvesting doe first before you could harvest a buck. There are way to many people who own land in this county and only shoot bucks and do nothing to eliminate the doe population. I also think that people that live in this county should be given different considerations for hunting in this county then people coming from the big cities.

please stop hunting 5 days prior to the gun season, I use to see alot more deer on opening morning when there was a 5 day stop on hunting. This gives deer a chance to relax and get back to normal movement. Please stop early gun seasons, once gun hunting is done in an area the deer act totally different and are very spooked. Bow hunting is alot harder after these early hunts which is one reason the bow hunting numbers drop.

Having hunted the same private property for 14 years now we have not seen an increase in deer as suggested in the presentation. Our doe harvest has dipped a bit our buck harvest pretty steady. Just an observation on our property. I also hunt on the Iowa side of the river and there are many more deer on that side-hunter satisfaction in Iowa is extremely high because of that. I know its different just my observations.

I would reccomend allowing 1 buck per license sold 1 for bow and 1 for archery/crossbow. Also it would be nice to lower anterless tags to 1 per license, with an option to buy 1 or 2 more for a fee. It would be nice to increase the deer population in Crawford county, especially since ehd wiped out many deer in the area I hunt. Doesnt help giving people more tags as they think they need to hunt until they fill them all.

This was my first year hunting this unit. I support the plan for this unit based on the scientific data presented on the unit. I do not have enough history of hunting this area to form an anecdotal opinion. I am in favor of having a buck harvest, however, if the data truly supports an anterless only harvest, I am in favor of what is the best for the unit. Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

the amount of deer in areas where hunters are using there four anterless tags have reduced the herd to basically nothing. and areas that they choose not to or dont allow hunting the population is too large. in continuing to allow some underscure hunters the opportunity to shoot 10 deer in a year is pushing some of us hunters with private land to quit hunting because the deer numbers are not their

I understand that in summer 2019, in the Crawford County/Wauzeka area, a vast number deer died of the bluetongue virus. This is the area where I hunt. I have hunted this same immediate area since the year 2000, usually seeing an average of 10 deer overall while hunting during the 9-day rifle season. In 1999, I saw only 1 deer. It is my experience that deer numbers have decreased drastically.

The habitat on the public land north of Wauzeka does not hold the deer like it should. Different hunters that I talked to didn't see much if any deer while hunting it over the 9 day gun season. If they aren't seeing deer they will stop hunting so maybe the DNR needs to do a little better job of creating habitat by select cutting trees to open up the canopy to create more natural brows.

We have lot of deer. More antlerless deer need to be taken. Hunters need to let the little bucks go. Otherwise we will have to have an antlerless season to keep the heard under control. I personally have not taken a buck under 16 inches for 25 years. I would rather take a doe for eating than a little buck. They won't get any bigger if we don't let them grow.

Hello, I feel that the main reason that I do not see the Deer I used to is lack of Hunters moving the Deer. The DNR is constantly scaring people about CWD. No one has ever contracted this Disease from consuming venison or Elk meat from out west. People are feeling uneasy about Hunting because of the CWD warnings. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

I've been hunting for more than 50 yrs and been a Patron license holder for as long as I can remember but starting this year going forward I will not buy any hunting license till just before season. If EAB comes back I am done, while I have nothing against taking does I will never again be told I have to kill any animal so I have the " right to kill another "

No 19 day season. Continue with the same framework for archery, crossbow and gun seasons as last year with the exception on removing the holiday hunt. Don't shorten or eliminate the crossbow season as many hunters have invested money in bows and if the season is shortened or removed I believe there is going to be an even more decrease in license sales.

Let non-resident hunters shoot coyotes during the fall seasons. Worry more about poaching and non-registration than the Compound v. Crossbow. That is a selfish matter from what I read. Don't mess with the muzzleloaders season. I think more people will get into muzzleloaders. Keep hunting affordable and recognize the economic impact.

We have noticed in the past 3 yrs that we see a lot less Does and a lot more young Bucks. In the extended hunting seasons we would like to be able to fill our buck tag. It is very hard to tell a buck from a doe at 200 or 300 yards. So we lose our chance to fill our tags. We seem to see more bucks then does in the later seasons. Thank you

It is becoming more difficult every year to find a place to hunt on private land. I believe this is due to the increased failure of farm industries where the land is sold to be either broken into smaller "no hunting" plots or sold to intensive corporate type farms that deny access. I don't see a good future for Wisconsin deer hunting.

I hunt on County N right in between Rhein Hollow and Plum Creek. I did shoot a small buck last year but never had a chance to harvest a doe, I never saw a doe while in the woods. In my modest opinion I just think 4 doe tags per license is too many, but I do try to trust the people that have all of the information like the DNR.
I like the numbers of deer where I hunt but I believe there are too many hunters not taking deer to maintain herd control. They are too interested in wanting the big buck and are refusing to even take a doe or smaller buck. This in turn will allow the herd to get to large and also lead to health problems in the herd.

We saw no deer last year in Crawford County when hunting on a property that should have lots of deer. Also the neighbors only saw a couple we talked to which is rare. The population is not as high as you think it is.

The number of coyote is increasing based on the number new dens and the number of deer remains (mostly fur and bones) seen this spring. Given the property 130 acres 1 old den active and 2 new dens found and 3 found remains. Also the lack of turkey which was never a problem in the past.

The effect of the blue tongue type illness has a great deal to do with my response! Our crew didn't harvest a deer in Crawford for the first time since I can remember! The early onset of cold weather? The later start to the season? We've been through that before but never got skunked!

I appreciate what has been done over the past years to keep the deer population thriving in Crawford County. I also understand the responsibility of keeping those numbers in check. Thank you for information regarding the population... well done!!! Keep up the great work.

It seems as though hunters will only harvest a given number of deer regardless of issuing more tags. The most effective tool to reduce deer numbers was the earn a buck framework. I have been seeing more deer than ever in my location. Deer browse damage here is extensive.

I would like to propose a season/license structure where we buy one deer license, good for any weapon, season dates can remain the same—perhaps extend archery to the end of January, but limit buck harvest to only one. Not one with a bow and one with a gun—but only one.

I think you should be able to harvest deer on private and/or public ground. Having to have a tag for private or public is crazy. Need to go back to being able to harvest a deer on either piece of property and not have to worry about a public or private tag.

On our private land deer harvest has been down the last decade. Last year I saw more coyotes than deer and am every disappointed by this fact. Due to the decrease in the the herd count on in our area we debating if keeping the hunting land is worth effort.

Holding a holiday antlerless season prevents a person from taking advantage of the use of holiday time for the end of the fall turkey season. Why not forgo the holiday hunt but still extend the archery/crossbow season? Why must the two be tied together?

I think the dropping of back tags was a big mistake!! I caught on 2 different occasions trespassers and couldn't identify them. We need that back!!! Also we need registration stations back. To many loopholes for illegal hunting and identifying.

Do not do a 19 day gun deer season there is no point. Between all the coyotes and vehicle vs deer meetings there isn't alot of deer and the heards are not looking good. Keep the 9 day season with no holiday hunt and you would have more deer.

Like I stated in this survey 51 years and I believe the management has went south I am to the point of not buying licenses any longer really discussed. This unit needs more deer when you see nothing for days on end why hunt more

Because of the proven toxicity of lead contained in most bullets, consider strategies for phasing out the use of lead ammo for deer hunting. Non-lead bullets work just as well for killing deer, and probably keeps your gun cleaner.
Stop deer registration online or through the phone. If you want to worry about the economy, make gas stations/bars register deer again. It provides the business with business. Removing in person registration was a big mistake.

I WILL NOT hunt AT ALL if earn a buck is enacted and certainly not if it is ONLY antlerless hunting. I refuse to shoot does. This is not at all why I am a hunter and I am more than happy to stop hunting if this is the case.

In the summer of 2019 EHD has a devastating impact on seer populations in the parts of Crawford (comprised of over 2200 acres in 3 in adjoining sects) we hunt. That should be seriously considered in the quota for 2020

Keep the crossbow season identical to regular bow season. It is still hard to get a deer in bow range even with a crossbow. I can no longer pull a regular bow back and should be able to use my crossbow during deer rut.

I would like registration like it used to be, where you brought your deer to a local gas station or tavern. this gave a chance for people to see what had been harvested in the area and hear stories about the hunt.

I would like to have two general buck tags. Both tags could be used for archery season, or the tags could be split between archery and gun. Only one of the buck tags could be valid during the gun deer season.

I believe our state would definite from a 3 day season. 1 buck tag 1 doe tag per hunter. Pepple have the ability to hunt for 4 months right now, so there isn't as much pressure. Not as many people moving deer.

I wish we could bring back the opportunity to harvest bucks during the holiday hunt. My son and I used to enjoy hunting during the holiday season when that was still an option, but don't anymore. Thank you

It is absolutely moronic to give out four doe tags with each license. If every hunt filled every tag their would be zero deer left in the county. Just give out a buck tag and a doe tag, two deer is enough.

Why do you hold a holiday hunt in Crawford county, but not in Grant county ? The deer population is much higher in Grant then Crawford but they never have a holiday hunt.

The EHD virus impact in Crawford County was much higher than reported. There were dead deer everywhere in late summer. You could even smell them driving on the roads. Many cases not reoprted.

I think we need to go back to the earn a buck season, to many trophy hunters that just shoot big bucks and leave the rest to destroy our crops. Loose way to many crops to deer and turkeys.

I have seen a steady decrease in population since 2002. I hunt bow and gun and almost weekly from open to close. Our big buck population on camera and personal observation is LOW!

Predator mortality of herd definitely a concern.see trail cams and personal observations of wolves, and lions it's becoming an issue.large predators don't belong on private land.

Increase bonus tags on public land to 200. Decrease bonus tags on private land to 2200. Antlerless tags with each license to 2. Hold a holiday hunt with extended bow season.

I feel like the gun season opens a week after the rut in the past several years and there is very little movement opening weekend. Would like to see it slightly earlier.

I personally think that all doe tags should cost extra why not generate extra income for the DNR to help with keeping our great pastime and state great for everyone.

I think that I should be able to use my tags for all seasons that are open, if I was not able to use them opening season... This would include my buck tag.. thanks

Last year the deer numbers were dramatically down from the previous two years many many deer were found dead from what was presumed ehd in the areas I hunt

Blue-tongue hit our area extremely hard last year and between a few farms the confirmed total of dead/dying was over 100. Most of which were mature deer.
2320 Have seen less and less deer year after year. I’m given more tags every year and see less deer. Would recommend getting rid of doe only and holiday hunt.

2321 Too much corn standing in the fields that was not harvested due to weather. I still have corn standing in my area that was not harvested last year.

2322 Has the impact of EHD/BLUE TONGUE been taken into consideration? The number of dead deer near me did impact the number of deer I saw dramatically.

2323 Please do NOT go to an antlerless only season. Allow more antlerless tags. You will lose hunters in this area if it goes antlerless only.

2324 How many people in this DMU who had 4 antlerless permits actually used all 4. I feel that 2 antlerless permits per license is sufficient.

2325 Increase in deer harvest as a deer management tool will only be effective when access to private land for hunting becomes more available.

2326 How about a test in Crawford county. Use the 24 system. 8 points with 16 inch spread. To see if there could be a higher age class of bucks.

2327 I don’t understand if you hunt in different counties during the gun season (but same zone) you can’t use bonus tags in those counties.

2328 My preference would be to extend gun season to a three week season for antler and antlerless deer and get rid of the holiday hunt.

2329 Please respect the other hunters and hikers who use Wisconsin woodlands. The traditional 9 day deer season is long enough.

2330 Just wondering why there was no message of extending gun season or making October the only time you can use crossbows ????

2331 Keep up the great work! Thank you for the effort you put in to keep our deer herd and all plants and animals healthy!

2332 Recommend more warden presence in the county on private lands. Significant trespass and poaching occurs in this unit.

2333 Bucks must be at least a 6 pointer before it can be legally taken. Probably not realistic, but it sounds good.

2334 Deer population is lower than what is perceived by DNR, stop issuing so many deer authorizations for this unit.

2335 Get Rid of any and all can use a Crossbow go back to Seniors and Disability people only get to use Crossbow.

2336 I bow hunt frequently and have been seeing fewer and fewer deer every year and less during gun.

2337 Thank you for all you do, I know it’s a hard line to walk between hard science and people’s wants.

2339 I feel the quantity of antlerless permits are too high. Give us two, that is all that is needed.

2338 For what it is worth, in the 20 years I’ve hunted my property I’ve found the remains of 13 deer.

2339 Concerned of the EHD mortality of the deer population in Crawford and Richland counties.

2340 Stop selling doe tags if you are giving 4 to each hunter, why would I buy more?

2342 I do not believe that the DNR is taking adequate steps to address CWD.

2343 I’d like the opportunity to take more than one buck during gun season.

2344 Damage to agriculture crops is unacceptable at this population level.

2345 There are way too many deer. Find a way to reduce the population.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2346</td>
<td>Please extend the muzzleloader season to at least 2 weekends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2347</td>
<td>Thanks to all who serve on a CDAC. It is not easy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2348</td>
<td>I appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2349</td>
<td>I oppose any extension of the deer gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2350</td>
<td>Saw more deer on MFL land than Public Land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2351</td>
<td>Ehd die off was drastic in some areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2352</td>
<td>We would welcome earn a buck back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2353</td>
<td>9 day hunt only for firearms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2354</td>
<td>Need more public land tags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2355</td>
<td>Coyote, way too many.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2356</td>
<td>No holiday hunt!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10926
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Dane, Southern Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

555 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 408
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 97
   - I hunt in this unit: 500
   - General interest in this unit: 112

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 445
   - Bow: 286
   - Crossbow: 185
   - Muzzleloader: 126

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 19.39
   - Maximum: 63

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 293
   - Mostly Private Land: 96
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 35
   - Mostly Public Land: 30
   - Exclusively Public Land: 40
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 6

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 33
   - Not too crowded: 65
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 39
   - Somewhat crowded: 33
   - Very crowded: 15
   - Not applicable: 16

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 65
   - Fewer: 126
   - Same: 248
   - More: 77
   - Many More: 23
   - Unsure: 16

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Dane, Southern Farmland
8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public :</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmland Zone Antleress Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antleress Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Set your hunting seasons similar to how it was in the 70's. Your numbers are inaccurate due to buying license online (or not) and not having hunters take the deer someplace to be registered. Online registration is convenient but make the hunters work for it. 2. Go back to only people with disabilities can use crossbows. Crossbows are like a gun, they are more accurate and shoot further. 3. Too many hunting seasons. Go back to regular bow season with a 1 week lapse then the 9 day gun season. You will have a lot more deer taken otherwise people will take it for granted that they have 2 months to hunt so no need to plan for it and will loose interest. Make them plan to go up north, make them plan to get up before day break. That's what makes the whole hunting experience. 4. You aren't teaching the young/new hunters anything if you make it so easy to get a trophy buck by using crossbows. Kids need to learn to appreciate what it takes and the reasons for hunting. You are taking the meaning of the hunt away from them. I've seen far too many young kids take a nice trophy and don't appreciate the meaning of what they just did. Bring the excitement back to hunting. 5. I know it is more costly to print tags but for those of us who have collected all our tags for every season we've hunted, you have taken that away from us. I have passed collecting tags on to my kids and you have taken that away from them. By matching up the numbers on the tag, we predict what the hunting season will bring. Duplicate numbers determine the size of the trophy you will hunt. 6. All of these have taken away the fun and spirit of hunting. There is no more sitting around the fire discussing the hunt or hearing the hunting stories. Hunters like to show there trophies by leaving their tailgates down to start that conversation with people they don't even know. How people drive by and take pictures so they can take them back home to show their friends and family. Think back of how it was with you, your father, your family and friends. That is what we should be teaching our young hunters.

Recommend at least 2 antlerless permits be issued per license as in surrounding hunt units....does are currently being under-harvested (less than 50% of total harvest) and when compared to the antlerless quota of 5,400, the doe harvest is not coming close (only about 1,900) so you should try to increase/correct that without making hunters buy an extra tag! Further, over the years, of the 3 CWD positive deer on the property I hunt, all 3 were does. Even further, look at the number of vehicle collisions involving deer....all three examples point to the need to take more deer, and especially more does. Given white-tails high reproductive potential, which your data indicates is pretty consistent, harvesting at any less than 2 does per buck I a mistake and will eventually lead to an increasing population unless other mortality factors, like CWD take over! CWD is still a real issue that requires additional attention, not less....and herd density maintenance at the most, but more likely herd reduction! RE the hunt dates for the gun hunt, given that archery/crossbow participation trends, and if I interpret the harvest data correctly, archery/crossbow are taking an increasing % of the harvest, and gun hunters a decreasing %. Given that un hunters still comprise the majority of the hunters, this trend is disturbing and may lead to the need to evaluate hunt dates and length....ie keeping the same one buck and at least two doe tags per license, you could run the gun season through Thanksgiving week, but start it earlier, either a number of days or a full week in consideration of employed hunters...making it 16 days instead of just 9...still far fewer days than other methods/seasons but a good way to increase opportunity to the majority of license buyers, hunter success, total deer harvest, increased doe harvest and improved deer herd maintenance.
I feel like the Wisconsin DNR is turning the image of the White Tailed Deer from a highly sought after big game animal that makes for great table fair into that of an unwanted, disease filled vermin that needs to be exterminated from the landscape. Enough already with all the CWD crap. Your never going to be able to control the disease, it doesn’t transfer to humans and it’s most likely been here forever. Give people a way to easily test their own deer and move on. The Crossbow Season needs to be eliminated or severely shortened. Only elderly or the disabled should be allowed to use that weapon. It is basically a rifle you’re allowing able bodied people to use during archery season. Another example of trying to exterminate the White Tailed Deer as they are vermin. The DNR would be wise to put a premium on deer by going back to traditional bow and gun hunting seasons and eliminating the Holiday Hunts, Crossbow Seasons, Antlerless Seasons and Youth Seasons. Put more people into the woods at the same time and you will see the deer kill go up. Right now there is no urgency to harvest a deer because you can basically hunt from September to February. Instead of pulling the trigger on that marginal buck or shooting a doe people let them pass because they figure they can always get one in the later hunts. Our hunting party would never let deer go by until we had plenty of meat but do all the time now. It's just not as much fun as it used to be when you only had 9 days to fill your tag.

I am new (4 yrs) to Wisconsin from Colorado. I am a 69 yr old traditional (longbow) bowhunter in really good health and shape. I won't be deer hunting in Wisc. anymore. Reasons: I am not rich enough - don’t own private woods, and you tell me I am too old to hunt public land - can not put up a treestand. Longbows require too much movement drawing the bow (no let off like mechanical bows so can not hold at full draw) to hunt on ground for a 20yd or less shot. Putting up and taking down a ladder stand in the dark is way too dangerous and it really takes 2 persons to carry and erect. Not using a climber at my age. The treestand set up is the most dangerous part of treestand hunting. A deer is not worth the risks you expect me to take. Why can’t a treestand be set up with name and number and a rule that if it is not occupied 1/2 before sunrise, it becomes public use. (Even though I can't imagine anyone using anothers stand due to safety concerns) There are many options for me to spend my money to hunt in other states where I can set up a stand safely and be able to use my longbow.

There have been way too many deer for years. In spite of an extensive deer take during the hunting season and massive active protection of smaller trees, my moderate size farm is struggling to produce a crop of future native trees. The only foliage that reproduces without intervention are undesirables such as box elders and honeysuckle. Anyone like me that is trying to reintroduce native plants and trees is fighting a losing battle against deer. Too much of the land and forests in Dane county can no longer support deer in the winter. Once snow covers the landscape, crops are harvested, and food plots are depleted, deer move into my farm in mass. If you cannot figure out how to manage the deer through hunting seasons, you should consider extensive use of deer damage permit without restriction. I am already maximizing deer take on my property during the seasons but, if others don’t it does not do me much good. For the first time, we have taken at least three CDW positive deer on my property in the past two years. At some point, hunters will lose all interest in deer hunting.

The DNR keeps going in the same circle of failure, more seasons, longer seasons, special seasons, extended seasons all while hunter numbers continue to shrink and deer hunting in WI has been ruined,..by the DNR! It all started with Gov. Thompson and the DNR Secretary appointee change from the Natural Resources Board. Game management needs to be removed from the State DNR bureaucracy. Land, air and water are important and unfortunately for game, game management, citizens and hunters, they are doomed in the $500M machine called the WI DNR! So what does the current DNR do? Create a faux disaster called cwd, increase wolf population = less deer by far, import elk to feed the wolves if they don’t die of cwd first. What a total waste of tax payer money all the while hunting and hunters go down the tubes. Every Gov. since Thompson promised to restore the DNR Sec. to the Resources Board. They all lied! That is the problem. Not the red season, the blue season, holiday season, the funsy season. Pull your heads out!
I would like to see more CWD testing to get a better idea of CWD spread and prevalence. Unfortunately many hunters do not think it is as big of a problem as it is. CWD has become more and more prevalent in my hunting area. My hunting party is now harvesting a positive deer nearly every year. If CWD becomes even more prevalent I may consider no longer hunting in Dane county and possibly in the state of Wisconsin. I would love to have faster CWD testing so that my tag can be replaced within a day if CWD positive. We have been throwing away CWD positive deer and end up with no meat for a year. Additionally we don't want more than 1 deer per year (won't eat all that meat) - if we have a positive deer we end up with no meat for the year.

On the over 200 acres that we hunt and manage with extensive camera monitoring and also many days a field, we are confident that our local deer herd has a buck to doe ratio that is very close to 1:1. However, most of the doe harvest that we are aware of happens during gun season and holiday hunts. Because of this, I do not want to see more antlerless tags as this will hurt the overall population in my area (town of Vermont). This area already has a very low population of deer based on experiences hunting in surrounding counties. I also believe that the age structure is healthy in our area as we have a good balance of mature and young deer despite low numbers. These reasons are why I am also very opposed to making this a doe only county, and I would no longer lease land here if it became one (even for a year).

I'm 72 years old and have been deer hunting for the past 44 years (gun/bow/crossbow). I've had two serious injuries in the past 10 years that have resulted in my switching from bow to crossbow. I love it! Keeps me in the woods and venison in the freezer. However, I've noticed a significant number of persons who only use a crossbow because it is "easier" and more effective than a compound or traditional bow. Anybody can now buy a crossbow and seemingly try to kill deer at distances for which they are not competent. I support the use of crossbows for those that are needy (elderly, handicapped, those unable to effectively handle a bow, etc) but not for the "sportsman" who wants a device that makes killing a deer during bow season a "sure thing".

Hi, This is the first time I've participated in this survey even after hunting deer for 11 years, and have to say I couldn't be more excited that you are making this information available and seeking input. One thing that stood out to me was the significant increase in the number of antlerless deer harvested during the Earn-a-Buck years. That was during my first couple years hunting, so I didn't pay much attention, but wasn't a goal of that to reduce herd numbers to try cutting down the spread of CWD? If not, forgive me. Looking at the antlerless harvest quota and the actual number of antlerless harvests, has there been any discussion of bringing this back to help reach that quota? It's certainly not something I would be opposed to. Thanks again!

I do not enjoy all of these "extra" gun seasons. I know i am in the minority, but i love bowhunting, and hate that after gun season theres so many antlerless only hunts or gun hunts. I would be in favor of extending gun season 1 week and then no more gun hunting the rest of the season. That way the extra week gives people more than enough time to get their deer, helps control deer numbers, but lets the archer go back to a quiet woods for the rest of the season. I dont gun hunt because on public land its just too unsafe, so i bow hunt like crazy when there arent gun seasons. The times i have gun hunted public lands are not in dane county, gotta go north where people are more spread out and safety can be had. Hope this helps.

The holiday hunt is a great way for families to hunt together and provides an additional opportunity for antlerless harvest. The population trend is increasing as expected and while the holiday hunt may not produce a large antlerless harvest I think that any additional opportunity to increase antlerless harvest is a wise choice. Otherwise you will be looking at changing your population objective from maintain to decrease and chasing a runaway train. Unless the public and private land type designations are removed then I think there should be at least 2 free farmland tags provided with a license. It is too complicated and burdensome to deal with accounting for land type when trying to plan for antlerless harvest.
I hunt approx. 100 acres in Dane county. I am surrounded by farmland / forest on all sides. Every year, for the past few years, I have seen a decrease in the number of mature does. 2019 was the worst. I saw 2 mature does (3 years or older), 2 yearlings, and 3 fawns. I believe the reduced number of does is a direct result of antlerless hunts. One of the mature does was shot by a neighbor. Next year will be a sad year for mature does in the area that I hunt. Everyone I know hunting in Jefferson and Dane county have expressed a concern in the number of mature does seen. I seriously question the authenticity of the data you presented in this presentation and I am against antlerless/ doe only holiday hunts.

The deer population on the property I hunt in SW Dane is growing beyond what the land can sustain. They are over browsing and crowded. Over the past three seasons I've harvested 2-3 deer each season leveraging bonus tags. Juvenile bucks are everywhere, and they are mating with the does at a high rate. I have had every harvest tested for CWD, and in the past three seasons have 4 positive results, including two mature bucks. Both my deer from 2019 tested positive. Please consider giving flexibility to landowners to cull the young buck population. Every mature doe also had twins last year. Please continue the generous bonus antlerless tag and season length to enable these deer to be harvested.

Public land in Southern Dane Co has been overrun with hunters the last few years. Need to provide incentives to landowners to open up private land access. Having to choose public vs private for antlerless tags is a barrier. Why not just go back to being able to use anywhere you can hunt. Success rate on public seems dismal according to data anyway and forces the overcrowding issue. Doesn’t give incentive for hunters to at least try to get permission to hunt on private. Data seems to support renewing interest in earn a buck as well. Also all of the extra antlerless seasons don’t seem to work that well and as an upland hunter with dogs I hate them with all the trigger happy bozo’s on public.

Wisconsin is soon becoming known for large trophy bucks. This is because many hunters who used to shoot any buck that came through the woods is passing up the 1.5 to 2.5 year old bucks in search of a larger buck. If they want venison they shoot a doe. Otherwise they are looking for trophy mounts and finding them. DNR should promote the let them grow and have bucks get into the 3.5 years or older range. This promotes hunters and with increased hunters does will get shot for venison if hunters are allowed that option. With fewer younger hunters this is a way to promote hunting in this area. Actively promote the "let em grow" program.

Get rid of the youth, disabled and holiday gun hunts... Gun hunting ruins the bow season. I know it's tradition and all but there are so many gun hunts it's getting ridiculous. I enjoy a nice long bow season and then during gun, hunting gets easier. When you have 2 gun seasons before November the days during and following the gun hunts you don't see as many deer. They get scared and it kind of breaks up the bow hunting season. If you can't shoot it during the 9 day deer gun season then you should learn to bow hunt the rest of the year. That's what I did and have spent more dollars on hunting as well as time in the woods because of it.

I scouted deer on private land during the 2018 season and saw plenty during the 9 day gun season. I decided to hunt during the 2019 season and did not see any deer. None during the 9 day hunt, antlerless hunt, nor Holiday hunt. It was incredibly disappointing to sit out every day and not see anything aside a lone red fox during my first deer hunting season. I had suspected the rut was far over by the time the 9 day gun season started, and found out after that it surely had. I'm not sure what all CDAC can do to ensure the gun season falls earlier, or during the rut, but I'm just incredibly disappointed in this past year.

A nine day gun season is sufficient. Allow black powder hunting the week prior to the gun season. This give BP hunters a "chance" to harvest a buck. The bow hunting would not change for time periods. Do not restrict Cross bow to no hunting in November as many have invested a lot of money into hunting with the crossbow and taking away any hunting dates would be very unfair. I feel crossbow hunting has caused fewer wounded deer than the compound bow or the re-curve bow. A late season bow hunt is favorable but not too many can endure the Wisconsin cold weather at that time of the year thus it is kind of a mute issue.
Far SE Dane Co: Bring back EAB that is not weapon specific. The buck to doe ratio is way out of alignment in my area. I see guys out hunting all gun season with multiple/dozen antlerless in the field in front of them, but yet they come back day after day, I assume looking for a trophy buck, of which there are only a handful of mature bucks in the area. There are so many sexually mature doe in the area that it gets very difficult to find a mature buck during rut because there is no need for them to travel. I'm also worried this area, if exposed to disease, could be hit very hard due to the population.

Why are antlerless tags public or private land specific? In my opinion they should be county specific only. It would make it a lot easier since I hunt both public and private. I wish there was more mature deer especially bucks compared to a “deer”. Every deer seems like it’s just a deer or number. This year was the worst year in 10 years bow hunting for mature bucks seeing’s and on multiple trail cameras on multiple properties. I believe the biggest reason is crossbow hunters shooting lots of 2-3yr old bucks yearly during the end of October and early November.

I am primarily an upland bird hunter. As such, I have reservation regarding extending the gun deer season as I have reservations about taking my dog into the field during any firearm-based deer hunting season. Extending the gun deer season would reduce the number of days afield for me to hunt the limited pheasant population available on public lands. If the firearm-based deer hunting were to be extended, I would respectfully request that consideration be given to extending the length of the pheasant hunting season and additional late season bird stocking.

Stop trying to extend the gun season. Hardly no one hunts the regular season. You may be selling a lot of licenses but I see no one in the field. Where I hunt I can see for miles in all directions and will see a handful of hunters out on opening day and NO one the rest of the week. There is no one out there to even move the deer around for the rest of us. You can extend the season all you want but it will change anything. It only messes up other sports like Snowmobiling season . You need to find a way to get more people in the field, that’s the bottom line.

PLEASE consider reinstating earn a buck or a bonus buck program similar to other states. For instance, allowing the ability to use your gun buck tag to harvest an additional archery buck, however your archery tag could not be used for an additional gun buck. Or a modified earn a buck program that allows for an additional buck tag to be earned if a certain amount of antlerless deer are harvested by that hunter. Or lastly, additional land owner privileges or tags. Thank you for all your time and work you out into the Wisconsin whitetail Herd!

Season length and harvest numbers are adequate as they stand. If hunters want to harvest more deer annually, there are ways to do so with purchasing over the counter for tags. The Youth hunt is a joke. If a youth hunter can’t find pleasure and or experience in the established gun season or archery season, they are hunting for the wrong reasons. The Youth season as it stands reinforces the idea that in order to have a "successful season" you need to shoot the biggest buck in the woods. Implement antler size restrictions....pleaaasssse!

Keeping things (harvest and antlerless) tags the same...I see consistent #’s of deer not too much but also not too little. I had years where I did not see any other deer than the one I harvested. The land owners whose land I hunt on continuously over the last couple years explain they like to see the number of deer and not too much home plant damage. they expect some by living in the country but not enough to want more deer than we can eat. keep up the great work and keep the CWD testing available for free

I am asking you to consider this provision for archery hunters. I hunt in four different counties (private land). Dane, Iowa, Richland, and Vernon. I am only able to hunt a limited amount of time due to work and family time. It is expensive and a waste for me to have to purchase antlerless tags for three of the four counties I hunt when I’m only going to harvest one buck and one doe. Can you please make a special multi-county antlerless tag that is good for one deer out of all participating counties?
2384 My honest feedback is as follows. You’re giving out far to many tags and trying to kill of the herd around any growing city, town, or village. You’re policies and deer numbers have everything to do with reducing deer in populated areas and nothing to do with actual herd management and/or health. It’s obvious your more loyal to insurance companies (auto and farm) then you are the people (hunters), and animals you’re supposed to. It’s a shame what the DNR has turned into! I couldn’t be more fed up!

2385 Cross bow hunting is very important to older people, I myself started 2yrs ago love it after 45yrs of gun hunting about to quit I found this to be something I will continue. Now a group of us head north to hunt which I see other older people doing helps the small northern businesses, better weather and less hunters makes this hunting enjoyable. My relatives from out of state are now making this a great get together, DO NOT LIMIT CROSSBOW HUNTING TO END AT THE END OF OCTOBER!!! Will lose hunters

2386 Hello, I am an avid bow hunter who believes his rights are dwindling every year because all of the doe only and holiday hunts. I do however believe in the importance of herd management and willing to do my part. Maybe we can extend the bow season on the front end, such as opening season starting 1 month early or August sometime. This would allow bow hunters to have opportunity to harvest a velvet buck, which would be cool. Thank you for my recommendation opportunity!!! Much appreciated!!!

2387 Earn a buck was and is a good program to maintain and control numbers. The best version of it was when one could earn a buck for immediate harvest including into the next season (via a sticker). CWD seems to be a greater concern with greater numbers, other than that, the season structure has been good at least in the western portion of Dane Co. with the exception I believe late season hunts e.g. holiday hunts, stress the herd going into winter even in the southern portion of the state

2388 LAST WEDNESDAY (4/15/2020) I WAS DRIVING ON S HIGHLAND AVE, SOUTH OF HOLY NAME SEMINARY, WHEN THREE (3) ADULT DEER RAN ACROSS THE ROAD TO GO TO THE FARM FIELD. ONE HIT THE REAR OF MY CAR AND DID EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO IT. THANK GOD THAT THE DEER DID NOT RUN INTO THE DRIVER’S SIDE OF MY CAR OTHERWISE I COULD HAVE BEEN INJURED SERIOUSLY. MY VIEW IS THAT DEER WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS SHOULD BE DESTROYED.

2389 The deer seasons going past jan 1st or even December 1st is getting out of hand. There are many hunters that like to hunt game other than deer and have almost had to give up on there hobby do to deer seasons. With the deer seasons going so long in the year people aren't able to get permission to hunt other game or do other activities outdoors do to the deer seasons. Tradition bow and gun hunt is all that's needed. The extended hunts are ruining the outdoors enthusiast

2390 The crossbows should only be allowed during rifle season. No matter what weapon of choice is used, you should only get 1 buck tag per year. I would like the hunting season to remain with a 9 day traditional gun hunt, and the muzzleloader hunt. When there are so many gun seasons, those who live on the private lands have their lifestyle changed drastically. We fear for all the guns going off around our home. We are unable to enjoy our own home and land.

2391 I feel harvesting a buck in the metro area of madison should be allowed for bow hunters (traditional) NOT crossbow. The numbers harvested is still only at 3 to 4 percent of tags sold so I feel like it’s taking away my hunting close to home for a archery buck. I don’t agree with doe only for all seasons. We should get to hunt for our big buck within 15 minutes of home here in madison. It’s one of the great things about living here.

2392 Cwd is out of control and if we don’t control the herd numbers eventually most deer harvested will test positive. It’s time to take real action to control this disease through aggressive herd management or the hunting heritage of Wisconsin will be lost forever. If cwd prevalence rates hit 40 percent both myself and my family will stop hunting deer and traditions will end and we’ll have a deer herd that will be out of control.
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there are too many deer in dane county. This is apparent in all the hunting and non-hunting observations I have made. I counted 26 deer while cycling two days ago in a 1 square mile area around blue mounds. deer collisions in the metro area are a significant danger to the public. I see way too many deer hunting near perry and primrose.Ive seen as many as 40 deer/day during a 3-4 hour bow hunt during the rut. Less deer is better.

very short gun hunting season and very late season leading to increase vehicle collision overpopulation and spread of CWD. By increasing the harvest tag numbers and two gun seasons early rut and post-rut buck tags as well as extending the antlerless gun season to four months will ensure CWD eradication, and decrease in predator volume as well as safer roads leading to less traffic-related accidents in the shape of collisions.

I hunt in wood county and Dane. In wood county we have too many Does and the ratio just isn't ideal(20:1)ish based on me sitting in a tree and observing. While in Dane county behind my residence we have maybe 5-6 does covering 600+ acres of farmland and woods. While it doesn't seem alarming we have maybe 50 unique bucks on camera alone so the ratio isn't there when we had an earn a buck it depleted our local doe population.

I do not believe the DNR's assessment of how many deer there actually are. Personal observations of mine and of many other hunters I know say the numbers are not there. Most crop damage to corn is from coons. Quit messing with the seasons. Leave 9 deer gun season only. Deer/car crashes are a result of more people not more deer. Quit playing politics. CWD is a natural occurrence. Stop trying to eradicate the deer.

if you continue to listen to the insurance companies and reduce the deer population more I and others that I talk with will stop hunting. We don't see the number of deer that we expect to see. More and more people are not hunting because of the reduction in deer population. Hopefully at some point the sportsman will get together and not buy any hunting license for a year or two and then where will the Wi DNR be!

I as well as many other people feel that out of state hunters need to have a higher cost and more limited as to how many deer can be harvested. Tired of seeing them harvest anything and everything that walks in front of them. I've also been seeing a lot of deer being left after shooting and their antlers only have been cut off, saw three 1-2 year old with antler removed, carcass left, as well as 4 larger ones.

As hunter numbers decline and the deer population is maintained or increases, I am worried about the negative effects of high deer pressure on ecology and impacts to drivers and landowners. I would be in support of programs and incentives that make deer hunt access more available on private lands. I would also support the authorization of additional antlerless tags and extended hunt timelines for those tags.

I would like to see the blackpowder season be moved to the end of December 26- January 10th. How stupid is it to have a 9 day rifle season and go right into a special blackpowder season. If you move the season to the end of December you could sell a separate tag, gain revenue and have more hunters participate in the season because it's right after the holiday season and you need to get in the woods.

The proposed 19 day gun season is absurd and should not be considered at all. An antlerless only gun season is ridiculous and tag sales will dramatically decrease. It will ruin the sport. A large quantity of bonus antlerless tags should not be sold. One per buck tag is plenty. With how many deer are killed on the roadways and by predators each year, the last thing we need is more antlerless deer killed.

I hunt on less than 4 acres of woods and saw more deer last year than ever before. The population appears to be on the rise as I observed and as the models appear to show. More antlerless deer need to be shot in Dane County and I am full well ready to shoot them. I would like more opportunities to shoot any deer antlered or not. I am very satisfied shooting antlerless deer. They taste just fine to me.

I enjoy the crossbow season. Please try to not ruin it for the bow Hunters by increasing the gun season.... or taking away the use of a crossbow, many Bowhunters enjoy bowhunting but are not always able to put the time to practice with a compound bow, to be an ethical Hunter. The crossbow allows us to still enjoy a bow hunting with the limited amount of time that most of us have to practice.
CWD is a definite problem and needs attention and solutions. However, there are too many deer tags for one hunter, and there are too many gun seasons. It doesn’t seem to be an effective way to manage deer health problems, is more dangerous, interferes with other hunting, etc. We need encouragement of hunting from the broader population and a focus on alternative mitigation practices for CWD.

I feel that the deer numbers are still down from the EHD that went through about 3 to 4 years ago. The herd has not rebounded from that yet. I yuse to let people hunt on my property, no longer till I see deer #'s go back up. My question would be, if Dane became a doe only unit. Would you pay back my gun and bow licenses? Because I would not hunt. A lot of my neighbors feel the same way.

You want to encourage new hunters. So best to have plenty of upside in the number of permits available. I have not typically hunted the "Holiday" season. But that's more a function of the rest of my life, rather than my desire (or lack of desire) to hunt. I have been fortunate and bagged a deer in the traditional 9-day hunt that last several years I went. (I missed a few in there.)

An extension of the muzzle loader season should be brought to the table. This season should run until the end of Jan. Having the season right after the 9-day gun season is worthless! Let hunters enjoy the outdoors, not having to deal with aggressive hunters, frustration of not seeing deer. Vacation time not available. Would allow weekend hunting with more days and options.

I feel more education on how hunting can help deer populations health wise and showing how money from licenses is spent to help manage habitats would be a good thing. I worry since recruitment is dropping and people aren't hunting as much, the deer numbers rise to their own detriment. I just know a lot of people who support the environment, but do not support hunting of any kind.

As an avid hunter - crossbow, muzzleloader and rifle I would really want to buy additional buck licenses. I do take does but I am not going to have people buy a license and I take a deer illegally. I am sure this is being done by some unethical hunters. Please give this some strong consideration. You can buy one extra Buck tag for $$ and it can be used with ANY weapon.

I walk my dog a lot in the winter and by adding additional hunts or extending current hunts I have to worry all winter about wearing orange and making sure my dog is too so that she doesn't get shot (even when we are on our own land, just in case). I also don't see that many deer while I'm hunting and wouldn't mind if the numbers went up. Thanks for doing this survey!

Crossbow laws should revert back to how they were, allowing those over 65 or with a disability to use them. Opening it up to everyone did nothing but cause more infighting between hunters and harvest methods. It did not help retain hunters or achieve most of the supposed goals. Hunters with a superior weapon should not have the long "bow" season to hunt with it.

I strongly support limiting gun deer seasons to the traditional 9 day firearms season only. I strongly support eliminating antlerless only seasons. I strongly support eliminating the crossbow season for anyone physically able to use "traditional" compound bows. I strongly support "traditional" compound bow and crossbow use during the 9 day firearms season.

I strongly believe earn a buck was the best tool you ever implemented to manage deer numbers and balance the herd even though it was supposedly unpopular among hunters. Anyone who understands deer management feels it was a good program and it would be nice to see it reinstated for a year. Not enough people are will to prioritize shooting antlerless deer.

We need to restructure crossbow season and reduce season length and not extend fun seasons. The population is down significantly in the last ten years and has not recovered with crossbow being given months to use a weapon that is proven easier and more effective and the numbers don't lie. I am all for crossbow hunting just not the entire archery season.
I would like to see an antler restriction law some day for Dane county. I think the public would accept it because most private land owners in this county are practicing it already. It would just make it more firm. I've seen this implemented in other states and it really works for producing mature bucks. Hopefully a thought for the future.

I actively hunt town of Dunn. The number of deer I see both hunting and on trail cameras that I use do not change much from when I started ten years ago to the present. I do not see an over abundance and it is common to not see a deer on a hunt. I do not feel there is an over population of deer in this area which is located in the metro zone.

Extend the crossbow season, but do not extend or have additional gun seasons. Crossbow or bow hunting and people hiking on public lands coexist very well. The gun seasons essentially push away other recreation users from using public lands out of safety concerns. Reduce the population of deer to decrease the spread of CWD and car accidents.

If you pass a earn a buck or any thing like that my 4 sons n I are going to Mo to hunt, we’re getting tired of seeing no deer all season, so you will lose 5 more hunters, I have hunted 5 countries over the last 50 years, never have I saw so few deer, I believe you will do what you want anyway, I have hunted Mo, they want you to see deer!

Please consider methods to decrease the population of deer. CWD prevalence could endanger to the future of deer hunting in the county. Reducing the population density is really our only tool to combat this apart from increased testing. Whatever method incentivizes hunters to take the most deer is what should be implemented.

We have been seeing a rebound in the deer population for the Deerfield area. When there was a summer with the blue tongue disease (?) many died off and we were not seeing as many bucks. Last year a member of our group shot a nice 8 point buck and I have been seeing signs this spring there are more bucks out there.

I am opposed to all of the "extra" hunts such as the Holiday hunts and antlerless only hunts. I also do not find it necessary to extend the archery season through the entire month of January. I believe the best scenario is to continue the traditional 9-day firearm season, followed by the 10-day Muzzleloader.

For the most part leave it all alone. Except, limit crossbow usage and bring back in person registration. Crossbows are basically like using a firearm and many people don’t need to use them. In person registration keeps hunters honest and prevents over bagging which is now more prevalent than ever.

I appreciate the free bonus antlerless permits for the metro zone and Dane co farmland zone. I usually kill all my deer with a bow rather than gun. However it’s nice to have the later season or an extended season so that I can assist the kids I mentor or my sister or friends get a deer.

Need a earlier season of both now & gun w/ a longer bow season. Also predator tags in all of WISCONSIN all year. Your numbers of wolf tags do not currently keep up w/ the number of newborns every year, and those adolescent wolfs are moving farther south looking for their own territory.

Stop changing things every year. Don’t you dare try and limit my crossbow season because of the elite bow hunter organizations. Stop charging us for bonus permits when I’ve already spent 165$ on a patrons. Bonus permits should be a management tool and not a source of revenue.

Maintain existing Crossbow regulations, and keep existing gun season at 9 days. Please stop micromanaging the deer season.. it is getting as bad as the trout season rules with respect to confusing rules with more mini-rules. Hope that doesn’t come as a surprise.

Please keep the extended archery season for metro subunits. It’s some of the most fun hunting all year. I am strongly opposed to a quiet period before the nine-day gun season. It doesn’t make any sense. If you want more license revenue, raise the non-resident fees.
The bow and cross bow season should be a set of Jan 31 or that last Sunday close to the Jan 31 even if it would Feb 2-3-4 and it shouldn’t be tied to the Holiday Hunt. I also would like to see how a year with earn buck would change the kill number up or down.

The deer population seemed a little higher than the year before near our property. I would rather have the population on the lower side to keep disease, accident, and plant life to a minimum and make deer hunting more interesting by being more challenging.

I Would like to have rotating seasons make it more fair for everyone not just a rut season for just bow hunters. More programs for youth hunting possibilities. Establish a new patriots license that signs you up for every game offered like original was.

Have "stay the same" as a population goal makes no sense given the level of CWD prevalence in Dane County. We should be attempting to reduce the deer population as fast as possible and disease control should take precedence over recreational hunting.

Antlerless hunts just shut deer movement down further, when you could be bow hunting. If you want one, do it after late bow season. How many people want to bow hunt late season in mid to late January because of the Holiday Hunt Anterless Only. Not me.

Overall the 2019 hunt was successful, but 2018 recorded a better harvest because of the presence of snow. Deer numbers appear to be creeping higher in our area which could indicate a drop in hunter density and less interest in the sport.

Too many seasons. Go back to the 9 day and than black powder hunt and be done with it. Give away doe tags if the number goes up too much. In my area, no one even hunts anymore. I hardly heard any shots and I hunt everyday, all season.

There is other winter sports and hunting that I’d like to enjoy other than deer hunting... such as rabbit and coyote hunting. Some Snowmobile trails have to be rerouted because of the late deer seasons. 5 mouths is too long of a season.

do have some concern on crossbows becoming as powerful as a gun would like to make sure bow hunting remains bow hunting. dont want to lose the hipe of a good bow season as are regular gun hunt seems to not be a tradition anymore.

Get rid of the antlerless only holiday hunt. This is a time of year many people have off and can get out in the woods to have a chance at ANY deer. At least allow bow hunters to still shoot a buck if they have a bow tag for it.

I am older and started hunting with crossbow 2yrs ago enjoyed it a lot. I do not want the crossbow season to end at the end of October, this would discourage me from continue to hunt, I have lost interest in the gun hunt.

North of 18-151 the deer herd/population is non existent compared to the past, South of 18-151 the deer population is far higher. I feel this is leading to misleading numbers for this area and our deer herd size.

I would not be in support of the Gun Deer season being any earlier the it has been for years! I enjoy the peek rut to be in the Archery Season! Thank You for your work and seeking the public opinion!

Please do not implement a 20 day gun season. We need decreased tag numbers. One buck and one doe for gun. The same goes for Bow. One bonus tag per gun or bow antlerless. We need antler restrictions as well.

I feel the deer heard has diminished drastically in the last 5 years. We need to take steps to increase the number of animals in this unit. Also somehow controlling the number of coyotes in this unit.

If a buck is taken, 2 does should be taken ! Encourage something of sorts. Can't only have trophy hunters ! I understand that earn a buck is past and history but it was a good system. Too many does.
I hope bow hunters don’t think that crossbow hunters should have shorter season. If they think crossbow hunters have an advantage then they should buy a crossbow. We hunt in different places anyway.

I oppose the use of crossbow by non-disabled hunters and the 19 day gun hunt proposal is a terrible idea. Also, think of your going to have a holiday hunt it should be open for antlered deer also.

Last year's weather and unharvested corn provided better cover than the last few years for animals. I saw fewer deer and the ones I saw were full of corn and not on the move as in the past.

Hunting zones need to be bigger and tags good for private and public hunting each tag good for multi-county zones and good for private and public!! And spring turkey season a month long.

The hunting season needs to be extended. The harvest quota should stay the same but the season should be longer to thin out hunters on the landscape at 1 time during the season.

I would hate to see the traditional 9 day season changed. Any hunting after this should include a break of 1 week, starting the following Saturday. Keep the 9 day a tradition.

Stop the hunting from September to February. This is stupid as a landowner and grandfather to 6 future hunters get back to the regular seasons and quit this 6 month hunting.

Keep crossbow season same as archery. Weather in 2019 is main reason for reduced deer kill. Excessive rain deterred hunters from going out or even accessing hunting areas.

I would like to see earn a buck added back in to increase the buck to doe percentages or allow only 1 buck to be harvested per hunter per year no matter what method used.

To many deer. I live in the cwd hot zone. I fear that the same is coming for this area if the numbers are not reduced. Not that it can be stopped, but hopefully delayed.

I would think that if we are missing our quotas, we should continue to offer bonus authorizations for the Metro Sub Units, especially since the unit size was increased.

The only reason I saw less deer but support higher harvest numbers is because of the number of fields that weren’t harvested and had corn for the deer to find refuge in.

So much standing corn in 2019. Lots of tracks in and out of standing corn and very little if any movement of deer in standing corn in the area I was hunting.

The wet grounds left many cornfields standing, which limited hunting in some areas, the deer stayed in the corn fields or the corn limited hunting views/zones.

Would like to see a better muzzleloader season and maybe an earlier one than after the gun season. Maybe one late October and with and after gun season.

I Think we should just stick with the traditional 9 day gun hunt and that's it for gun. I do support extending bow/crossbow season into January.

I tagged a cwd positive deer this year and saw a few deer that also looked affected...I found a couple of dead deer in our woods this spring.

Current management is going well, please continue the crossbow season as concurrent with archery season, do not shorten the crossbow season.

Consider qualifying buck seasons to mature bucks only, ie 6 points or more. Self penalties should be minimal, ie $25. No harsh penalties.

In my opinion if it isn't broke, don't fix it.. We have a great heard in Dane county. Leave all regulations and seasons as is. Thanks.
If you go to an antler less only season you will lose a lot of hunters. That's not what you want. Your revenue will be impacted.

Encourage people of all ages to get involved in Deer hunting. The younger generations would benefit from getting out into nature.

From my observations and trail cam data the buck to doe ratio in western Dane County is abysmal. 1 to 6 or worse in some areas.

Adjust the season when late in the year. Separate crossbow from archery season. A crossbow is 10 times deadlier than a bow.

I do not want to see any changes to using crossbow during the bow season. It should remain equal to all bow types, period.

I would like a longer gun season been hunting this area since I started hunting and you don’t see the deer as in the past.

CWD is ubiquitous. When are we going to bite the bullet and do something? One year of extremely heavy harvest?

Do not make gun season 2 weeks long. Take out the anger less hunt and quit releasing Wolves to Wisconsin!!

If there is an antlerless only holiday can the antlerless only hunt in early December be eliminated? Thanks

Make the traditional gun deer hunt one week earlier to encourage more hunters, while bucks are still in rut.

I do not like the fact that you have to choose whether you will harvest a doe on public OR private land.

To many deer killed by cars & trucks need more and better signs. HWY 51 Mcfarland to Stoughton.

I am VERY happy that the DNR is more science-based again, under the current administration.

Thank you very much for your hard work and dedication to Wisconsin's wildlife and hunters.

If bow season is opened then crossbow season should be also. Do not change the way it is.

Didn’t see any deer this past year and that included anyone that I TALK WITH

The antlerless only/holiday hunts need to go away! They are very unnecessary!

Im against extending the 9 day and any additional antlered gun seasons.

Allow crossbow hunting throughout the entire regular bow season…!

Thank you for your work on the CDAC. Please keep up the good work.

I would like to see the Holiday hunt include antlered deer too.

The deer population around my area is way down from last year.

Thank you. DNR does a great job. Too many barstool biologists!

The CDAC should consider limited baiting on public land.

Please extend the deer season in November to 2 weeks

Why can't archery be used for gun season with a gun?

Thank you for all your hard work. It is appreciated!

Make lead shot illegal, have an earn a buck program

Thank you for inviting me to fill out this survey.

There should be NO changes to the X bow season.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2494</td>
<td>Don’t make any changes in the crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2495</td>
<td>Extended gun season would be highly welcomed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2496</td>
<td>Doing a GREAT JOB!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2497</td>
<td>Make senior hunting rates more affordable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2498</td>
<td>Keep crossbow season same as last year!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2499</td>
<td>I’d rather the Seasons stay the same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>if you make it doe only i will not go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2501</td>
<td>Bring back in person registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2502</td>
<td>Too many seasons. Keep it simple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2503</td>
<td>Keep the seasons the same!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2504</td>
<td>No extended gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2505</td>
<td>Extend the gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2506</td>
<td>get a handle on CWD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 313
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 54
   - I hunt in this unit: 422
   - General interest in this unit: 66

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 391
   - Bow: 245
   - Crossbow: 177
   - Muzzleloader: 161

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 21.77
   - Maximum: 62

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 240
   - Mostly Private Land: 71
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 45
   - Mostly Public Land: 20
   - Exclusively Public Land: 41
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 34
   - Not too crowded: 65
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 28
   - Somewhat crowded: 23
   - Very crowded: 13
   - Not applicable: 14

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 79
   - Fewer: 149
   - Same: 167
   - More: 44
   - Many More: 22
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: | Not applicable in this DMU |
| Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public : | Not applicable in this DMU |

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

**Note:** Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmland Zone Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Metro Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License: | Not applicable in this DMU |

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

- **If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...**
  - Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 150 Support, 280 Oppose, 40 Unsure
  - EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 222 Support, 192 Oppose, 55 Unsure

- **If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...**
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Not applicable in this DMU

- **If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...**
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Not applicable in this DMU

- **If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...**
  - ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Just want to say like I have in the past, Dodge County is very vast compared to many counties. I've hunted the farmland with only family for 35 years as an organized group that primarily drives deer on neighboring farm properties near Hwy 33 and Hwy P. The number of deer seen the past 3 years has gone down dramatically, especially last season 2019. I strongly believe the DNR get’s much of it’s data for the county from the Horicon marsh area which holds a significant amount of deer as compared to other places in the county. It's not an accurate representation of the herd in total when you have that large of a deer sanctuary in your data pool which dilutes what is believed to be a good size herd where we hunt. Just my thoughts. Another point I would love to have the DNR explore is to consider something for archery. I'm an avid compound archer. I have no problem with the crossbows at all. However, it is my strong belief that any archer who draws blood on an animal and doesn’t recover that animal should have to consider that tag filled. Because there is no regulation on any of this, including gun season, many archers take risky shots at deer and because it didn't die quickly, not much effort is being put in to track since they can just continue to hunt again. I can tell you there are several people in our area that have wounded several deer without harvest every year, and generally they are larger mature bucks. We find them dead during our deer drives. Our group will find several every season and this I have to believe is not unique to our area. It's a problem everywhere. Maybe a little DNR point of emphasis or something to consider addressing and calling attention to this issue.

I wanted to finish the rest of my statement from previous statement. I lived in Tomahawk and Pelican lake for over a decade. I know what a wolf kill site looks like. You need to quit trying to reinvent the wheel. We had something good mid to late 90's and you let it go to hell. Fine we have wolves as a management tool so knock it off with the excessive hunting pressure. These animals need a brake after a certain point. It’s probably time to start to worry about the tic. Sure seems like that’s going to more detrimental than any cwd. I hunt multiple states and see how other places are run, we can learn from some of these. Sometimes over thinking and everyone needs to be happy needs to take a back seat to what is best for the deer. Just because your college educated doesn’t meet you make the correct choices. This was the first year bunch of us were going to attend the meeting. Pause should be pushed for this season with major decisions. Not much of a give and take discussion on the matter, for something as important as this. Good luck, hopefully you guys make a good decision.

I really think if you want to increase the herd even slightly you need to eliminate for one year any bonus permits on private and public hunting grounds, if that really scares you as a committee then at least cut it in half from 4000 to 2000 on private and from 125 to 63 on public. Also eliminate both antlerless hunts, right now the way the seasons are laid out it is putting a major amount of pressure on the herd and they need the break. I know, I think, that would take legislation to complete but at the very least you as a committee could recommend it to the board to show concern. I think this is really the only way to increase the herd and increase deer sightings in the field. Also, seeing that the May meeting is another call in and listen, I think you should still let the public voice their opinions the night of the meeting, it wouldn't be hard if you post that people must contact you prior to the meeting and you could go by name live on the call one at a time. Thanks Rick Firari
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2510</td>
<td>Please do away with the holiday hunt and antlerless only seasons. Public hunting lands in Dodge County are becoming more pressured every year. Once pheasant hunting opens, it is difficult to even see a deer on public hunting grounds. More and more people are using public hunting grounds to take their dogs for a walk right before sun set. The last few years, I am seeing more dogs than deer. Instead of charging hunters $12 for a permit, maybe recommend charging non-hunters a fee. On highway D their is a dog training trail where I USED to hunt. I have a bad knee and it is difficult to get back into the marsh, where the deer are pushed by pheasant hunters and non-hunters. I would also recommend setting up designated pheasant hunting areas. Possibly eliminate the release of pheasants on public lands. Thank you for listening. Respectfully, conservation patron for many years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2511</td>
<td>We are very disappointed that our land that borders the Rock River (125 acres) has been under water for 5 years+ the river did not go down completely during this time and is still extremely high. We are a farm and without the area under water, there are virtually no deer on our land (Hustisford Township). They do have some listed as &quot;wasteland&quot; and it is taxed as much as the tillable land. The rest is taxed as recreation taxed 4 times as much as tillable acres. This is depriving us of a livelihood - $1,000's a year. The DNR magazine is full of stories of restoring wetlands and wildlfie habitat. In our case, the dam operators are completely destroying wetlands, killing thousands of trees including 200yr old Burr Oaks. This also destroys wildlife - the deer are killed on the highway because there is no place for the deer to bed down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2512</td>
<td>The DNR's poor deer management has caused me to stop purchasing deer hunting license. Living near the DNR property I can tell the number of hunters has dropped greatly. The previous high kill rates issued by the DNR along with the out of control coyote population has made hunting difficult. I would also like to add the information given by the DNR conflicts with other DNR reports very often. It is hard to believe anything being issued. This report doesn't show trends over years. How many hunting licence were sold over the past 10 years? How many deer taken over the same time? The number of people hunting is dropping and the rates are increasing. I use to work with the DNR wardens in this area for years. Now, I'm not sure when the last time I saw or spoke to one. Manage in the field and not at your computers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2513</td>
<td>In my opinion, the highest negative impact on deer numbers in my area of Dodge county, is related to party or group hunting. land owners with large acreages have tendencies to use groups that may be as high as 10-30 or more members strong. The deer &quot;drives&quot; often result in a literal slaughter. Often hunting safety and ethics are dismissed as pushed deer emerge from cover. The ensuing &quot;Maylay&quot;, of gunfire is common in my area. Wounded deer are a common sight. Deer found dead with gunshot wounds are equally as common. My recommendations are to take a fresh look at hunting party rules and ethics as well as how efficient and safe party hunting is. My solution in part would be to limit hunter group size and consider penalties for violations. Irresponsible methods using trucks and ATV's should be considered as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2514</td>
<td>I support herd management and the DNR’s responsibilities to the overall well-being of our state’s natural resources. Antler-less hunts will help achieve the overall initiative of decreasing Brown county’s deer herd. I strongly oppose crossbow sharing the entire archery season with compound bows. The advancements in crossbow technology have made that option as lethal as a firearm (shotgun) during a critical season of herd replenishment (mating season “rut”). My concern is not with the methodology of herd management; rather, the means of achieving these numbers while protecting our state’s reputation as a region where trophy whitetail harvests are a legitimate possibility. Thank you for the opportunity to share feedback.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I feel the deer population is lower than it has been due to over harvesting alone. While I have opportunity to view various deer during the hunting season as well as off season, there is no way to know if I see the same animals multiple times or I am seeing new arrivals to the area. I feel the antlered Buck harvest is adequate. My opinion is that hunting in groups or party hunting has resulted in high harvest rates of immature antlerless deer. I would like to see the CDAC consider regulating group hunting. For example, 3-4 hunters per party or group. Currently the groups or parties can exceed 20 or more hunters. Safety is an issue. Immature deer are harvested far faster than the population can recover.

We need to stop killing so many deer. Especially the does and let the population come back strong and abundant. We need to establish/maintain deer for future generations to hunt or you won’t have any hunters in the future. I’ve been hunting 20+ years and have always been able to harvest 1 or sometimes 2. The last few years I have not even see any to harvest. If you have 1 hunter shoot 3 deer, and 3 hunters not shoot any, you’ll lose the interest of 2 hunters next year. Sales go down and DNR loses jobs! This is not hard to predict. You’re ruining the family tradition and working on losing your job at the same time by shooting off to many deer.

We should recieve 1 doe tag and 1 buck tag for statewide for both bow and gun. We should have the 4 point rule on one side for ages 16 and up. We need to get rid of the b.s. which county and public or private. It’s just an extra way to create b.s. revenue. If your money was managed properly you wouldn’t need more. I live in the corner of a county I have public land from 3 different counties within a 10 mile radius that I hunt different days depending on time of season wind run/shine. I’m sick so sick of buying 3 different tags to legally shoot a doe at each place. It is absolutley bullshit so thanks for the headaches.

I own Martys and Son Sausage Haus in Rubicon. We processed little over 1200 deer. So when I say this, I get alot of feedback from hunters. There are more deer in dodge county than there has been since early 2000's. From what people have told me, to hunting in Rubicon. Everybody is a trophy hunter now. Its all ablout antlers, I firmly believe this is the main driving force your quota is never met in all areas. I have no idea what the answer to this is but the kill numbers are misleading. Especially last gun season, with it being so late is the main driving force that led to that crappy kill. The deer are there.

I for one would rather see bow/crossbow season shortened. It will increase a chance for someone who doesn't hunt this season a better chance at getting the buck that he/she is dreaming about during the gun season. With kids in sports it is getting harder for me to get out to hunt as it is them. If there is a holiday hunt make it a buck or antlerless. It is not fair that gun has to shoot antlerless only but if the bow and crossbow season is extended they get to shoot either or. Unfortunately the weather sucked this year with a lot of standing corn yet. Hopefully season will be better this year.

There has been large herds ( 60-120 deer) in the Dodge county Columbia county region for several years that continually build. I have driven 15 miles and have counted over 200 deer grazing in three different herds. I presume this concentration of the deer is killing localized agriculture and wildlife areas while not affecting the rest of the county. Or has there been large herds reported across the county? Is there anything that deer management has looked into to decrease the concentration of deer in a single area while maintaining your overall objectives?

I would like to see an extended archery and crossbow season without the Holiday hunt. It would also be nice to see the season start the first weekend of Sept. every year. There seemed to be some talk of moving the start of crossbow season back a month, I hope not. The land I hunt is by public and after a reason start the deer move out of the area. Too much movement in public land as season gets later. I would also like to see the early gun hunts eliminated, bow hunters and gun hunters are a bad mix and it is asking for problems by someone behind shot.
I hunt the Horicon and Theresa marshes. The deer heard is very low compared to 20 or 30 years ago. There shouldn't be any does shot on public marshes as of now. All my hunting friends and family always had fun seeing and shooting deer. We need to stop catering just to wings over wisconsin. There is getting less land to deer hunt every year with impoundments and tree cutting. Hunting license sales declines are getting blamed on everything under sun. Most of the people I know that quit are for 2 reasons. Loss of land with trees and a small deer heard.

Having been very closely tied to deer hunting in dodge county for many years and hunting some of the amazing properties in the Beaver Dam and Lost Lake areas, I can say from experience that the earn-a-buck years were the good old days. I don't know the science to it but there is no question about it. Plus, the earn-a-buck is a great teacher for the next generation. I've hunted Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. The earn-a-buck years in the big Dodge county cattail marshes were as good as any of it. Amazing buck quality and buck to doe ratio. Thank you.

Would like to to gun deer season start week earlier and run for 2 weeks. Give hunters minimum of 1 year notice for this change 2 year notice would be best. If they ever want to limit kill on bucks i would be happy with 1 buck per person for all license holders. I actually feel the buck to doe ratio is to low. I see good changes with dnr being able to do these surveys on line getting more hunters and non hunters input. In my 45 years of deer hunting i see wisconsin dnr doing alot of good things for hunters and wildlife. Keep up the great work!

We don't need a holiday hunt or an extended archery. There are alot of deer I'm sure that are not reported. Not because of the phone in system. I've had 2-5 poached deer a season for the past 6 years on our and neighbor's .Vehicle tracks in our fields that lead to deer blood and hair. Who knows if they're accounted for. Wolves were released in I think it was 2011. On the places I could shed hunt I found 33 carcasses and we've been recovering since. Amazing on average before and after I averaged about 2-4 dead deer a shed season.

lets get back to a 9 day season total. no extra hunts. hunt with what ever weapon u desire. don't change the crossbow season at all. if u want more killed limit amount of time to 9 days people get out and hunt. not many people go hunting deer for 3 month season. everyone is getting older and sit no one drives deer any more. so by lowering the time people will be more app to go after them. the dnr sure screwed up this state by getting greedy for money. go back the way it was many yrs ago and people will be very happy.

I have heard rumors of season dates being changed in regards to the archery season being shortened and the gun season being lengthened. My opinion is that shortening the archery season by one week would be OK to provide more opportunities to harvest bucks in rut during the gun season but I would not like to see it done any earlier than November 15. Many times the best hunting for the archery season is between October 28 and November 12 and I would like to see that season maintained for the archery hunters.

The season was suppose to co-inside with the rut but it appeared that the rut was running down for the gun season. Maybe try one more season the same but keep a close eye on the peak of the rut and the deer harvest during the gun season. As far as the extended crossbow/archery season or the holiday hunt I would suggest one or the other but not both. Also, you have a discounted price for resident fishing license for those 65 or over. Why not offer the same for hunting licenses as well?

I support only allowing crossbow use for disabled and elderly, like it used to be. It's not true archery hunting. It's more like a gun, to some degree. You have further range, a scope and a trigger. It should be reserved for those that can't bowhunt anymore. I believe that allowing anyone to crossbow hunt hurts QDM efforts. It's easier to kill a deer with a crossbow than a bow. And because it's easier to kill with a crossbow, those not following QDM can more easily mess up QDM goals.

I feel across the state deer in general are stressed. We as hunters have the ability to harvest deer from September thru January that's 5 months! I feel that is way to long. I am a conservative by nature and feel that most deer in size are small. The deer worth harvesting buck or doe no longer exist on public land. The majority of hunters do not own private land. Therefore your license sales has decreased and conservationists like myself just sit and watch the sunrise and set.
I feel the private public land split is terrible and ruins deer culture in Wisconsin. Food plots have ruined deer access to the general public in my opinion. I’ve had the luxury of hunting several private food plotted areas in Wisconsin. One 20 acre area in The Horicon area holds 50 to 70 deer daily till nightfall. Several 160 plus class deer taken Annually. Testament to what food plots, water, and cover will do. It also keeps quality deer or any at all from the public.

There are too many problems because of too many hunters on private land. Other Hunters are creating dangerous situations by not complying with the state DNR regulations, such as wearing blaze orange during hunting season and when they are hunting. Because everything is online now, there is no accountability for these Hunters. I think those are issues that should be addressed more so than the number of permits that the state wants to issue or charge a fee for.

We have been hunting with the same people the last 30 plus years and have seen less deer in the past 8 to 10 years. many bow hunters are killing more than one deer. They use tags from others and dont get checked some shoot 5 to 10 deer per season plus wound others that later die due to injuries.We need more wardens checking tags. we drive deer within a 2 square mile area. We see less deer and dont shoot does. we take bucks with horns past the ears.

I think it would be beneficial to extend the archery season until the end of January, as most of the ideal late season hunting conditions do not occur until mid January as of late. I do not believe a holiday hunt for antlerless is necessary, as most gun hunters are done hunting at this point and do not have the time to hunt, as well as not having ideal hunting conditions for this time of year.

The deer numbers in the north eastern portion of dodge county have steadily been declining. I think I saw 1 living deer from the end of gun deer hunt through march 1st. I would be in favor of buck only and limit it to 1 per person. We need to limit the number of does that are taken to get back an established population. Thank you for reading this and I hope you take this into consideration.

I did here rumors of stopping the crossbow season on Oct 31st. I do not agree with this at all. I here the gun and bow hunters complaining there are no bucks left by Nov. I don't agree with that statement at all. Last years gun season was later than normal also with all the rain there was a lot of standing corn. That played a bigger part in not seeing bucks than anything.

I would like to see more public land antlerless tags available. There have always been more than enough deer on public lands to go around. I am seeing more antlerless deer now than ever before in Dodge on public lands but I can only harvest 1antlerless. I’m very concerned about the health of our public forests and can see the impact our deer herd is having on them.

I read an article awhile back that mentioned the thought of having the gun season extended and moved up to early November. I did not see this addressed in you meeting, therefore I am assuming that it is not actually being considered. I hope that is the case as moving up the gun season to early November would greatly impact bow hunters during the rut. Thank you.

It seem there is a want of a better age class of bucks. Were gun hunter’s saying theres none for them buy gun season. I’m not for changing the dates of gun season ,or cutting other hunters seasons. Would like to see a antler restriction proposal. I think hunters under the age of 18 yrs old ,as well as first timers should be exempt from the antler restriction.

We need more deer to help deer movement, ive noticed in my last year of gun hunting that I barely seen any deer this year. It was almost like they werent moving at all in my area, the late season was definitly part of it but I dont think it was all of it. Also I think crossbow season should be shorter like october only, they are too much like guns.
I’m okay with keeping everything in line with last year’s numbers as harvest numbers are very similar to prior years. I like the holiday hunt option for adding the opportunity to harvest an antlerless if I wasn’t able to in regular season hunts. I’m okay with also extending archery if we have the holiday hunting season.

This advisory committee has NOT addressed any collaborative initiative to provide more opportunities for hunters to connect with landowners (i.e. listing of landowners who may be amenable to allow hunting) so that said hunters could work out an agreement for accessing land for hunting. When is this going to happen?????

I have heard of not allowing crossbow hunting for certain portions of the year. I feel that is a mistake. I hunt with crossbow and to have a portion of the season taken away, especially during the rut, is not what I wish to see. It will discourage those who already hunt and not encourage others to take up hunting.

Please consider elimination of the public/private designation for hunting does. It just reduces the hunting of does on public land and may be reducing the number of hunters that buy bonus tags. It just complicated the hunting regulations and angers hunters that now have to choose in advance where they hunt.

I hunt/live/work in 8 mile radius of 3 counties on small private land plot adjacent to public hunting. The county only and public or private restrictions on antler-less tags are very restrictive and greatly reduce my hunting abilities. I know that few people are effected by this, but it should be considered.

Your goal was to increase the number of deer in this unit. How can this be done, if the number of does killed does not decrease? It seems to me that you are fighting yourself. Why not cut the number of doe tags in half, and issue the remaining doe tags at random with the purchase of a hunting license?

It’s very obvious that each county/township the deer herd up on certain properties were these people do not shoot does, hunt or will they let anyone on their land to hunt. We have too many Trophy hunters and not enough sportsman even willing to shoot does in certain area as well.

The number of deer in the area I hunt has been declining for quite a while. There has been over harvesting going on for about 10 years now. I used to see deer just about every time out. Now it’s about every 5 times on average. I’ve been hunting other counties because of this.

Dear folks, I agree with the county quota and your proposals. Not sure this is the right time or place but just wanted to make a statement about the bow and gun seasons and would recommend that the dates, times and lengths of the seasons stay the same as in 2019. Thank you.

I am not happy with the amount of pressure put on deer herd too many hunts too many tags bow hunters are filling! I am also disgusted with the talk of lengthening the traditional 9 day gun season! If the season is extended it may be the last time I deer hunt in Wisconsin.

Please do away with public/private designation for antlerless tags. Some people hunt private and public, and having to hunt a specific DMU and then narrow where they are going to harvest an antlerless deer down to private or public is too specific.

I would like to see the dnr remove the public and private tags and the county tags go back to the zone tags and let the hunter fill in when they register this is getting crazy if you like to hunt different county's or line on an a county line

There needs to be some type of coyote control in this area. Bring the bounty on coyotes back. The deer population is relatively stable but on the high side. The coyotes are preventing the growth of the herd and a major impact in turkeys.

STOP ALLOWING BAITING. It has altered hunting habits and not for the good. Can't reverse the Wolf decisions but northern Wisconsin business has been ruined by it. What was a enjoyable experience 15 years ago is no longer an option for me.
People have food plots around my area. The deer don't go to public land anymore. If you don't have private or leased land most likely you won't see anything. Pretty sure you guys can't count. I don't see a increase in deer population.

Do not take away the crossbow season or shorten. Or give the gun season the rut. Cant shoot big bucks because of bowhunters not crossbow hunters. Gun season should be during the rut. The bow hunters have an advantage for too long.

best hunting ever was with earn a buck, it would be terrible idea to take away crossbow hunting during typical archery season or creating special season for crossbow after allowing it and having people spend $1000+ for equipment.

I would like to see a holiday hunt in this unit I go out weekend to look at the deer situation and notice there are more deer in this unit then last year I can count up to 50 deer in a mile radius including public land.

Hard to know what to say. I'm not a “honeyhole” guy. But in recent years there’s been alot of hwy expansion in my area wich in the early season may have increased deer sightings but come late season they vanish.

Over harvesting of young bucks and anterless deer have had negative impacts on the overall quality of the deer herd. A trophy regulation such as 4 legal tines on a side would greatly benefit this county.

I started crossbow hunting last year, and invested the money. If crossbow season is shortened I will be forced to quit hunting. I have fringe deer hunting property, so I have to hunt the rut to see deer.

The deer hunting on the horicon marsh has become a joke. Let’s kill all the deer!!! Good plan Wisconsin dnr!!

Bow hunters have many more days to hunt than gun hunters. I would like to see an extension to the gun deer season, as this would give more time and more opportunity to those who do not bow hunt.

do not extend the deer gun season. It will drive decreased traffic of hunters. We have good years and bad years, it is not a mandatory to kill a buck or doe. Weather is something unpredictable.

I believe we did not meet the quota last year due to hunter poaching the deer population. Since regulations have changed more hunters no longer register harvest and numbers are off.

I have heard rumors of stopping the crossbow season at Oct. 31 because the bow hunters feel they are being slighted, and the gun hunters the same. I do not agree with this at all.

a once great resource has been decimated do to over hunting and handing tags out like candy. I would like to see a canceation of hunting for 1 year to let the herds rebound.

Why can’t disable gun hunters hunt both public and private? What are we hurting, there are only 1045 class A and B permits. If I hunt one I can’t hunt the other.

Raise the price on all of the out of state licenses. Time to double the price for all the out of state people who come and pollute the lakes rivers and woods.

The last 3 years I have seen barely any deer bow hunting during the rut. Before that I would have alot of success every year. Not sure what changed. Thanks.

I do not want to see the 9 day regular gun season extended. 9 days is plenty, it is a tradition, and most people plan around those dates year after year.

I want no changes to the crossbow rules! I spent a lot of money to get setup, and now everyone wants to cut back on crossbow use - that is just wrong!

mild winter more deer survived. Farmers leaving corn up during the deer season is another reason for more deer surviving and less deer being harvested.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2574</td>
<td>I think there are still plenty of deer in Dodge County. My thoughts are to set the goal to maintain instead of increasing the population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2575</td>
<td>I don't support an extended gun season. I consider it an attempt to raise revenue and not in the best interest of the deer herd or hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2576</td>
<td>All there should be for antlerless tags in 1 per license such as 1 for bow/crossbow and 1 for gun. No bonus tags should ever be given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2577</td>
<td>Please do not change the crossbow season. I strongly believe that would negatively affect the number of hunters, especially the youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2578</td>
<td>If the private land tags are used then the deer taken by those holding a private tag should only harvest from private lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2579</td>
<td>Even with no Holiday hunt in Dodge county I would still like to see the archery season extended through the end of January.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2580</td>
<td>Issue as many bonus 'anterless' tags as feasible. Large doe population in Dodge County, many fawns &amp; yearlings each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2581</td>
<td>I would hope for more restrictions on crossbow use as to limiting to age and disability would be considered this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2582</td>
<td>During the 9 day gun season I sat all day every day and never saw a deer it was the worst season I've hunted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2583</td>
<td>I couldn't get the video to play for some reason. I'll see if I can find it online. Thanks for all you do!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2584</td>
<td>There does not seem to be any significant increase in deer population. Stop killing does.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2585</td>
<td>Not enough deer. Too many hunters. Its also very dangerous on public with deer drives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2586</td>
<td>Keep season structure as it existed. Extending will not achieve the desired results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2587</td>
<td>Please bring back back tags and in person registration I feel it is important.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2588</td>
<td>1 buck 1 doe per license statewide. In EXTREME cases offer bonus permits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2589</td>
<td>We see deer all summer long and when hunting season comes they vanish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2590</td>
<td>Need to take crossbow out of the Deer Rut unless you are over 60.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2591</td>
<td>I think we need to get rid of the antlerless only holiday hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2592</td>
<td>Eliminate the public/private antlerless choice that must be made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2593</td>
<td>So no to doe hunts. Do your jobs, listen to the hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2594</td>
<td>The state should consider a statewide QDM for antlered deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2595</td>
<td>I don't care for the youth hunt it disrupts the bow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2596</td>
<td>Crossbows should have limited season outside of the rut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2597</td>
<td>I haven't seen a deer on this land in three years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2598</td>
<td>Making crossbow season different than compound bow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2599</td>
<td>Less antlerless tags in horicon marsh for now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2600</td>
<td>Put the horns back in the Holiday hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2601</td>
<td>I oppose extending the firearm season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2602</td>
<td>CWD needs to be taken more seriously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2603</td>
<td>Why not a Youth Holiday Hunt?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2605</td>
<td>Not enough deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10928</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2597</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

416 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 251
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 75
   - I hunt in this unit: 370
   - General interest in this unit: 73

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 343
   - Bow: 184
   - Crossbow: 185
   - Muzzleloader: 131

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 22.3
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 235
   - Mostly Private Land: 71
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 29
   - Mostly Public Land: 7
   - Exclusively Public Land: 23
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 8
   - Not too crowded: 47
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 21
   - Somewhat crowded: 25
   - Very crowded: 16
   - Not applicable: 13

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 57
   - Fewer: 129
   - Same: 167
   - More: 39
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 12

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 229 Support, 149 Oppose, 38 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 288 Support, 97 Oppose, 29 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 69 Support, 322 Oppose, 25 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a Door County landowner (southern Door) and one that manages our property for proper habitat and benefit to wildlife in general, I see a wide variety of opinions on how to manage DC's deer herd. Deer density here is no doubt higher than in some other parts of the state but numbers were definitely down in my local area last year. I base this on a number of factors, not just deer seen while hunting. Hunting pressure during firearms season is very high locally and moderate during bow season. I'm all for giving people more opportunities to hunt including continuing to allow crossbows during the general archery season. I say this as a person that does NOT hunt with a crossbow but know it to be an effective recruitment and retention tool. Participation numbers support that. Why are more deer harvested with crossbows than vertical bows? Because more people WANT to and are hunting with a crossbow. Why try to tell those people it's wrong? The firearms hunters that complain about bucks being harvested prior to the traditional 9-day firearm season also have the right to hunt with a crossbow. It's not a "them vs us" debate like some make it out to be. I am against lengthening the firearms season since I honestly do not feel it will accomplish the intended goal. Deer are thrown off of their normal patterns due to the pressure as is, lengthening the season will only prolong that and not increase the harvest significantly. The problem is that I like many other people, simply do not enjoy firearms hunting as much anymore. There's too much pressure which honestly lessens the enjoyment. Why do you think so many people are picking up a crossbow to hunt? More peaceful, more deer seen, more solitude, better weather, etc. This is a trend that will continue and the state needs to embrace it and continue to use it as an effective tool to reduce deer numbers. The reality is that firearms hunters numbers are declining and will continue to do so. Giving more firearms seasons (or lengthening season) will not reverse this trend. I personally would rather sit in a stand with a bow late season and hunt deer on their "natural patterns" than see less deer during a firearm season. It comes down to personal enjoyment. Giving out more doe tags than we have now will not increase the harvest. There is a limit on how many deer people are willing to shoot- period.
I live in Southern Door on 80 acres - 55 of which are young forest (planted 1997-98) and the remainder open. I want to preface my remarks with the observation that there are too many deer in southern Door. When the crops are off the fields it is not at all unusual to count up to a hundred whitetails picking thru bean field stubble. Furthermore, as a consequence of the severe deer browse there is no more natural forest regeneration. The understory has nothing either - just pine needs and dead leaves. Everything in reach is eaten. Deer this winter even began eating white spruce which is not on their A-list of winter browse. I also share that my wife and I have taken daily walks in our woods with our two Labs and in the last two weeks - with the snow gone - we've found the remains of three dead deer on our 80 acres. It's possible their were wounded deer that wandered over from a neighboring property and died here but there is no way to know for sure. We recover all the deer we kill and last year we killed 15 antlerless deer between the gun and bow season. No bucks. That's my rule. And we've been doing that on the same scale for three years running and haven't made dent in the herd. As for the deer carcasses we found this spring I'd sure hate to think those deer starved this winter as that disrespects the resource. Observations about the CDAC framework for 2020: The antlerless quota of 4000 is too low - but I 'get' that you have to set it there seeing it isn't attained anyway. Same for 5 bonus tags per license. That's two bucks (gun and bow) per hunter plus 10 antlerless deer. I've never know of any one hunter to kill 12 deer in a single season. The most for me is 3. What Southern Door needs to solve this runaway deer population is EAB - even if only once every three years. That would knock back the population and make for some mighty fine buck hunting the following year. Nobody likes EAB (including me) but sometimes you have to swallow some bitter medicine to make things healthy and in balance for the critters and the forest. The legislature needs some common biological sense. Unless something is done my grandchildren will not see a healthy forest when they become adults. Thank you for taking my views into consideration.

Please see my survey answers again but also please read what I have below. As a passionate deer hunter for many years of my life in Door County, I think it is time for there to be changes implemented for this upcoming deer season. I recommend looking into the state of Michigan's opening date and would like to see the state of Wisconsin, including Door County, to take this date into effect as well. I will make this claim now, because I do know that a bow hunter might make a counter argument to this and say that an earlier opening date would take time away from the rut; however, this would not be true. A November 15 opener would not affect bow hunters because if a bow hunter is hunting on private property, or property with permission, they can still use their bow/crossbow to hunt. Therefore, an earlier opening date for the deer hunting season would benefit all of us. Also, if there was ever a time to really look into implementing changes of the opening date, now would be the time to do so. With this current pandemic, now more than ever, there are many people in need of food. Let's give the families in need the chance to have the time they need to harvest a deer so their family can have food on their plates, food in their bellies, and food in their freezers. This will also help deer processing plants in the area make up for the decline of a season they had last year. Another suggestion I have is to make a 4 point antler rule. This would mean that we would not need to have an antlerless only season, but that there would need to be rules in place for those hunters wanting to harvest a buck. Again, now is the time to look into implementing changes such as these. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to state my additional comments.
I have hunted in Door County the past 3 seasons. I have scouted extensively prior picking a location to hunt. I have spoke to Josh at the DNR each year for recommendations. I apprecaite Josh's help. I havested a buck on Crop Law land in 2017. I saw 5 deer total opening weekend with 20 hours on stand in the woods. I did not see a single doe. I hunted near Bailys Harbor in 2018, I sat 20 hours on stand opening weekend and did not see a deer. I hunted Gardner Swamp in 2019. I visited 4 times prior the season, saw a fair amout of sign. I hunted 20 hours on stand, and did not see a deer. I hunted with two friends each year, and they did not see a deer in 2018 or 2019. I spoke with a local hunter, and he told me the land owners in door county support the 5-deer antlerless tags and holiday hunt. However, do not allow the harvest of does on their land. Let that sink in. Please stop your effort to kill so many does. I don't see the numbers one would expect if there were a large population of does. On another note. Please shorten the crossbow season, or shut it down during the bow season and open it only during the gun season. Requires little to no skill with first time users easily harvesting deer with little to no pratice. Just not right. Takes the fun out of it and low deer sitings discourage our kids from wanting to spend time in the woods not see anything after hours of hunting. Not helping the DNR's long term management objective. As us older hunters hang it up, going to be tough to maitain the number of hunters required to actually manage our dear popluation. How are license sales holding up? Thanks for taking time to read this.

I personally noticed an extreme decline in deer population from 2018 to 2019 in my local area. I spend hundreds of hours in the field every year both scouting and hunting. I did not harvest a deer last year in neither bow nor gun season. I must admit I did pass up a few good sized whitetails in early bow season. I live on Washington Island, which of course is included in the Door County management unit. I believe our population is very susceptible to over harvesting. I understand that separating Washington Island from the rest of the county would take some effort, but I believe this is very important. Mainland Door County has far more agriculture, natural browse and overall acreage than our small island. The hunting pressure here is increasing every year as the public land availability increases. Please consider separating Washington Island from the Door County management unit. During the 2018 gun season, a single hunting party of 7 hunters harvested 52 deer. I understand that mainland Door County as a whole can easily tolerate harvest numbers such as these. However, on our small island, it makes a huge impact. During these uncertain times, our deer population is more important than ever. It is extremely important for many of us to harvest deer to help feed our families. In order to help sustain our deer population for the future, please consider either separating Washington Island from the rest of Door County, or lowering the number of antlerless tags available to all hunters in the unit. Thank you for your consideration.

From the presentation it looks like hunters and seasons are doing well to properly manage the deer population, with a plateau and small decline over the past three years. I’m not sure why the CDAC recommends 4000 for a quota when 3500 is recommended, and a realistic kill is 2600 to 3500. If 3500 would give about 8-10% reduction, why even try for 4000, especially since it won't happen. I'm ok with getting 5 antlerless tags but I would at most use 2 maybe 3. Anything after 3 antlerless tags the return is diminished, why even have them. I'd be fine with the buck tag and 3 antlerless per license. Myself and most of the hunters I know seemed satisfied with their past season whether they shot bucks or does. The ones who weren't successful for rifle season seemed to attribute it more to weather and the late season this year limiting deer movement than anything else. If there are specific areas in the county where deer density is high, especially since we have 92% private land, then those landowners should find ways to harvest some of those deer. The public land kill is 10% on 8% of the landscape, so any forestry or gardening problems lie with the landowners and town ordinance, not the overall deer population. Car accidents hopefully also take into account the amount of traffic up here in recent years. Overall it seems that because deer populations are stable with a decline, we should just keep doing about the same as we've been doing. Put the quota around 3500 and don't make any significant changes. Thanks and enjoy the 2020 season.
Great Job Josh! Nice preso.  1. County is too large of a management unit. Data needs to be collected in southern, northern, Washington Island / Detroit Island, and rock island separately. There’s no way to manage one size fits all here.  2. With proper data, locally specific programs can be implemented to align deer populations with habitat. Locally specific quotas seasons and requirements can be implemented.  3. Earn-a-buck program should be introduced county wide to get the antlerless numbers in check.  4. When a hunter purchases his or her gun tag, they should be given the option to purchase an archery tag. If bought at the same time, the gun tag should be available for an archery kill provided 1) antlerless deer has been previously registered, 2) archery buck tag has been filled, 3) 2nd archery kill has 4 pts or more on one side and an inside spread of 14”, 4) animal killed with archery gear. Basically a gun tag should be an archers second buck tag for a season. With such an arrangement, land managers can fill both tags in archery season and use the 9 day gun season as a doe harvest. Again, guys can get after it killing does. Most guys let ‘em walk bc they don’t want to ruin their buck opportunity.  5. County wide antler point restrictions should be put in place. Only relief should be to register second doe (assumes earn a buck).  6. Bow hunting should remain open all season and extended late season. I think josh has the numbers right.

My recommendation is to simplify the statewide seasons and have minor additions to the statewide plan within each county. I have hunted many other states for deer, and by far, Wisconsin is the most backwards, confusing season and regulation setup. Season Dates: Archery: Sept 1-Dec 31 Rifle: Same 9 day as always (around Nov 20-Thanksgiving) Muzzleloader: Dec 1- Dec 31 ** Archery runs through rifle and muzzleloader season, must wear orange. ** Archery means Archery. If you use a crossbow, recurve, longbow, or compound it is considered Archery. **Muzzleloader is a separate tag than rifle season. Encourages MANY more hunters to take to the woods and is a time when "real" land managers would harvest does to knock down numbers. Also adds additional revenue to DNR with purchase of Muzzleloader tag ** Double the price for non-residents hunting Wisconsin. Most states are $400+ for non-residents, no reason we are half that. DO Not: ** Do not split archery season for crossbow hunters, that makes no sense. ** Do not extend the rifle season to a longer season, most hunters are burned out after 10 days, the deer don't move until midnight. You will not get more hunters or deer harvested by extending the season. Having a month long muzzleloader season will add harvests and hunters. ** Do not add "holiday hunts" and other hunts to interrupt the seasons. In general, PLEASE keep it simple.

I live in Jacksonport, and in my opinion there are far fewer deer in northern door county. To me there’s no reason at all to offer 5 doe tags for each buck tag. This past year was far less enjoyable, because I saw far fewer deer, which resulted in less harvest opportunities. People like to see deer when they’re hunting plain and simple. I suggest only offering 2 doe tags with your buck tag in northern door county. This way you still allow people to have the opportunity to harvest multiple deer, but also this will let the deer numbers rebound a bit. I don’t think there should be a holiday hunt, or extended bow season. Deer season literally starts in September. With more crossbow hunters now, and your typical gun seasons, that’s more than enough time if you’re motivated to shoot a deer. The deer have it hard enough to be hunted till February. I’m a coyote hunter with hounds, and these late hunting seasons put us in a bind, when all we’re trying to do is manage the coyote population. I suggest ending bow season on December 31. It’s more than enough time to shoot a deer. Also all of these late season doe hunts are not a favorite topic, because it doesn’t allow late season bow hunters much of a chance to kill a late season buck. It’s one of the best times to do so. In recap, I suggest only 2 doe tags, no late season doe hunts, and no extended archery season.
If Wisconsin wants to be serious about CWD, there should be a statewide ban on baiting AND feeding and Door County would be included. It should be the #1 focus of every CDAC and if it’s the right thing to do once there is a positive CWD case, why not be proactive and implement a ban before we have CWD issue? Secondly, in the CDAC video for Door County, the biologist mentions that the DNR expected the kill to drop due to a later opener. If so, why didn’t their season harvest expectations reflect that? Seems contradictory that they knew all along that the kill would be down but their communications of expected harvest going into the fall was much higher (even leading right up to Opening Weekend of gun season). Lastly, hunter behavior is changing given age demographics and amount of time hunters commit throughout a season. Too much effort is being put into crafting changes to the season structure. Especially in a unit that is consistently determined to be a “Decrease” unit, let people hunt when they can with the weapon they choose. Seems odd that there is concern about killing too many deer in October and November but then we have to extend the season through January just to kill an extra 100 deer? Thanks to the CDAC Committee for volunteering your time and energy.

I recently listened in on the last door county deer advisory meeting and was surprised there wasn’t greater overall support for the extended archery season from the members. Members seemed to dismiss the effectiveness of the season due to low harvest numbers. Myself and others in the county were faced with some of the most severe weather conditions possible as the polar vortex hit Wisconsin that January. Temperatures were consistently 20 below zero and made hunting almost impossible the second half of the month. The numbers the one year we had the extended hunt are skewed due unhuntable conditions. The extended archery season should be allowed at least one more year to get a true and accurate estimate at the effectiveness of this management tool. Was very disappointed that multiple members were influenced by county coyote hunters. You are members of a board making decisions on deer, not coyotes. We simply have too many deer and the board recognized that. Why wouldn’t we use every management tool we have?

Over the last 4 decades I have witnessed an overall increase in the Door County deer population. Two days ago we went for a drive around the neighborhood block we counted 48 deer. And that was seeing no deer in the fields that the day before we counted 18. So, more and more deer in the Spring, Summer, and early Fall while enjoying our evening bike rides starting about 30 minutes before dark. Last fall while bowing at the start of the rut I observed as many as 7 deer under my stand at any one time. A couple of days later the problem started as it has the past couple of years. The War Starts with everyone and his brothers and sisters sighting in their deer rifles for days on end. And after about 3 days of this the vast majority of the deer herd goes into hiding and does not show themselves until after muzzle loading season is over. There would be plenty of deer for all hunters if sighting in deer rifles was prohibited from Sept 1 – Dec 1 on all lands except for at established gun clubs and rifle ranges.

There were fewer deer in our local area of southern Door County this past year. Still a fair number but fewer than the past few years for certain. Everyone gets 5 antlerless tags already, what good is issuing more bonus tags? How many people are shooting 5 or more antlerless deer? Extending the rifle season will not increase harvest to the extent that some think. Deer movement is so disrupted from opening weekend that success rate (not to mention participation) is diminished greatly. Crossbow usage and success is increasing so embrace it. People are hunting with crossbows because they want to - plain and simple. Rifle season is more about strategizing where deer movement will be due to the pressure and activity on neighboring property not about patterning normal deer movement. That’s partially the reason for reduced rifle license sales and increased crossbow license sales. Rifle season is not as enjoyable as it used to be. Adapt and adjust to the change in preferences in hunting styles.
We as outdoorsmen have to find it within ourselves to harvest more deer. Issuing a greater number of antlerless tags is not effectively addressing the problem, as most of them go unused during the season. The legislature took “earn a buck” away from us, but we also have to think about a one (1) buck rule like the State of Pennsylvania uses (1 legal buck per season with either a bow or gun). This will inevitably move more hunters to harvest more antlerless deer. Our legislature is failing us in regards to CWD management. Ignoring it, will not make it go away. We seriously have to impose tighter restrictions on the transportation of carcasses and live deer (deer farms) from neighboring CWD positive counties. If we value our wild deer hunting heritage, we have to take tough measures to get the population goals back in balance. CWD is just waiting to make its ugly presence in the Door Peninsula. We need to return the authority to our science‐based DNR, to manage our wildlife and forests.

Door county as a whole needs to split into two zones. You can’t compare the two. The deer population is much different between little sturgeon and sister bay. You guys really gotta see the brighter picture. You allow five doe tags per season buck tag purchased your allowing people to no longer have a need to distinguish between young and mature animals. If you guys would spend more time opening weekend of gun season driving around seeing the number of fawns and small does taken off public land in northern door county then you’d see where the idiotic, unrealistic quotas are coming from. The deer population is decreasing so rapidly with in the past five years up here it won’t be able to take much more beatings. You’re lucky to see 20 deer going for a two hour show from sisterbay to gills rock. And even seeing 20 deer those numbers are still 1-3 deer groupings. Split dc into two zones and end this constant debate between too many and not enough deer. It’s a simple concept.

I would be in favor of the Holiday Hunt with Anterless for gun and Either Sex hunt for Archery. I think the January extended hunt provides very limited results where if you allow the hunters to better utilize that Holiday week you would see more results. I also think many Archery hunters stay away during this time because they do not have the option of trying to fill an unused buck tag. I see no downside. Also, you need separate to limit the crossbow season. It is undercutting the Archery season. I think you could add it to the gun season and musklauder season holiday hunt and still have similar results. Or revert back to a age limit to use a crossbow. I have lived and hunted in Door County for 45 years. You need to break the county up into a northern and southern zone. You are right the population differs in each area. The one county approach does not fit well in this county because populations vary a lot between north and south.

I have owned 32 acres for 23 years I purchase specifically for deer hunting only with my immediate family so we could hunt safe. Last season I saw zero deer during bow season, zero deer during gun season, zero deer during muzzleloader season and zero deer during the extended season. Not even road kills along my property. This is the first year I was unable to see any at all, while sitting in stand or “snooch” hunting. Barely saw a squirrel. I am totally disgusted with the inability to accurately provide honest numbers. I usually buy a conservation patrons license but for the first time ever I have not purchased this years license as my disgust will probably result in only buying a fishing and sturgeon spearing license this year. FYI I also bow hunt in Waukesha county. My experience is very similar there to what I experience in 80B. It’s too bad. A tradition is dying really fast in this state.

Extending archery season is nice to have extra time to harvest deer, however the likelihood of a buck that has shed his antlers of being harvested as doe is too much of a risk factor. I am also very concerned about the lack of registration stations and how accurate the data actually is, not to mention the ease at which a hunter may just plain not ”call in” a harvested animal. Between the youth gun hunt in October (which I think is GREAT for young hunters AS LONG AS it is being conducted properly: I do not agree with a group of adults taking a few kids into the woods and DRIVING deer to them potentially taking running shots is what this hunt is intended for, take the young hunter to a stand and sit!! This is on the mentors/adults, not the DNR, but it would be nice if there could be some sort of restrictions.) There is a T Zone hunt and the Holiday Hunt, the latter is just not worth it!
2624 I have seen fewer deer every year I hunt. Used to see a lot of during during a sit but now can not see one during a sit. I don’t see any deer mortality on the 140 acres I hunt. I still think our numbers by us never recovered since the EAB and with crop damage. I also believe that archery hunters put the most time in the woods and would harvest more deer if we could actually get out in the month of December. Gun season is fine the way it is but then there is muzzleloader then doe hunt then holiday hunt which doesn’t leave much time in December for archery. I also enjoy the years that gun season is late because in the next years we have seen more and bigger bucks when their not all shot during the rut. If gun season is changed and permanently moved earlier people would be happy for a bit but then the buck population would go down and deer wouldn’t be able to mature.

2625 I understand the idea of lowering the population in our county, but i think the goals needs to be reachable. Our 2020 doe harvest is not even close to being reachable, when we see a number like 4,000 does, that is almost the same number as total deer shot in 2019. they can keep giving us more and more tags but i think the public has showed we still are not going to shoot more deer than what we need. also i am against the extended bow season, as weather gets worse less and less hunters are in the woods getting after deer. this cuts into winter hunting opportunities and activities. and as a hunter we already have around 111 days to hunt deer, if anyone is our county can not harvest the deer in that amount of time does anyone really believe they are going to do it come January? thanks for your time and everyone stay safe

2626 I have hunted in Door county for couple years now and seen more deer in the area than ever. I also hunt brown and outagamie county and also out in north and south Dakota, I can say door county has more deer in square mile than these other areas. Reasons for low count is blue tongue, extreme weather Ndfood starvation. I understand door county has a deer problem, and the state is proposing a extended gun hunt to bring in more revenue. I would recommend we have our regular 9 day gun hunt, however have another gun hunt during the holidays open for Bothell anterless and antler. This would be perfect for families coming home from different states, college or more free time from work. I also think we should have more buck management, don't shoot anything 6 points or less. I would also recommend extending the archery season.

2627 I hunt in the northern half of Door County on private land. My observations reflect the data presented in the video, that there are probably more deer in the southern half of the county. However, over the last four years, I have seen fewer deer in each successive year, and with the late opener and bad weather this past season, I did not see a deer during legal shooting hours, despite having spent more time hunting than in prior years. Also, having also participated in the Holiday Hunt, with better weather than during the 9 day gun hunt, while I did not see a deer, I observed plentiful tracks, leading me to believe there are deer in the area I hunt, but by Christmas time and probably shortly after opening weekend of the 9 day gun season, most of the deer activity is at night, after shooting hours.

2628 Very concerned with the amount of bucks taken by bow/crossbow hunters prior to the gun season. Every year the bow hunters in our area seem to get some of the bigger bucks before gun season and by the time gun season comes around a lot of the bucks are harder to find. I also believe we are beginning to see the affect of wolves in our area on the deer herds. I also gun hunt in another northern county and have done so for 35 years. When I first started hunting that county there were plenty of deer (bucks and does). After numerous years of promoting doe tags and then combined with the increase in size of the wolf population, the deer population took a real hit. Lucky if I see 6 -10 deer over a 7 day period, hunting from sun up to sun down. Sure hope that isn't the goal for Door County.
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<td>2629</td>
<td>I do not believe in a 19 day gun hunt for Wisconsin as opening weekend has the greatest population of hunters afield and as the season goes thanksgiving holds the next best population to hit the woods by week end there is few and far between for hunters afield. I only prefer a 9 day hunt. Also I do not agree with no crossbows in the month of Nov. I do not know the percent of archery hunters that also gun hunt as compared to the number that only gun hunt but stopping the crossbow hunters in Nov. makes no sense to me. As I personally see it I would not take a shot with my crossbow that I would take with compound bow. I do not see an unfair advantage that I have heard seems to be an issue with compound and gun hunters.</td>
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<td>2630</td>
<td>I have hunted WI since 1975 and have been successful for many years, but one thing I’ve often hoped for is an extended season; instead of a 9-day season, make it a 16-day season, and maybe cut the number of antlerless tags available by 1/3 (or not). That way, hunters have a longer time available to hunt and if weather is bad, you don’t have to issue a “special” longer hunt. It accommodates work schedules, as well as giving hunters more time to attain their deer. I moved to Indiana in 2012 and enjoy the 16-days available to hunt. It also allows me time to hunt both states, which I’m sure many other hunters do as well. I miss Wisconsin very much, but feel more states should adopt similar schedules and rules. Thank you.</td>
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<td>2631</td>
<td>What are concerns for Covid-19 virus contamination to deer population and other animals? Will this affect deer herds? If so, what are safety recommendations? Is or will there be treatment for deer herds? Dairy cattle are currently treated for virus, will this treatment work on deer? Many concerns exist with venison meat consumption and safety hazard to human transmission of virus. Are current studies underway to provide answers? If so, what are studies? Any information that can be provided very important to hunts ahead. Will the hunts occur if deer or other animals affected with virus becomes present? What are long-term outcomes of populations? Has Federal funding been requested to study? Let’s of work ahead…</td>
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<td>2632</td>
<td>I mostly provided input to SUPPORT the recommendation of passing the extended archery hunt. I mostly hunt here during late/extended season when marshland and swamps are hopefully accessible and hunting pressure is lower. Without the extended season last year I spent much less time here and did not kill an antlerless deer, which I did the year prior when extended archery season was available. I likely would have harvested an antlerless deer late had it been available. Therefore I am hoping the extended season is passed as proposed this year so I can get back to harvesting deer where they are moving earlier at this point in the season as the hunting pressure is lower on them. Thanks for your work.</td>
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<td>2633</td>
<td>If you want the deer population reduced, the ONLY way to get this done is to open the gun season a week earlier and run it two weeks. All of these after season openings is an absolute joke and VERY few hunt these specialized seasons. I’m tired of hearing people complain about crossbows and that we shouldn’t allow the opening of the gun season earlier due to tradition. You DONOT need a masters degree and spend months and months studying spread sheets to figure this out. USE COMMON SENSE!! Also, if the season was opened a week earlier, all our WI residents traveling to MI to hunt would stay home.</td>
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<td>2634</td>
<td>As a northern door county resident and deer hunter I have seen the number of deer go down when I first started hunting I would see deer every time I went out now I only see maybe the same 4-5 deer all season. South of sturgeon bay the deer Hurd is doing very well if anything there is too many but north of the bridge There is not that many. Many of my friends and family refuse to take a doe to try and make the Hurd come back to where it was 10+ years ago. If anything I would like to see door county split into 2 zones to help the deer numbers come back to northern door. buck only with an option for hunter’s choice no extra or free doe tags thanks.</td>
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<td>2635</td>
<td>There were multiple instances in the video where the visual showed at decrease but the audio used the words plateau/maintain, clearly there was actually a decrease. Also, there was a moment where the audio said we do not have the evidence to support that yet there is a 5 free private land doe tags given out for both rifle and bow. If there isn’t evidence to support that decision something needs to be re-evaluated. I’ve hunted northern door county for 15 years and 2019 was by far the least amount of deer I’ve seen. Even back when your graphs show 08-2010 being very low deer numbers I had more deer sightings then than in 2019.</td>
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2636 The goal in this DMU is to decrease deer population. At the CDAC initial meeting - while the extended bow season was supported - support was tepid at best. AT least one CDAC member voted for the extended season "just to put it out there". Last year - antlerless only was put out - knowing it would not happen - and then the extended bow season was not used. What sense did that make? Coyote hunting and snowmobiling being disrupted by a few bow hunters?? That was an excuse - not a reason. The CDAC should use every tool available short of antlerless only to bring the deer population down - INCLUDING the extended bow season.

2637 The reason I gave no opinion on some, was not that I don't agree with reducing antlerless deer, but the only way it is going to happen with a limited earn-a-buck season. At tops, 2 years. The last time the DNR implemented this, it went on way too long and then it was permanently stopped by the legislature. However, if the DNR had not pushed this for such a great length of time, it was a great tool for reducing antlerless deer herds. You can hand out as many antlerless tags as you want, but this is not going to change habits. Lobby the legislature and governor for more control, and use common sense this time.

2638 please do not push for extending archery season, into jan please let winter sportsman enjoy their limited time in the outdoors too such as hound hunters that need access to private property to pursue the sport with out bumpin into bow hunters that already hunt 4 months of the year? another thought to consider is some sort of a kick back to hunters that shoot antlerless deer and donate them. as we put in all the time to pursue, kill, register, gut, drag out, transport, a lot more would be harvested this way and are numbers would be solved!!! thanks for your considerations,

2639 As a new hunter I'm curious if there would be a way to have a tag be transferable to other DMU's? For those of us who have to travel, if we don't harvest in one area but have the option to hunt in another, closer area, it would be great to have a tag (or portions of a tag) be transferable if the area where the tags were not purchased had enough deer population to support it. I would not support this if it put undo pressures on a population and fully understand that part of hunting is the chance that you won't get one (which is part of what makes it exciting).

2640 1. Hunters I know only take the number of deer they can use 12 tags-2 deer 2. Washington Island and my property are extremely over browsed 3. Perhaps coincidental but 2 deer with mange have been reported on Wash. Is. 4. Weather plays a big role in harvest and hunting effort on the island 5. Earn a buck should be reinstated 6. Doe only in my opinion would result in less harvest and hunting effort 7. I hunt mainly for does (venison not antlers) 8. Societal pressure for big antlers should be diminished through education

2641 Door County should be broken into two zones (one south of Egg Harbor-lots of farmland and one north of Egg Harbor (not much farmland, lots of posted property). It is not accurate to measure this county as one due to the size and differences in land use. Holiday hunts in Northern Door are not the best with all the tourist. There should be strong consideration to move the gun hunt up one week so it doesn't go over the Thanksgiving weekend due to the number of tourist in Northern Door at that time of year.

2642 Seems to me if you want to knock down the deer pop, why not open gun season say from end of oct till quota is met like sturgeon spearing, that way everyone has a chance to hunt in nicer weather. Holiday hunts in Northern Door are not the best with all the tourist. There should be strong consideration to move the gun hunt up one week so it doesn't go over the Thanksgiving weekend.

2643 I'll be honest, I'm just a passionate hunter and have little knowledge on what's best for deer and deer hunting other than just some personal/anecdotal observations. If you feel your data is good and you know what's best for long term hunting opportunity, the herd, and growing big bucks act on it! I'll support your decisions. If there's something you think can be done to encourage people to pass on shooting younger bucks in the hopes they grow big and old I'd support that too. Thanks!
I am a land owner in Southern Door County. The 2019 gun season was by far the worst I have had due to only seeing one doe during gun and black powder. Prior years have seen numbers of 20 deer daily. I feel numbers are down and with the other special hunts added, the deer have become nocturnal. I have owned the same 40 acres since 2011 and continue to add more food plots and fruit trees each year for the local deer herd. But again I feel we have a large decline in our population.

I would like to see the main gun season run concurrently with muzzloader...then when its it's done. These wait a week have another doe hunt, holiday ext makes it an impossible task to late season bow hunt...which when I bought my property was what I looked forward to as I had zero time to hunt during normal bow season...I liked it when they extended it through the month of January...a trip to up and a polar vortex made it unsuccessful, but at least the opportunity was there.

I very much believe that the Door peninsula needs to be split into 2 separate zones. I very much understand the reasoning for the higher quotas in central-southern Door, but those high quotas are destroying the herds in northern Door. Hunting has lost its appeal due to the terrible herd numbers. It's become a waste of time to me. It’s nothing like it was when I started hunting as a boy and that’s discouraging. Please, I beg you to listen to the hunters in northern Door.

1. Heck no don't extend the darn archery season. Modern crossbows give that group an unfair advantage in having the choice time slot to hunt the rut, they also have fall food that promotes deer movement. Gun hunters are left with the 'pickens.' 3 1/2 months is a long enough archery season. 2. If you insist on extending the archery season, how about gun hunters get an early November, 4-day hunt? You want deer down, that'd help. 3. Issue more Crop damage tags.

Stop wasting everyone's time with the 5 tags; total nonsense. Although we should eliminate the free tags altogether statewide and make everyone pay their $12, five is obnoxious and a waste of paper. Harvest is no where close the quota so clearly printing tags isn't doing anything. Enough please, 1 or 2 free tags or better yet, just make them non-free bonus. I've spent thousands on my equipment and thousands on property taxes every year; $12 isn't too much to ask.

DNR should consider adjusting gun season Last year was too late in the rut. I didn't see a deer in the woods the whole season And when questioned about low harvest on opening day the DNR spokesman didn't have a clue what had caused it The CDAC were idiots for not allowing the extended january hunt Some concern about not needing as many deer thinned in Northern Door. Could create a metro type unit to the south with different harvest numbers if needed.

I have hunted deer for about a decade in the central part of the Peninsula on a small parcel of private land and occasionally on public land or land open to public access. Starting in 2017 I began placing trail cameras on my land and in the areas I hunt on public land. They are showing fewer and fewer deer (most notably bucks) year-to-year. I hear fewer shots during the gun-deer season and don't see the quantity of sign and sightings as I used to.

I agree with the management you are requesting to decrease the deer population. My hunting the last few years have been impacted by the amount of turkeys in the area I hunt. They make a lot of noise when you are walking to your area of hunt. I think that the management of turkeys effect the hunting of deer. Is there any talk about how to decrease the turkey population? I believe there should be an open season to control the population. Thank you.

Crossbow hunting has ruined the deer gun season and is the reason why you have a decrease in gun hunters. Deer aren’t moving during hunting hours like they once did because of the increased hunting pressure with all these additional deer hunting seasons. Also, there isn’t any need to put additional winter stress on these animals with your extended January season since there is an overpopulation of coyotes already running them.
2653 I am in favor of the earn a buck program and doe only season to get the buck to doe ratio improved. As a deer hunter in Door County I am more interested in improving the quality of the buck population and would like to see larger antlered animals. Here is my solution for the future to control deer numbers and increase the buck age, have a doe only season every other year in Door County. Simple and easy. Thank you for your time.

2654 despite the numbers reported by DNR, I see very few deer on stand. I really only see deer when I walk Consider adding a bonus buck to each license- It might keep people in the woods I tagged 3 antlerless and one antlered deer last year- I would have had more incentive to go out again if there was the possibility of taking an additional buck and I would be more inclined to take a shot at a possible spike/antlerless.

2655 I believe the holiday antler-less is a great season in Door County. It is a good way to bond as a family. Our family has begun a tradition of doing a few Christmas Day deer drives. It is a good way to get everyone involved even if they don’t want to shoot a gun. Our antler-less numbers are high and we are given plenty of tags so this would help decrease the antler-less population. Thank you for considering my input!

2656 I feel there should be most consistency in the gun season. The 2019 season was late and the results showed that the harvest was down. This was the worse time I had hunting in Door County in 3 years. I recommend starting the season the weekend after the 15th of November. This will hopefully get the hunt more in line with the rut. I also recommend halting bow season the week before gun season starts.

2657 I feel we should bring back earn-a-buck for only two seasons then hold off and see what the numbers look like, also having a minimum of 4 points to a side for bucks allows the small bucks to mature and breed, let’s face it, most hunters want to shoot monster bucks or a mature buck, earn a buck gave us that, it just went to long and to many years in a row which pissed people off. That’s my opinion.

2658 I think your over harvesting the deer in Door County. I was a farmer for many years in this county, and I put up with a little deer damage, because I liked seeing a few deer year round not just in the deer season. I also think if you thin the deer out too much you will be discouraging our young generation from hunting. It's going to be hard to get them interested, if the don't see anything.

2659 Door County should be split into 3 zones like it once was (South of Sturgeon Bay, North of Sturgeon Bay, and Washington/Surrounding Islands). The frame work and harvest quotas for all of Door County seem to be based on the southern Door County herd, not northern Door. I don't agree with this approach. I hunt in northern Door. I’d rather have earn-a-buck than doe only.

2660 I believe hunters who would like to purchase extra permits should be able to. I do not think the herd is a problem, and I hunt in a “hot spot.” I put in a lot of hours in the woods this past deer seasons and most days I saw the same 3 deer and only those same 3 deer where 3 years ago I would see 6-9 deer every time out. I do not think more permits or antlerless tags are warranted.

2661 In my 30 years of living in and hunting Door County, I have never seen so few deer. I think we over harvested deer during the EAB years and Northern Door County has not recovered because we continue to have liberal (5) doe tags issued with each archery and each gun licence. The deer population in the north simply is not high enough to support such a radical management objective.

2662 For the farm owners/land owners that are complaining about deer damage, please tell them to open their land to hunters. There are plenty of hunters in door county that simply can not find a place to hunt and would be happy to harvest deer off their land. Also with holiday hunts, don’t shut down antlered bow season. Almost 3-4 weeks of bow antlered hunting has been taken away.

2663 The youth hunt needs to change, these kids are out there at the best time to hunt. Too many of them shoot their buck of a dream and they turn into trophy hunters, I hear it at every deer camp, these kids are passing up really nice bucks. We were always happy to shoot a buck. Don’t know the answer, it really Frustrates me when I hear these kids talk about trophy hunting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2664</td>
<td>Personally our group continues to see less deer, back in the early 1990's our group would pass deer up because we would see numerous deer and were selective and usually had our tags full by opening weekend of the gun season. Currently our group is lucky to see 10 deer total in the 9 day deer season and do not hunt for the Holiday hunt because lack of deer sightings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2665</td>
<td>A earlier gun season or extended season would bring harvest numbers up. We also need to bring registration sites back!! Their are a lot of people not registering deer online in spite of new system or registering same deer several times. We all miss the comerotory of showing our deer off and supporting our local businesses!!! I support Jan 31st extended bow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2666</td>
<td>While a late season likely contributed, lack of access to land is also a major issue. I hunt with a part of about 12 people, and the amount of deer seen by this group is substantially lower than expected, and has been every year for the past five years or more. It is hard to justify taking more antlerless deer when, as a group, we see less than 30 per season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2667</td>
<td>I feel that Door County needs to be put into two separate zones. My reasoning is that there is definitely more farmland from Southern Door than Northern Door. In Northern Door, they have more woodland habitat area for the deer without as many crop damage concerns. You should consider a survey of people (hunters) from Jacksonport to Gills Rock...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2668</td>
<td>NO Late season bow/cross bow season! All your doing is pissing people off that want to coyote hunt, snowmobile, small game hunt at this time of year! No one is out trying to shoot a doe, freezing the butt off at this time a year, there out there to try and shoot a big buck off a bait pile!!! We have a long enough season already to shoot deer!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2669</td>
<td>I think earnabuck is the only way to do it end all the special hunts..... youth holiday move muzzle loader to dec 26 to jan 31 with late bow better harvest when things settle down not so nocturnal muzzle so close to gun has little impact think about it.you cant get hunters to hunt 9 days spread it out later muzzle and bow would help latter!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2670</td>
<td>January hunt a total waste of time . almost 30 days of gun / muzzle loader more than enough you only need a 2 or 3 days of hunting pressure to make them nocturnal trail camera shows deer coming out to feed on fields at1;30 am back in heavy cover by 3;30 4;00 am the snow mobile trails across my land will remain closed till deer season is over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2671</td>
<td>Deer and other wildlife management is an issue because we are taking away the land they have to roam and survive on. We are invading their space as we take more roaming land away from them. Yes we do need to maintain their population but not diminish it to the point where there are no deer and other wildlife around for the hunter’s pleasure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2672</td>
<td>During the 9 day hunt in Jacksonport township we say 1 deer we could shoot at in 9 days gun and during the entire bow season. By October the deer are nocturnal. We need more hunters and or access to private land. No one is moving the deer around. We heard shooting day 1 of gun season and about 10 shots the entire rest of the season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2673</td>
<td>This unit needs to be divided in half somewhere around county WD between Valmy and Carlsville. The land and deer populations are vastly different between southern and northern Door Country. The only way to scientifically manage this county is to divide it accordingly. Then people who live here will respect the decisions and outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2674</td>
<td>I think there should be a look into separating door county into a Northern and southern zone because I hunt the northern zone and see very few deer and don’t understand why we need to be giving out so many antlerless tags and he even talks about in the video how there is more deer in the southern part of the county then the north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2675</td>
<td>I would like to see the youth hunt be doe only If you want numbers down start there and I was told it would be to hard for them to identify a buck or a doe if that’s the case they shouldn’t be hunting or once they harvest a buck they should be considered a full fledged hunter and no more youth hunting or doe only for them.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Would not like to see an extended archery season in January due to the fact of other winter enthusiast recreating such as hound hunting can’t kill in 4 months why make winter activities all about deer hunting sure turns stomachs about are cdac not listening to other winter sportsman trying too enjoy such a limited opportunity.

Please strongly consider lowering the price of hunting licenses for non-residents that are hunting on land owned by immediate family. Prices should be comparable to resident hunting licenses. I hunt exclusively on my family’s property, and sadly I spend too much money each year to keep the tradition alive for my family.

Every hunting parcel is different and I don’t think someone behind a desk should make a decision for everyone. Let the season be what it was and get rid of the stupid holiday hunt that only stresses the herd. If you haven’t gotten your meat by the end of normal season I think you should take a look at the way you hunt.

Please extend the Archery/Crossbow season to Jan 31. Last year it was not extended yet they wanted more deer harvested. The does I harvested the previous January season were both pregnant so you really are getting 2 for deer harvested. What is the downside of extending the season when there is self registration?

The deer herd is larger in the winter by our land, because of yarding in my area, but thin out considerably when Spring comes and the herd disperse’s and numbers are far fewer. This may not give an accurate account of deer numbers to the DNR where we hunt. Thank you for the survey and allowing us to participate!

Not real fond of the online registration. That has hurt local businesses across the state and where I hunt and own a home on Washington Island it was always a tradition to see at the registration station what was shot for the day and who got what. We don’t even know how many deer were shot on the island.

While I support the present Deer season as it stands, the one problem I see with it is that many of the hunters I know are buck only shooters and won’t harvest antlerless deer. The other issue I see is that a majority of the deer hunters are from the baby boomers and our group is getting older and smaller.

Speaking as someone who works at a processing facility during deer season. I saw more spikes, button bucks, and yearling bucks than I did does and adult bucks combined. I believe if we want to allow the bucks to grow and to keep the population down, we need to have at least one antlerless only season.

Door County should be divided into 2 or 3 management units to better control the units population. The population is higher in the southern half of the county vs. the northern half. The county can go back to multiple management units like it used to be. This is practiced in other counties in the state.

Some of the problem with the population of antler less deer in Door County is the people that own private land. They say that they want to have the antler less deer decreased, but will not shoot the antler less deer on their own property. Those land owners want everyone else to solve the problem.

Instead of having all these long seasons, the deer gun season should be shorter and people would shoot more deer knowing that they don’t have 30ish days to shoot a buck or doe, they would shoot the first thing that comes through and I feel more deer would be harvested knowing the season is shorter.

I think Washington Island should be a separate management unit. It’s clearly a separate herd/population from the rest of the county and should be managed as such. It would seem to be easy enough during the online game registration process to indicate whether a deer was harvested on Wash. Island.

When people complain about their plants being eaten yet post their property. Shouldn’t be considered in planning. They should be told to allow a few people hunt to pressure deer to move. Tired of implants claiming its their county. Pressure moves deer so can be shot. It worked years ago.

If the county of Door moves toward an antlerless hunt exclusively I will cease to hunt deer until such time as an antler hunt returns. I believe if an antlerless hunt only is enacted there will be overwhelmingly less hunters as a whole and will drastically impact Door county economically.
Split the zone. A lot more deer south of sturgeon bay. I hunt north and owned land for 20 years. The deer numbers are not there. We had the same two family group on our property for years. We are not over crowded or over browsed. Don’t agree with the DNR findings or inventory methods.

I think it is important to note that 5 extra antlerless tags for DOOR County may be too many. The last 3 years straight I’ve been seeing less and less deer. Perhaps dropping the additional tags down to 3 or 4 would be appropriate and allow more hunters the chance to get a deer.

I would like to see another week added to the regular week. I have interruptions during the regular season or weather too bad to go out in frequently which cuts down on my time on post. A lot of times I see deer in the same place I hunted the week before/after season.

I believe northern and Southern Door County are extremely different. There seems to be much more farmland in the south, and a lot less deer in the North. I am sure there are other counties that have similar differences, but it seems to be magnified in Door County.

Deer population in door county are more normatic, they travel farther and in large groups so one day may see many deer and then several before you see any again. Orchard crop damage or car collisions should not be the driving force in harvest quotas.

Make Washington, Plum, Rock, and Detroit Islands a separate unit for herd measurement purposes as the "islands" unit are completely separate from County herd and harvest data should be tracked for management purposes for a host of good reasons.

Leave the Does alone. Work to create big bucks. Ignore tourist and tree huggers. This is our sport and freedom. We have this right.

If you want to cut down the number of deer, have a 15 day hunt like Michigan has. It could start on the 15th and go through the 30 of Nov. and you would hit the rut in it's prime. Last year the rut was over by the time the season started.

Stop messing with the traditions of deer hunting and you might start getting more hunters again! All of the dramatic changes is what caused the huge decrease in the number of hunters today so learn from these mistakes before it’s to late!

We should have an “earn a buck” program like in the past. In order to shoot a buck a hunter would be required to shoot an antlerless deer and register it IN PERSON to avoid any fraudulent or false registrations online or over the phone.

As a 78 year old hunter, I waited until I was 65 years old to use a cross-bow. Now I need to pay an extra $3 to use it. I do not think this is right. Please consider the older generation when making these decisions.

Stop giving out 5 doe permits. If you feel the absolute need, then one is plenty. The herd needs to rebuild. You have to not turn the sport of hunting into the sport of killing. That’s the way I feel about the current hunting situation.

The mentoring hunters needs to go away because to many people are following the rules and the kids aren’t even shooting the animals and also the gun deer season should be two weeks with rifle and that it should start a week earlier.

North of Sturgeon Bay, Door County should NOT be considered "Central Farmland." It has vast tracts of forest and marshland and NOT VERY MANY DEER. I have GLIMPSED a total of THREE deer (total) during the last two deer-gun seasons.

Our council member is not good for Door County. He’s selfish for his own agenda, and most people don’t like him. Please get another council member that is logical and and working/supporting for all our deer hunters in Door County.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2705</td>
<td>WDNR wants to increase deer kill to decrease the population. Ever since going to an online registration, registration of deer kill is down and it’s not coincidence. Having the 9 day gun deer season so late doesn’t help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2706</td>
<td>I believe all citizens over 65 should be able to hunt the same time as the youth hunt when climate is better. I also believe the rifle season should always open on November 15 every year just like Michigan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2707</td>
<td>95% of my hunting is done on public land. I would like to see a limit of 2 antlerless deer on public land. The farm fields seem to have plenty of deer but the deer are few and far between on public land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2708</td>
<td>Loses land and large tracts of private have made it difficult to manage the herd. Create incentives for non hunting owners to open up that property for hunting. Not easy I know, but I think doable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2709</td>
<td>In prior years, summer/fall, would usually see several sets of does with fawns. 2019 only saw one doe with twins which was unusual. There are more coyotes around, which we hear but not see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2710</td>
<td>Would like to see the county separated north to south, perhaps north of I or V in northern Door, as there are significantly fewer deer in northern Door vs. south of that approximate area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2711</td>
<td>Yes deer numbers should drop. But you can not force it on the hunters like earn a buck. The best way to do this to educate the hunter as to why they shoot does.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2712</td>
<td>I would like to see a gun deer hunt season beginning the Saturday closest to November 15 each year and continuing through at least Thanksgiving day each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2713</td>
<td>I believe this unit should be separated into two zones again like it used to be. The number of deer north and south of the canal are completely different!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2714</td>
<td>The deer population has been in a decline for the past 6 years. I have seen less deer every year for the past 6 years and less mature bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2715</td>
<td>My main hunting is with bow. I think there should be a shorter or no crossbow season. Bow season should be open until the end of January.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2716</td>
<td>Please, please, please extend the gun hunt season to 16 days. After all, we are talking about reducing the herds... right? Just saying!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2717</td>
<td>At the end of deer season all deer stands should be taken down and no baiting. Stands should also have contact info on them. Thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2718</td>
<td>Need to stop the holiday hunts and the early youth hunts so bow hunters have better chances of getting deer that aren’t spooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2719</td>
<td>Earn a buck would be most effective. Hunters will do anything to go after a buck. This would ensure a decrease in doe harvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2720</td>
<td>Extend the 9 day gun season to 16 days. Eliminate early gun seasons, then, if needed add hunts after the 16 day gun hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2721</td>
<td>Having to buy separate permits for public/private is unfair to those with less resources, antlerless should be antlerless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2722</td>
<td>It is hard in door county to manage the population due to more land purchased year after year and posted as no hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2723</td>
<td>I farm way to many deer here suffer 10-15% crop loss every year woodland all over browsed see groups of 50 deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2724</td>
<td>Please stop have public or private permits. Please just issue permits and let us use them where ever we can.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2725</td>
<td>Problem with antlerless only is that many locals will register deer as a doe regardless of what they shot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2726</td>
<td>I like this type of presentation, well done. Please consider for the next year if response level is good.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2727</td>
<td>State wants more does taken. Go back to check stations and implement earn a buck for all seasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2728</td>
<td>after 4 months of deer hunting let the rest of the public recreate in the winter months!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2729</td>
<td>Earn a buck was effective for door county management. Would like to see it come back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2730</td>
<td>Put a ban on all deer baiting PLEASE, and do away with deer drives!! Thank you!! :))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2731</td>
<td>Please extend the season to allow more hunters the chance to get out in the woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2732</td>
<td>Bow/ crossbow should go till the end of January like the surrounding countys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2733</td>
<td>The deer herd is out of control. Highways are littered with carcasses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2734</td>
<td>I strongly support the Holiday Hunt and Extended Archery Season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2735</td>
<td>I would like to see a decease in antlerless tags per license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2736</td>
<td>bring back ‘earn-a -buck &quot; make hunters take does</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2737</td>
<td>it time two close STATEPARKS to all hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2738</td>
<td>Gun season to late!!!!!!Should be same as Mich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2739</td>
<td>Do away with baiting. No more baiting. Please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2740</td>
<td>COYOTES ARE HUNTING DEER WHERE I HUNT!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2741</td>
<td>I am for the extended crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2742</td>
<td>Go back to earn a buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2743</td>
<td>every thing is good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2744</td>
<td>No Holiday Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2745</td>
<td>kill the coyotes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020**

*Door, Central Farmland*
Douglas, Northern Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

759 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 373
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 203
   - I hunt in this unit: 705
   - General interest in this unit: 152

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 650
   - Bow: 352
   - Crossbow: 272
   - Muzzleloader: 227

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.69
   - Maximum: 70

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 191
   - Mostly Private Land: 109
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 140
   - Mostly Public Land: 122
   - Exclusively Public Land: 133
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 10

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 12
   - Not too crowded: 100
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 91
   - Somewhat crowded: 116
   - Very crowded: 171
   - Not applicable: 14

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 112
   - Fewer: 180
   - Same: 208
   - More: 167
   - Many More: 84
   - Unsure: 8

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Antlerless Quota is...
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
I would like to see a private forester on the CDAC, not County or DNR foresters. They claim there are too many deer and the deer are eating all the trees. What about the fact that when the deer numbers were much higher years ago, how were the trees able to survive? The foresters' answers to his question were quite vague. How is it these government employees, who set foot in our forests minimal amounts of time, are able to determine deer numbers more precisely than those of us who actually live and/or hunt in these woods? Why is it that career loggers (who spend their lives in the woods and know first hand the deer numbers) claim that the browse problem is due to poor management from the forestry department? Why should we take the words of government employees (some who have not even been in our County for more than a few months) over seasoned inhabitants? It makes one wonder what truly is the agenda of the Forestry Dept and DNR? We have a hard time buying the browse depletion theory year after year. The same browse presentation/theory was given to various counties of the state... come on. The copiousness of predators have a genuine impact on the deer depletion, but no one is including that in the discussions. In fact, we were discouraged to bring the topic up. Why is that? The Council is getting setup for its own agenda and becoming a Conflict of Interest group. No paid County or DNR government employee should be allowed on the board if you want the consensus of the public. I believe it would be in the best interest of Douglas County to have a real estate agent or land appraiser on the Council to give input. My guess is they would want increased deer numbers to improve land sales (prices) which would also help businesses. It would also be beneficial and balanced to have person(s) from the local business communities that can talk about the impact of low deer numbers on businesses. Again, having a Council member that is a private Forester, someone not paid by the government, would allow additional objective and honest feedback on deer damage. When the Council is heavily made up of persons whose jobs are at stake, as ours is, they tend to project the agenda of their employer...the government, in this case.
Unfortunately we are starting to manage our deer herd like we used too in the 1960's and 1970's placing heavy stress on buck harvests and minimal stress on doe harvests thinking that this will increase our deer numbers. The problem with an overly stressed buck population is they are less resistant to harsh winters, predators and even diseases. The other unfortunate side of this is that private property owners have no say whatsoever in the deer management on their property. Each year I go to the deer hearings and am told that our County Forest's bring in 12 million dollars to the county. Well they are not a zero sum game as they have many employees, a beautiful building, a shop, vehicles and equipment and anytime they think the public lands that have less deer than private lands need to harvest more does they can get tags in a heartbeat. Private property owners which pay over 5 million in property taxes plus another 5 million in other taxes in this county and have no say in getting tags even though some of our lands are being over-browsed by high deer numbers. Part of the reason for this is the predator numbers tend to be lower on private lands, especially closer to dwellings than they are on vast tracks of public land. Our local CDAC is terrified by the recent predator studies and the fact that two members represent the the county forestry issues and most of the other representatives hunt in low deer density areas of the county so it is easy for them to dismiss the concerns of private land owners in higher deer areas. Everyone does agree that managing counties by units would be the best way to go, but until then why not trust private landowners to make responsible decisions. If they felt that numbers were low they wouldn't let people harvest any doe's on their land. By the way, when last years doe tags sold out in 18 minutes does that sound like a hunting public that thinks there are no deer out there. Somehow there is a dis-connect between the CDAC for Douglas County and many of it's private landowning hunters. Perhaps it is because they are already biased in one direction and are not really listening to other concerns in the County. Sadly, most counties cannot get hunters to adequately harvest doe's the way they need to. Our CDAC is taking a different approach by destroying the social structure of our herd by over harvesting bucks and under harvesting doe's on private land all in the name of increasing our over-all deer numbers. Overly-Stressing the deer herd socially is not the path to a healthier, better deer herd. I do also wish our DNR Wildlife Biologists would show more leadership in this area by strongly encouraging appropriate doe harvest numbers in our county for private land. Their more passive approach in this is contributing to our overly-stressed deer herd. The CDAC needs to reconsider it's most recent decision and do the right thing by providing doe tags for private land owners in Douglas County.
30 years hunting in Douglas county and shed antler hunting and every season gets worst and worst. Countless hours of shed hunting on public land has produced ZERO antlers this year and I have logged in over 100 hours. I personally have a really hard time believing your buck harvest numbers from any of the last 10 years. Yes there are some deer and deer sign but mostly from does and buck sign from last fall is virtually non existent in areas of Douglas County. Wolf sign is still there with 24 dead deer carcasses found this year so far. I have been saying the same thing for the last 10 or more years. The DNR needs to completely shut down deer hunting for one year period. The buck to doe ratio has to be 15 or 20 to 1 and possibly much much higher in areas of southern Douglas County. You cant have bucks only for the past 5 or more years and cause serious issues with the deer heard. It is absolutely unhealthy to have this serious imbalance. You will never find another person that spends more time in the woods than myself and the wood ticks have been out since early March and they are the worst I have ever seen the deer ticks. My observations should not be taken seriously. I have zero reason to lie. I have nothing to gain. My life is deer. Its just my thing. Its something 99.9% of people do not understand. I am considering writing a book and making videos because this is my passion. Do what you wish with my information but just remember one thing. The facts are the facts and the deer are not rebounding as expected by the Wisconsin dnr and to say the least I am beyond disappointed

This has become a political issue more than a scientific one. They are two different and not necessarily connected issues, #1: The county's northern half is dominated by private lands, lands that are over populated, while the southern pine savannas are probably near target density. One fix will not, cannot fix both issues. I am perplexed by the CDAC's intransigence to separate the county into northern and southern districts. THIS is the political trumping the scientific! #2: The lack of science used to support the decision to reduce antlerless harvest county wide. Too often "hunters", or maybe I should more appropriately call the "casuals", or just "shooters", complain about not seeing any deer. What is disturbing, but not surprising, is the credence the CDAC gives to these complaints. As was mentioned in press releases, the weather plays a huge role in sightings and harvest. This doesn't mean that fewer deer exist. Every night I go out looking for the sun, but can't find it. Did it disappear? Of course not. All that said, it is clear to someone like me who lives in Bennett and spends a tremendous amount of time afield that deer numbers in the central part of the county are stable, if not increasing, and the northern 1/4 is grossly over populated. Deer crop (fruit trees & garden) damage has vexed me for years. fences and dogs do little to mitigate the carnage. I apply for and receive a landowner preference tag every year and offer it's benefit to anyone willing to hunt near/on my property(all private). I usually end up filling it and giving the butchered deer to a family in need. All in a vain attempt to cull the local herd. More permits for private land, especially in the northern half might help balance the numbers, but it will raise the ire of public land hunters(shooters). To mitigate this, perhaps a program that incentivizes the private land owner to allow access is in order? Or maybe the simplest solution is to split the county into north and south zones. For the record, in 37 years of hunting central Douglas county, only once did I fail to fill at least one tag. In this age of instant gratification and short attention spans (thank you electronic gadgets), people have been led to believe that they should see, and should harvest an animal simply by showing up. More deer isn't the answer, better management is. And that my friends falls on the CDAC. Practice science, and by science I don't mean political science. And by management, that includes managing the expectations of shooters. Thanks for your time and patience.
I started hunting in Wisconsin around 2009 and have yet to miss a season. In the beginning we saw so many deer there was hardly a moment throughout the day that you didn't have deer around you. Because of that, the DNR allowed unlimited doe tags at $2.00 each. Now I never participated in that, but thought that was extreme especially when I heard all the shooting and also hearing about how many does other deer camps were taking. Within a couple years the population definitely declined, but there were still plenty of deer around, you just had to put more time on the stand to get your deer. I don't remember when the DNR limited the doe permits as I never bought one because I didn't go there for the meat. I went there for the primary purpose of carrying on a family tradition of "Deer Camp" and all the great things that went along with that.....which is the card playing, joke telling, reliving past hunts and the camaraderie. Well, as the years went by and the population continued to decline, so did our harvest and because of that we had some guys getting so frustrated with not seeing a deer for days on end that they started to cut the days spent in camp back or elected to quit coming altogether. Again, I cannot say I know how many doe permits were being issued and what percentage of those tags were filled, but I can say that I know for a fact that over the last couple years that it has to be extremely minimal due to the lack of shooting I'm hearing. It sounds more like it is the last weekend of deer season instead of the first. Now, what I have witnessed is an increase of wolves. On multiple occasions I've seen wolves from my deer stand......the most being a pack of 5. Therefore, I firmly believe wolves are a direct link to the current decline in the deer herd around that area and if there is no attempt to control them this problem will be never ending and the great family tradition of spending time with family and friends in Wisconsin "Deer Camp" will fade off into history. I sincerely hope and pray that the legislators start taking this seriously and get something done that will allow the people of Wisconsin to take charge of this issue through the form of hunting or trapping. Lastly, I want to extend my THANKS to all members of this committee for the efforts you have obviously put forth!

I would be in favor of opening up doe tags for private land hunters in Douglas County. Being that myself and my family manage our properties for the deer herd, we have built up strong deer herds on our properties. But not being able to manage the doe herd as much as we should have these past number of years with no or limited buck tags has really hurt our hunting and deer herd. Bucks (especially mature ones) avoid living in areas with high social stress with other deer. They often seek out a quiet and remote area they will not be disturbed. But when does are not managed, they consume a property and push out all the bucks except for random rut cruising. But since people can only shoot bucks, we have lost ground towards managing for bucks because a large number of immature bucks are being killed each year and the doe population is bursting at the seams. In many ways, we face worse high quality deer on our lands than ever before we started managing because all we have are does. It is not uncommon to see 30-40 does in one hunt, yet maybe 2-3 small bucks at best. Our buck to doe ratios are so out of balance and that causes great stress to the bucks that are already few and far between. When people say they want to see more deer...the majority of them mean they want to see more bucks. Buck only hunts for years on end do not give people that experience. We are harvesting ourselves out of bucks and screaming all the while that they are not seeing deer. We see boatloads of deer each year, but rarely even see a 2 year olds because they have been kicked out of the area by all the does. In my trail camera surveys, I find that public land areas have a more balanced sex ratio and I get more big deer on camera on public land than I ever do on private. It is rare to get any mature deer on camera on private land now. My proposal is to let the private land hunters have access to tags, let them decide on management goals for their own property, give the rights back to the people to decide, so that they can make a difference in their local deer herd.
I've ran over 15 cameras in multiple locations across the Superior city subunit, as well as on private land near county road B in Douglas county. I keep an excel file for every single buck that appears on my camera, date, time, wind, temp, pressure etc. You name it, I probably have it. Your proposed antlerless quota of 0 seems quite drastic in my opinion. Certain areas of this region have had lower doe numbers over the last two years- such as areas east of I-35 in between Pattison State Park and Amnicon State Park specifically. On the other hand, other areas have had an antlerless deer increase, even drastic at spots. These areas include areas along highway b in douglas county, Parkland area, and certain areas south of Oliver WI. I understand your point of view, but a blanket coverage here seems unlikely to make much of an impact. Cold, wet winters have taken a toll, especially this past season as 4 feet of snow made it extremely difficult for deer to survive against predators. I believe habitat improvement could go a long ways. As for bucks, I believe more and more small bucks are shot each year. Although this is great for kids and first time hunters, it takes a drastic toll on the quality of our herds. I urge you to consider a over 4 point rule in which every buck harvested much have 5 distinct, one inch or greater points. Even one season of this could boost our quality of deer, especially in these northern zones. In my opinion, we should be focusing more on bucks than antlerless deer in these northern zones. The ratio has been trending towards more and more antlerless than bucks over the last three years. I’ve always believed a correct population of doe deer leads to a better herd of bucks. And as of now, on average, I believe our doe population has gotten actually slightly higher than it should be.

My opinion... There's a fine line about managing the wildlife for money or conservation. Your managing for money I believe. Hunting is declining I get that, but it has a lot to do with costs all around. It's not a tradition to most people any more. It's a very expensive hobby. I here a lot of younger people say why should I spend money on licenses an stamps when I can go to the store and spend less time, don't have to buy gear/gun/ammo. Thinking has changed. Pus there's less wildlife and now days and people get board fast. Your studies may show different but where I'm at I spend more days in the woods then I do on the roads. People are being taught from professor's that don't hunt/trap or fish and from a book of other people opinions from other parts of the country/world. Then you bring in so called deer professionals from other states to tell u about your deer herd. Yeeks.... Before I'm dead the USA will be like Africa an Europe. We will have to pay the land owner to harvest a animal, they will be the new DNR. And only rich people will get to hunt. If u haven't noticed there's no English Sparrow to speak of anymore, frogs/salamanders are gone. Bees are down. Ducks don't live here like they use too. I get the fly way changed a bit. Fishing sucks. Trout fishing is really bad. There way to many chiefs and not enough Indians in the field seeing what's going on. No farmers cultivate anymore, they spray everything. The fields look like a Barron waste land not a weed or fence line in sight hardly now day. I get its tough but for what the top people get paid they should see it or be able to figure this out. There's a lot of us poor dummy out here seeing what's going on so why can't u see it? Sorry for the vent but let's get this figured out before it's to late.
Over the last several years we have noticed a severe decline in deer numbers. At the same time we have noticed and have seen an ever increasing number of wolves. If the average consumption of deer is 20 per wolf per year it does not take long to significantly negatively impact a deer herd. I do not think it is a coincidence that while deer numbers are decreasing the wolf herd is increasing. The fact is that along with all the other predators killing our deer we do not need/want an apex predator significantly reducing our herd in the northern forest. Note, again no coincidence, in areas of no wolf population/predation, there does not seem to be a decrease in deer population numbers. The State of Wisconsin needs to be in control of the wolf population so they can be properly managed. I do believe that the high wolf population is having a negative economic impact as well as a decrease in the enjoyment of seeing and opportunities to harvest a deer. Deer hunting is very important to me and my family/friends. I have seen first hand the impact of a high wolf population in northern Minnesota and we do not hunt there any longer as the wolves have decimated the deer herd. If unchecked, they will greatly reduce deer numbers here as well as they hunt all year and deer is their only food source here. I ask you to please consider the fact that the decrease in the deer herd is largely impacted by the increase in the Wolf/predator numbers and population. Again it not a coincidence!! I just fear that because of my age (67) deer hunting will never be the same as it will take a long while to rebuild the herd with the high number of predators. Thank you for having this forum and allowing input!!

I currently live in Douglas county and have Bow hunted for many years. I drive 15-20 miles a day to and from work. Since the snow melt many the local hay fields are loaded with deer 15+ per morning and evening. I have 5 trail cameras set out on different fields, there are a surprising numbers of DOE's and Healthy does that have survived the winter. Yes alot of your observations are highly dependent on where one is located in the county, The population might be low in the southern 1/2 of the county but high in the northern 1/2 where there was less snow and more food. To say no permits throughout the county is not fare to those who have a large populations of deer. The deer population will high this year (2020) since we had a blizzard during the gun season, preventing hunters from making it to there deer stands and the deer stopped moving over that 3 day period. Limiting doe tags is the right move, but a doe harvest is necessary to maintain a healthy population of both Bucks and Does. Over the last 4 years we have decimated the younger age groups of bucks, since we have been bucks only for the last 4 years. Bucks have not been able to get to a mature age because hunters are desperate to shoot anything with antlers. In most years a hunter might pass on the younger bucks to have a chance at mature deer, This is not the case now. Managing the heard like some manage there property is the right move. Look at the populations in areas, Open ZONES with in the county for doe harvest might be a option but management is key to a healthy deer herd. Thank you

During the 14 years that I have hunted Douglas county I have seen a continued increase in the amount of predators (bobcats, coyotes, & wolves) and an overall decrease in the deer herd. There were some years with a bit of an increase and some years with more of a decrease, but overall for the 14 years there are far fewer deer and far lower quality bucks than there were 14 years ago. I would have to say that the number of bobcat & coyote animals & sign that I see has remained consistent over the 14 years. Actually, the number of hunters in and around the area that I hunt has gone way down over the past 14 years as well. When I started hunting there, we had more people on the private land that I hunt and there was a huge (10+) group of guys that hunted the public land that adjoins it. Now, we never see anyone on the public land and our camp is smaller by 2 people. The HUGE change for me has been the number of timber wolf animals & sign. It has been an unbelievable change. 14 years ago we never saw a wolf and rarely saw any sign. Now we have wolf sightings and there is fresh sign all through our area every few days. We also find places where the wolves have killed deer. I ask that you seriously consider doing something more drastic with the wolf population. They have added an additional burden on the deer population that has reduced not only the number of deer, but significantly degraded the quality of bucks as well. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback. Good luck in your work.
Due to weather, predators and overharvest of does, the deer population in my area in the southwestern part of the county is as low as it's ever been in the 35-40 years I've hunted there. I think the CDAC is correct in it's recommendation to not issue antlerless deer permits in 2020. The DNR seems to be keeping bear and bobcat numbers in balance through hunting, but wolves continue to have a substantial impact on the deer population. I recognize that wolf hunting is tied up in the courts, but I do think that the DNR should be working through our national legislators to adopt legislation that would again permit wolf hunting and trapping in the state. Such legislation is apparently stalled right now. In light of CWD, I feel that baiting and feeding of deer should be banned state wide. Even if the disease weren't a threat, baiting and feeding should be banned. It's responsible for the most conflicts between hunters, it disrupts deer movement patterns, and it simply lessens the hunting experience. While the deer population is very low in the area I hunt, I realize that is is not necessarily that low throughout the county. In fact, some parts of the county may have too many deer. That's why I think the CDACs should be able to delineate deer management units within the county and set management objectives on a DMU basis. Obtaining more local input through CDACs was/is a good idea. Switching from smaller DMUs to countywide recommendations/regulations was not.

I've been hunting the same private land, over 500 acres, in Douglas County for over 20 years. Deer numbers were very high in the 2000's, probably too high, and they plummeted after the winter of 2013, and never really recovered, especially buck numbers. I attribute this to a diminished number of antlerless permits, so hunters start killing young bucks, and finding a mature buck to harvest is nearly impossible. Not allowing any antlerless permits in 2020 will further exacerbate this problem. Secondarily, wolves have become too numerous. They have always been around, coming and going, taking a few deer here and there, and causing the deer to hunker down and not move until the wolves move elsewhere. The last several years the wolves are so prolific the deer hardly move at all, and only at night. Wolf-killed deer are a common find, and deer behavior is severely altered. I have a large, lush food plot that has 3 trailcams on it, wolves were on camera daily, and the deer completely avoided that food plot all fall and winter. They used several other food plots, mostly at night, mostly closer to human habitation, but never did touch the large, isolated plot, and the beets, turnips and oats rotted under the snow. I realize the wolf problem is out of the control of the DNR, but if other hunters are seeing the numbers of wolves I see, and are experiencing the decline in their deer herd, then I expect them to take over predator control for a government that can't/won't.

The Douglas County CDAC has done a great disservice to hunters by recommending a zero quota for this unit. While there may be some areas with low deer abundance there are many areas that contain large numbers of deer. The sand country in the SE part of the county is one of these areas. There are many private parcels in the clay plain farther north in the county that have very good numbers of deer as well. Hunters should have the ability to obtain an antlerless permit and use it to harvest a deer. There is absolutely no excuse to not have an antlerless deer quota on private lands as the landowner ultimately makes the decision on how many deer will be harvested. Allow landowners to make this choice and take the deer they need to remove from their property. Having a minimal number of public land tags available will give public land hunters an opportunity to have a chance to harvest a deer and take some pressure off younger bucks. With the deer numbers present in the county a zero quota is unacceptable. I have the option to hunt multiple counties in NW Wisconsin and having antlerless tags available as an option to harvest a deer is something I look forward too. With no tags in Douglas County my desire to hunt there is much less. Biologically the herd can stand a quota and still have growth. Stop worrying about things you cannot control like busting the county up into smaller areas and concentrate on providing opportunity for hunters where they can find it.
I have hunted in Douglas County for more than 30 years. I have harvested at least one deer in Douglas County in most years as well as the neighboring counties. 2019 was no exception as I spent a limited time in Douglas County and yet seen several deer including a harvest in the rifle season as well as one during archery season in the metro unit. My hunting is done on public land. I found that by moving around there were plenty of deer, they were often in different areas last year compared to previous years which I attributed to snow. I hear the comments from the other hunters about the population but I also observe them going to the same one or two stands everyday without moving to attempt to find the deer. In my opinion that is a poor basis for which to assume where a population stands. We are trying to increase the interest in hunting season not reduce it by limiting the harvest to buck only. This will reduce dollars coming into the area and drive hunters like myself to go to other areas to harvest does to fill my freezer. We need to offer some permits and a harvest of 67 antlerless in as large of a county as Douglas will not have a dramatic impact on the population. Please do not let the comments from a select group of exclusive buck hunters affect the ability for others to harvest an antlerless deer. Thank you.

I feel like the 90's and early 2000's gave hunters in Douglas County a false representation of what a healthy deer herd looks like. We need a balance and not an over-abundance. Hunting was never meant to be easy! Another issue that is never mentioned is that the methods of which many are basing there opinions are not a good measure of what is really going on with the deer herd. Most of our land base in Douglas County is dynamic and is always changing. Deer react to this change and follow preferred food sources. If a hunter bases their population estimate off of their 40 acre hunting property, they are not seeing the whole picture. We need a balanced herd, but that does not mean that the deer will be spread perfectly even across the landscape. It will never be like that, people are fools to believe that there should be deer around there box stand on a hunting property, when deer migrate to food sources that are more advantageous to their needs. Some areas are void of deer for a reason. For success you need to be mobile and committed to working hard for deer. Contrary to popular belief, corn baits are not preferred food sources and give hunters a false sense of deer behavior and population distributions. I hope that our hunting community will realize the totality of all the issues related to deer populations and not their vision down a narrow site window of their own special interest. Thank you.

My hunting group has had a very small cabin and consists of 12 members since 1950s. We love the tradition. We hunt only public land. The biggest impact I have seen on our deer herd is harsh winters, surplus antlerless tags, and wolves. We cant help harsh winters. My only comment on wolves is I hope they get de-listed. Wisconsinites showed how efficient they were at harvesting wolves when it was open. Fingers crossed. As far as antlerless tags our group has never shot a doe. EVER. When I first was able to hunt with the group in late 90s we sat opening weekend and then started deer drives Monday morning through friday. I typically saw over 80 deer over the week. We still hunt the same way except now we go home Wednesday and have now for 6 years. We just dont see the deer. For years we watched large groups of out of state hunters (20 to 30 people) take full advantage of endless antlerless tags for basically no cost shoot 20,30 doe in our area. We as a group new this would have a devastating effect on our herd. Low and behold it did. Those groups no longer come citing no deer. This also has had a drastic impact on the small towns economically. Our herd is very important, even to the non hunters in that area. We still need to be very cautious with our herd in that area. Thank you for any consideration. Douglas northwoods is a beautiful area.
The deer herd is healthy and does I witness on a daily occurrence are bigger and showing no signs of stress. I expect in my local area there will be above average of fawns this spring. There are way to many does for this area and there have been interbreeding because of the lack of antlerless permits. Your causing the deer herd to interbreed with such low numbers of permits. They are destroying there natural browsing which such of influx of does to bucks. Your failure to address the problems are creating a much wider and broader problem for the herd. I avoid on average 5-10 deer potential accidents per day. There has been a rough guest estimate 20% increase in deer mortality because of motorist accidents. I do not go 1 day without seeing a deer kill on county road Y and on interstate 53, highway 27, 77, and 63 in surrounding counties. I see a lot more deer than i ever did before. No question there are more urban deer than rural deer. Your lacking one major factor when it comes to determining permits. Winters do matter but not as much as they did because of urbanization and the fact that deer can survive winters better now because of people feeding them and the fact they inhabit areas of metro areas for food sources and protection from predators. I hope this feedback will help you in determining your predictions.

I will be buying a NR Crossbow permit in 2020 because with it I can harvest either sex of deer, I want venison in my freezer (the Covid ordeal is a great example of why this is so important - people need to provide food for themselves). But I will most likely also purchase a NR gun permit as well - hopefully get two deer this year, I tagged zero deer last year with a NR Gun only permit. The Bow/XBow numbers in your video seem to support my intended actions, as an ever increasing trend we hunters are engaging in, given the continued Gun antlerless restrictions being applied in recent years. In my hunting area (Private Land, surrounded by public paper company land) I've see 98% antlerless to legal bucks over the past 20 years hunting. I've only harvested 4 bucks in 20 years of hunting, antlerless are my best option to get venison, in past years I would purchase bonus antlerless permits and take two antlerless deer every year I could - because they are always available - even last year, I saw 11 deer, all were antlerless in the first 4 days of the season - no bucks, I did not hunt any other days. As a NR, spending $160/yr for a NR License and getting no venison is quite frustrating. I'll be spending that on a XBow license this year to increase my odds of having venison for my freezer.

One way to help increase the deer herd in Douglas County is to reduce antlerless permits. It is quite evident that during the last couple of years, the overall kill has been decreasing. We had one of the earliest gun openers and one of the latest gun openers during the previous two years, and both resulted in a decline in the overall kill. In fact, wolves killed more deer in Douglas County than all of the deer hunting seasons combined. If we’re unable to control predation, we need to be very conservative with antlerless tags. We’ve been unsuccessful in increasing the deer herd, even with issuing minimal tags over the years. We also need the Douglas County DMU boundary redone in order to maximize and control the deer harvest. I would also like to comment on having paid public officials on the CDAC board, who are only looking out for their best interests and livelihoods. To some on the board, there will always be too many deer which could threaten their jobs with the County and State. If that’s the case, lets put a real estate broker or appraiser on the board and discuss on much real estate values have dropped with the lack of deer. I strongly encourage the CDAC Board to put in a final vote for zero antlerless tags for the 2020 hunting season. Thank you!
I would like to have the county split at hwy 53. There are hardly any deer west of 53 and those people on the east side say they are overrun! It's not fair to have a doe slaughter on the west side of 53 when there are about 5 deer per square mile, and east of 53 a lot more. With the amount of wolves and bear in Douglas Cty the deer herd is not going to increase, west of 53. The DNR put out kill all deer in the early 2000’s, people did slaughter them. Now the DNR is concerned about license sales. These are supposed to be educated people. If they can't figure out that no deer means no license sales. Then they say we are having dwindling hunters. I am sick and tired of all the excuses they come up with instead of taking responsibility that they are there own enemy. Now I hope our CDACS have it in them to stand up for doing what’s right and help the deer herd and the hunter get back on track. Common sense would tell most people, if you have more deer you will have more hunters. I know forestry's a big industry in Douglas Cty. I look at all the trees they are harvesting now and there were more deer back then, the trees will grow. Any business that micromanage there business struggles, fact. We can’t micromanage our deer herd, we have proof. STOP please!!!

First off, sorry for any grammar issues in this comment as I am doing this on my phone. I utilize public land for just about everything. The amount of antlerless deer I saw while hunting douglas county forest land is astronomical. Every night I sat I would see 10 to 15 antlerless deer. It didn't matter where I sat there are a ton of antlerless animals. They are taking a toll on regrowth in logged areas, everything is heavily browsed but there is no indications of bucks. I have walked close to 30 miles this year along looking for sheds and found nothing in cut covers trampled with tracks. I also sat 20 to 25 times last season and never saw a buck. Not even a spike. Yet every sit I had 10 to 15 antlerless animals walk past me. The current DMU system is broken state and needs to be fine tuned. For instance Douglas county could be divided into 3 zones. A lake farmland zone, warmer climate due to the lake results in a longer growing season, results in cropping, which results in a lot of deer. A forest zone in central douglas county, still plenty of deer but not as many due to the boreal forest land cover. Lastly, southern douglas county which has quite a bit of crop land and a lot of deer. A highway should not determine a management zone.

I am in support of the Douglas County CDAC issuing the same antlerless quota for 2020 as they did in 2019. I think zero quota is too low. Yes, the 2020 harvest figures were down but so were the number of hunters in the County during rifle season. 500 antlerless quota shouldn't have a very statistically significant impact on the overall population and would be a great opportunity for those dedicated hunters like me who are of the minority and just like to hunt for meat and not antlers. A zero quota would force me to think about hunting elsewhere where I can harvest an antlerless deer. I also would like to see the Committee support a "maintain" the population goal for the deer herd at the next goal setting meeting which is in 2021 I believe. I see fewer vehicle accidents and less human conflict with deer while still offering plenty of deer to hunt with the population being at where it is currently at. There are plenty of solid arguments all across the board based on nature and ecosystem health to keep the deer population maintained where it is now and the only argument to increase it is for hunter greed. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input and thank you to Committee members for doing the hard job you all do.

I think it is absolutely absurd not to issue any antlerless tags for Douglas County. The areas I frequent and hunt in Douglas County are full of antlerless deer. I don't see many bucks but there are a few there. The herd dynamics are really screwed up in areas, especially on the Brule, and the answer isn't to not kill any does. There are already too many and the herd needs to be brought back closer to normal. People need to be able to kill does and hopefully not small bucks if they are just looking for something to eat. Not everyone just wants to see a million deer and kill a big buck, or just any buck. Some people just want to kill something to eat and if they have a doe tag they will use that and trust me there are plenty of does to go around in areas of the county. I strongly suggest you issues at least some antlerless tags on public and private land. I think not doing so is a gross overreaction and I feel that the winter wasn't nearly as bad as some people think, the deer I have seen came out of it looking very healthy. I also think population estimates are low because of lack of hunting the last 4 days of the season last year. That had more to do with the lower harvest than any lack of deer. Thank you for your time.
The wolf population is out of control! How do you expect youths to want to hunt if they don't see deer.... a child hearing a pack of wolves in every direction during a hunt and not seeing deer day after day is a terrible thing. The northern forest area is a tragedy. Between bear dog hunters that are lawless and wolves that are out of control, land owners are selling their property and ending generations of hunting legacy. I used to be proud to say I owned property in the northern forest, which was one of the greatest whitetail hunting areas in the world, to being embarrassed at what it has become. We are on the verge of losing a entire generation of big woods hunters because of this. There is so much that has to be fixed and it will take decades to do so. There needs to be an incentive for a person to own land or keep their property for hunting. Not once have you ever mentioned antlerless landowner tags. Why? Too many of the landowners/taxpayers in the northern forest this would be an incentive to keep property. That is just an idea.... I am not speaking just for myself but speaking for many other landowners and hunters of the northern forest. Please call me with questions or feedback.

Stop using baiting and feeding as scapegoats for CWD. Limiting the amount that can be placed is more than adequate. (You do realize that deer yard up in the winter, correct? Maybe crack down on the real cause - DEER FARMS!) And, btw, mineral blocks are not bait, they are essential supplements, especially in areas with poor soil quality. Always have antlerless tags available for private land. Go back to an application process (the fee would add revenue) and track them to specific parcels to spread them out evenly (this would work for public land tags as well...). Cut off junior tags at 13. Especially since there's no minimum age anymore (which is ridiculous btw...). Only allow 1 buck harvest per hunter per season. Sell the tag as gun, bow, or crossbow initially (for those who hunt only 1 season) and allow additional weapon authorizations to be purchased as add-ons (for those who want to be able to hunt different seasons). Online and phone registration are fine, but EVERY deer should have to be verified at a physical location. This allows for much more CWD sampling as well. END the Dec. antlerless only hunt! Period! Go back to smaller management units.

The timber wolf population is out of control. The "estimates" that are put out for the general public are nowhere near the actual number of wolves in Douglas County. Talk to farmers or people that spend a great deal of time outdoors to get a better estimate. These are the people that continually come across these predators and the damage they cause. I have never feared going in the woods until last season when I had a pack of 8 wolves come within 50 yards of my tree stand on opening morning. These predators do not fear man and are becoming more and more of an issue. I also foresee that the number of deer licenses sold will continue to decrease as the wolf population increases. Not only for the reason of less deer in the woods, but eventually someone will lose their life to these animals. It is time for the state to take back responsibility for the predator control of the wolf. If there is nothing done soon I feel as if the interest in WI deer hunting will unfortunately perish. There are simply too many other options for our youth to spend their time with than sitting in a tree stand staring at empty forests and fearing for their lives.
I would like to remind the CDAC council that there is more that matters than just seeing a lot of deer and hunter harvest levels. Remember, last season had horrible conditions for most of the 9 day season. Combine this with the average hunter hunting less than 5 of the 9 day season and you see low success rates. This is not a fault of low deer numbers. Also keep in mind the impacts on the forest. High deer numbers lead to irreversible damage for the forests of the county. Deer populations that get too high destroy regeneration county wide. We also need to take into account the aging hunter population in the state and the limits that poses on participation and access. It is better for our forests and environmental health to avoid high deer populations, regardless of hunter satisfaction. I also regularly hunt Shawano County and have seen what those levels of deer do to forests. We DO NOT WANT THAT LEVEL OF Damage within Douglas County. The deer heard has grown in size and it only makes sense to have the same level of harvest permits available. 800-1000 antlerless quota should be the desired number.

I have not hunted for the past 2 years because of my frustration with how things are being handle by the DNR. Years ago they handed of doe permits like they were candy and levels have dropped since. I am starting to see a increase in doe population and would like to have the chance to shoot one but low doe tags prevent that so I started shooting bucks cause that's all I had a tag for. I stopped hunting cause all I saw was small bucks that need to grow to become something to shoot at. Also if you keep shooting the small bucks there won't be enough of them to populate the deer HERD. Meaning the doe population will keep declining and a unhealthy deer herd for next year. My suggestion is let the hunters have the ability to shoot one or the other so we have a balanced doe/buck population and happier hunters with a higher turnout rate. If they don't see the mature buck they want to shoot they can shoot a mature doe instead. Then let God do the rest and keep man's nose out of it. Charts are just numbers that don't add up to much. Have a good day!

I have hunted for 14 years in Douglas County. I saw more deer (does and fawns) last year than the last 5 years combined. There are without a doubt more deer in Douglas County than in previous years (including a SIGNIFICANT INCREASE in numbers seen already this year!!!). With that said, I believe there should be a few antlerless permits (100) outside the metro subunits on public land. However, we will never get to the true desired population numbers or the desired harvest quotas if we don’t discuss managing predators (wolves and bears). Last year was the most predator sign I’ve seen in the last three years. They’re out there and way more than your “numbers” state. In addition, I would like to address another issue that affects the deer harvest numbers and economy. We MUST return to mandatory in-person registration. It holds people accountable and stimulates the economy the town registration stations, which we all know that these businesses will desperately need in light of all that has transpired over the last month.

Because of the low deer population in most areas of Douglas County. The CDAC is still in the increase the deer herd mode. With the high numbers of wolves, coyotes, bears and bobcats, it is going to take years to get the deer population up enough to achieve the buck kill that the CDAC is trying to accomplish. We have way too many coyotes, with the DNR doing nothing to control their numbers. At this time they can't do anything to control the wolves. But they can try to reduce the coyote numbers. (Or is it that they like a large coyote population, because like wolves they kill deer 24/7. Then they don't have to rely on hunters as much to control the deer herd.) Until we kill close to the 3,000 bucks for all hunting methods in Douglas County that the CDAC has set. I don't think that the youth hunters should have antlerless tags available to them. The potential to kill 550 antlerless deer is a little disturbing to me. Only have them available to the handicapped and the military. I believe this is a fair alternative.
I personally have been hunting (Only Bowhunting) in Douglas County for 17 years now. When I first started back in 2003, it was incredible deer hunting in the southwestern part of the county. We seen plenty of deer throughout the season and seemed like the herd had a well balanced age ratio. From 2011 right on through this past 2019 season, there hasn’t been near the amount of deer in our area. Hunting has been quite poor to be honest for most guys. I hope that we can make the struggling deer population a priority starting in the coming season. I fully support the 0 quota for antlerless tags. This is a great idea. I support the youth antlerless tags though. It is important to allow our youth the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and grow the sport we all are so passionate about. I can’t say that I am a big fan of allowing anyone to hunt with a crossbow. I think the youth until age 14 and adults over 60 or with a medical handicap should be the only ones allowed to hunt with a crossbow. Thanks for your time.

I have hunted and lived in the same area for all of my 49 years. I have seen more does and fawns this year than I ever have. Last rifle season I was able to watch up to 12 does and fawns come into my stand every afternoon that I hunted. In the area that I live in, I have seen more deer feeding in the fields than there has been in the past 10 to 15 years. I have seen very few bucks over the last three to four years due to the fact that they are being killed off due to buck only hunts. There is an over population of does in the area and not enough bucks. In the past three seasons, I have trail cam footage and personally watched 6 to 8 does for every buck that I have seen. Last season, I did not see a buck during the season and still saw as many as 12 does and fawns at my stand each day. I know that there were that many due to the direction that they came from and the timing of when they came in. Please reconsider the amount of antlerless permits that you will be giving out. Thank you.

I feel having no antlerless permits is ridiculous, the winter though it was hard was short in comparison to other years. I feel that a system that allows landowners of 40 acres or more an antlerless tag with purchase of license should be adopted before any public tags are given out. These land owners are paying property taxes on the land and should therefore have first chance at antlerless harvest. They also contribute the most towards support of the county lands that are plentiful in our unit. Lastly we need to implement some sort of large predator control as soon as federally legal not only to balance deer harvest but to prevent livestock depredation. If it is determined that this would be too detrimental to the youth antlerless should be preserved first and foremost as we need to keep those who are hunting interested, and allow new hunters the success that will hopefully be the start of a lifetime spent in pursuit of the outdoors and nature’s bounty.

By not issuing antlerless tags, hunters are more likely to harvest the first buck they see, regardless of size, because they simply want a deer. More spike bucks and smaller bucks are being harvested, which doesn’t allow very many bucks to become mature. I could harvest a spike buck every single year, but I pass them up because I want them to get bigger. Not all hunters have that mentality and will take the first buck they see. It’s frustrating. When hunters aren’t successful for years and years, they quit. That’s why the number of hunters has significantly decreased. Banning baiting, not issuing antlerless tags, cutting down the crossbow season, will only make it worse! More and more hunters will decide it’s not worth it anymore. It’s not always easy sitting out in the deer stand for countless hours, in the cold, day after day, only to walk away empty handed. It’s discouraging. Why make it even more of a challenge?

The tradition of hunting "up north" is still alive in our hunting camp. When the deer population was higher, we hunted harder knowing we had a good chance of seeing deer. Now with lower numbers, it is easy to get frustrated and not hunt as hard. The style of hunting also has changed. We were very successful doing deer drives back in the early 90's. Now we mostly sit in stands knowing no matter the style of hunting, we won't be seeing many deer. I also think the youth season needs to be addressed. We need to give the kids a better chance at seeing and harvesting deer. The season should be a little longer and I do agree that the youth should have the option of shooting both does and bucks no matter the quota. We don't go up north to see a lot of deer, we do it for the hunting camp experience. But it would be nice to start seeing more deer again like we did back in the early 90's. Thanks.
2783 Hunter numbers / pressure has dropped significantly over the years due to the introduction of wolves in our area and the resulting drop in the deer herd. The initial proposal was for 350 wolves in Wisconsin and now the count is approaching many times that number. Open up the wolf harvest and reduce the number to the original 350 over the next 3 years. I realize I hunt in an area with a high concentration of bear which also reduce the deer herd dramatically. Give out more bear tags and even bonus tags if necessary. Also... get rid of the Public vs. Private designation on the deer applications!!!! I have hunted both public and private for years and now I have to choose?? BS. We can't force people to open up their private land. Tracking where the deer are shot is fine when registering but don't limit hunters by forcing a choice to carry the "correct" tag in order to hunt. Simplify the process!!

2784 I believe the biggest issue with deer numbers are primarily winter kill and predation. Increase the number of bear tags issued to hunters and manage the wolves and I feel deer counts would move up. I would like to see a graph on the affect wolves have on the deer population. Before introduction and after. The antlerless kill was down not because of lack of deer but due to the snow storms we had during the season that closed up a lot of deer camps early. Those hunters went home. I'm seeing plenty of deer signs and bodies but less hunters every year it seems. I hunt the southern part of the county and understand things are different along the lake. Deer numbers in the southern part of the county I'm sure are higher than up north but we're getting lumped into the low numbers areas. Maybe quota areas would address this issue. I don't feel our deer herd is that depleted to warrant 0 antlerless authorizations.

2785 Until this county is able to be split into sub units, it will be incredibly difficult to balance the antlerless harvest. My property in Amnicon Twp., and in townships to the east, could stand to have a limited harvest. I also feel that those hunters in those areas that have had declining deer numbers (SW part of county for example) have to just realize that the deer aren't coming back. We had several years not long ago that had mild winters and no antlerless harvest and they still complained of not seeing deer. The landscape has changed with CWD, wolves, etc. If someone is staring at the same bait pile from the same blind and seeing four deer all year, year in and year out, maybe time to find a new spot or create more suitable habitat. Based on my observations in 2019 of seeing few if any fawns in the fall whether it was due to winter or predators, I support zero antlerless tags for 2020.

2786 My crop farm was in its initial stages and I ended up abandoning the effort. While some of the reasons were related to poor weather, I found the crop damage each year to be substantial. It was not uncommon to see 30 deer grazing on my crop. In addition to the crops, we own a horse and it again is not uncommon to see 10-15 deer in the small area all winter, grazing on the hay we purchase for the horse. They mingle with the horse in a herd and I can't help but think they are transferring disease to our pasture. We have had to spend thousands of dollars treating our horse for Lymes and I believe the deer are spreading the ticks that carry it. Last year we also had a doe lingering around our house and I observed it eating ashes from our fire pit. The next day the deer was found under the back of my car, dead. Warm and dead with no sign of any wounds. I think it was diseased.

2787 Hunting in Douglass county isn't even fun anymore compared to what it was years back. The deer herd has been low for awhile and we don't even see the hunters like we used to. I would go elsewhere myself, but we have some property and a hunting shack here so we keep coming back. I sure wish we could get the herd back up so my grandkids could experience fun hunting like I did when I was younger. It would be nice too see a bunch of hunters come back to the area again! The doe tags are bad news, period. Even for youth hunts, they are bad news for the herd. Let's face it, the youth get a lot of help from the adults and the herd goes down. When my kids were just starting to hunt, they came with me and hunted the opener. Let's go back to that. It makes every thing more enjoyable for all!!!! and it would help all the bar & grill establishments make a living!
I own a large plot of land in Douglas county (600 acres) and I have seen many deer on my land during all seasons and a lot of deer sign in the woods. I have seen many does and fawns and almost no bucks and all of them 1-1.5 year old. With the large imbalance in the population, I am concerned that many bucks are worn down after the rut and subject to kills by predators. There have only been 2 bucks killed on my land in the last 4-5 years. I tried to get a doe tag last year and was on line at the time you could buy a tag and was so far down the list I was not able to get a tag. Most people who hunt private land say there is a large population of does in the area and we need some doe tags. Most of the private land is a mix of forest and ag land and as deer are creatures of edges they thrive in this mixed land. I have had damage to my crops due to deer.

I think that the decision to not have doe permits is flawed. I have consistently seen more deer every year. Because hunters are not allowed to take does, the buck-doe ratio keeps getting worse and the buck age population appears to be getting younger. I have property with young timber growth and I have extensive deer browse. I was hit by a deer riding my motorcycle last summer. There is no lack of deer in this county. I believe out of area hunters are not coming because they don't have the opportunity to shoot does. They go to counties where they can. I drive through the deer gauntlet some evenings to hunt in Bayfield Co. looking for a doe. You can not stockpile game and I believe not allowing a liberal doe harvest is poor management with our deer numbers. Please reconsider this decision and allow a considerable amount of doe tags in Douglas Co.

Rather than unit-based management, the county-wide management of deer is seriously flawed. The county CDAC group seems to focus on the one area in the county where deer populations are low for whatever reason, rather than looking at the county as a whole, where deer populations remain high. The 1300 quota limit, while conservative in my estimation, should be the minimum rather than the maximum for this discussion. The damage to forests from over-browsing is having serious, long-term effects, both from an ecological and financial standpoint to the county, state and private forests. I am seeing fewer bucks and more small-bodied deer. Is this refusal to shoot does unintentionally selecting for smaller deer? With CWD knocking at our door maintaining herd size at or below carrying capacity, rather than raw deer numbers should be the goal.

I have lived in this area for 28 years. I have and hunt on private land. The doe to buck ratio is all out of whack. I see 10-15 does for every buck. On the land I hunt, the doe population continues to grow each year. We have to be able to harvest some of the does to balance the herd and protect the habitat as it is being overbrowsed. I know there may be areas in our unit/county that don't have all of deer. But the area around my home and property has many deer and we need the ability to harvest the does. I did apply this year to be part of a review for a possible DMAP program to possibly get some doe tags and hope that this program can assist us in managing the herd where we are as we have an abundance of deer. Earlier this Spring I counted 72 deer within view of the property and acreage near my home and property the majority were does.

I live north of HWY 13. We have about 40 deer per square mile. The buck to doe ratio is way out of whack. We have 8 or 10 does per buck. Also mature bucks are missing. I feel we need to harvest more does on private land to get numbers down. I feed deer in the winter which is creating part of this problem. I have been having youth hunters harvest 5 or 6 does each fall. This still is not enough. Last fall I had 9 fawns that made the winter. I only found 4 winter kills this spring. Shed antler hunting less than most years. I personally believe our county needs to be split up into 3 or 4 sections to properly manage the deer herd. North of HWY 2 has too many does and south of HWY 2 has a lot less. I think baiting is the biggest reason we have less bucks. Maybe we should only harvest 1 buck per person for a few years to get the buck population higher.
I really cannot understand the extremes that are constantly put into practice for Douglas county. 10+ years ago they'd give you multiple tags for just buying a license and allow you to buy more! That led to the drop in population that has us for the last 5 years being bucks only unless you are lucky enough to get a doe tag through the lottery. Now, they're proposing 0 antlerless deer for 2020?! I don't know where they are looking at but last year I have seen more does than I ever have in the last 12 years hunting in southern Douglas county. It's stupid. Allow us to buy 1 doe tag. The population allows it but for some reason, the DNR is being extremely stringent with does in recent years, even though there is no need for it. Stop yo-yo'ing gun between the extremes in antlerless tags and come up with something sustainable for the county.

I think the Chair did an outstanding job in moderating the meeting. For the first time in the 6 years, I think the Douglas Co. CDAC is fully "getting it" as far as understanding how bad the situation is out there. He did an excellent job of explaining our kill levels are down at the levels of the 1960's - when we didn't have compound bows, crossbows, trail cameras, maps on our phones, baiting, box blinds, ladder stands, and the greater knowledge of whitetails we do today. The constant push for antlerless tags has to stop until we turn this situation around. We are at the end of a 3 year push to "increase" and instead we greatly decreased - including 2 large misses the past 2 years. It's a combination of too many antlerless tags issued, predators, bad winters......we're in a pit we can't get out of. The DNR needs to recognize that.

I've hunted Douglas county for 10 years now and the biggest problem over the last four years for me and my family is the ever growing wolf population. I've had more trail camera pictures more sightings than ever before. I manage 120 acres of my dad's land South/East of Superior I have many food plots on this land for the deer and in the past few years as been heavy populated by wolf as the food attracts higher deer numbers. I also run around 6 trail camera's on this property ever year and every camera get pictures of the wolf. So I don't know what the solution is to the problem I do know these animals have to eat every day and there not just killing rabbits and squirrels, deer are there number one target. If you would like pictures of wolves from trail camera’s feel free to contact me by email lucasberthiaume98@gmail.com

I would like to see an Antlered Deer restriction, minimum antler size be raised to 10 inch inside spread or 13 inch main beam. Any antlered deer with a 3 inch antler is being shot before it has a chance to mature. This would raise the entire deer population and eventually open up antler less deer hunting. You would also attract more deer hunters, more revenue. I know that we don't eat the antlers but because deer hunters are only able to shoot bucks they are shooting all of them! I do not know how to manage the Douglas County deer herd so that we have more mature bucks, but if you look at other parts of the country they are doing it with success. Look at similar geographics with success and see what they have done. Try it. What we are doing doesn't seem to be working great. Not bad but not great either.

I do not have a very high opinion of the winter severity index. WSI is Dec thru March..? We have had some very early starts to winter, in November. Also, the month of April has been very bad on some years. As a result, as was the case last fall, buck age and horn growth, as well as overall numbers, were down. Also, I still see too much wolf sign. Winters and wolves are taking a toll on the deer herd. Just my opinion, but I am starting to question the deer habitat on public land. The aggressive cutting done by the county is leaving behind large tracts of marginal deer habitat. I do realize some cutting, and the first year or three after, are of great benefit. But... Not much left in parts of the county. Again, winters and wolves are taking a toll on the deer herd. And the aggressive cutting..?
Please keep common sense at the top of policy making decisions. We are on increase, we have decreased the last two years. Excuses are not facts. The DNR says the amount of hunters are on a decline. The DNR wanted deer slaughtered in the early part of 2000s. People did there part. Then the wolves and bear took over with no control on the wolves and not enough bear harvested. So the deer have a hard time recovering with tough winters and heavy uncontrollable predators.(remember common sense) So anytime I hear we are loosing hunters, it’s kinda back to the common sense thing. No deer no hunters! So the last two years have been in decline and we were told the deer herd was 2,000,000. Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me!! Not going to happen. No antlerless tags

I believe the deer numbers in the agricultural areas of northern Douglas county (north of hwy 2) could sustain modest harvest of antlerless deer. In my family, venison is a significant part of our diet. We also value the chance at harvesting mature (2+ years) bucks. Eliminating doe harvest completely may result in higher pressure on young bucks and decrease peoples chances at obtaining venison. Eliminating doe harvest also reduces the opportunity for newer hunters (women & youth in particular) to harvest an animal and stay engaged in hunting. Our family could definitely benefit by harvesting one antlerless deer. When I travel on county roads through this region, I often see anywhere from 10-40 deer per field. I don't believe a modest harvest will hurt population goals.

I own 130 acres that I bought a few years back and had pretty good deer numbers including decent buck numbers and I had great grouse numbers. Now I have very little deer and grouse but I have a TON of wolves on my land. We see them regularly and I get game cameras pictures of them every week-they do not pass through they live there. My son had a pack of eight go right by him in gun season this year. I no longer run my setters on my land for fear of losing them to wolves. I also do not let my family go anywhere on my land without personal protection. It is like we are being held hostage on our own piece of property and it is very sad. I understand the need to protect all species in the wild but I am telling you with 100% certainty we have too many wolves right now.

Hi. I think Douglas county is too diverse to prescribe a one size solution of zero antler-less tags. Generally in my opinion the 'population' is in fact good. My concern is just the ratio of antlered to antler-less deer being off...I rarely see antlered deer on game cameras(private land) or while driving. I don't know why, but one theory is the high number of doe and fawn pushes the bucks away from the fields and into the dense forest where predators are taking advantage(or we just don't see them). In any case, my opinion is Does should be protected in public land and harvesting antlerless deer should be encouraged on private land (if you can convince land owners to even harvest antlerless deer). Specifically in the farm areas surrounding Superior. Thanks

For as long as we've lived and owned land in Douglas County, the foresters consistently find the deer numbers too high. They often base their findings on browse damage and little else. It suspiciously seems like they have a hidden agenda (i.e. lobbying of special interest groups (anti-hunters, insurance companies, wolf organizations, government purchasing of 'cheap' land, etc.)). CDAC needs to have fewer government employees on their council and more people who actually live, work, and hunt in the area. Those are the folks who will have more accurate deer numbers (which are much fewer than the foresters claim).

In the past 10 years hunting this county I have seen a HUGE increase in the amount of wolves in this area which has resulted in way less deer encounters. I have seen a pack of 5 wolves at one time and there is wolf sign all over. In 2019 I sat in my stand for over 30 hours and saw 2 deer. On 2 occasions I saw wolf tracks in my tracks from the morning of the same day. I am a non-resident and if this isn't addressed, I will no longer purchase a license for 160.00 to see no deer, wolf tracks, and scat everywhere. The person I hunt with lives in Douglas County and is very concerned as he spends much time in the woods and has found multiple wolf kills of deer this past Winter. He is 67 years old and is very concerned. Please help keep our fun tradition alive.
Seen less deer during the rifle season. I seen one spike buck opening day. Half my family of ten will not shoot a yearling buck during gun season. I could every year shoot a buck opening day of gun. Less deer 2019 the rut was done. 2018 seen a buck every day no doe and had a doe tag. Fill my bow tag the last 2 years. Pass on small bucks to. End up shooting a smaller buck for meat getting closer to gun. I think that less bucks getting kill during rifle people are letting them walk. Less meat hunters now people want trophy. Bow hunted since 1969. Use a crossbow now. Older guys rather hunt when it's warm. Shoot a deer then go south for winter. I am not one of them because i do not have the money for a place down south.

The mismanagement of the Herd in Douglas County has been no secret. There was no reason to issue as many permits in the late 1990’s into the 2000’s. We continue to struggle to increase the Herd since then. 2006 forward has been a disaster on hunting there for 44 years. We need To ban antlerless deer hunting for years to come. Douglas County doesn't have a balanced eco system due to this. We need to open up more Bear permits by triple. Do that for 2-3 years. Also Open Wolf hunting up. If we could get about 200 wolf permits for the county for 2-3 years that would help. We need to continue not to issue any Doe tags for atleast 3 years. Maybe even transplant a few does from the metro units instead of hunting them. Just my opinion.

I live in Cloverand township, and I hunt exclusively on private land. There are does galore here, even after the severe winter we just had. There is not an abundance of bucks here. As an avid deer hunter, my wife and I love venison, and we make good use of any harvest I get. I would very much like to take a doe early in the season so I could spend the remainder of hunting for a mature buck. However, with no antlerless permit, I am forced to take the first buck I see, because it may be the only one I see all season. Therefore, I often end up taking a young buck to ensure I get some venison for the price of my license. The bucks in the area don't get a chance to mature because of the inability of hunters to take a doe for meat.

In stead of only worrying about the doe population maybe you should also worry about the buck population. It's hard to find a quality buck these days especially on public land when your trying to control the doe population. Most people want to get a deer and what's most likely a deer they'll see that the can shoot. It's going to be a year and a half old deer not allowing it to mature. Have you ever thought about a point restriction on bucks or not worrying about the money and not put so many hunters in the woods. maybe a draw for non residents or something. They call it the Orange army for a reason and they'll shoot anything they can and now you want to extend the season. that is crazy. Just my 2 cents.

Hunted in Maple, Brule, Poplar, Lake Nebagamon for over 50 years. Yes, I'm kind of an old guy. Own land in both Maple and Lk Nebag for a long time. If you are going to make this a bucks only area, then you MUST limit each hunter to ONE buck only whether it is xbow, regular bow or gun. Please listen to me...you are really hurting gun hunters if you don’t. I am so sick of seeing all these photos of beautiful bucks in numerous outdoor publications like Wisconsin Outdoor news of nice buck shot by bow/ x bow hunters. SAD that gun hunters have to endure that crap and see no bucks at all. Really time for a change in hunting in Wisconsin especially for the gun hunters....time to be pro gun hunter.

I have hunted in Dougals county for 19 years. I have seen more deer in the past 3 years then I have ever seen before. To not have any doe tags is ridiculous. You will majorly impact the number of tourist that would come hunt and provide money to the economy. Do not be foolish and give out a limited number of doe tags. Also with the dwindling hunter numbers to not allow a kid under the age of 16 to harvest a doe is just going to hurt us. We all know as season hunters it is hard to harvest a buck in Douglas county. These kids have many other options other than sitting out in the cold waiting for a buck. Let's give them a chance to harvest a deer no matter what the sex.
I drive 46 miles each way to work and back everyday, most of that travel is in Douglas county which I also live and hunt in, during the winter and summer alike I see many deer on the roads and my property, I can safely say the doe population in south western Douglas county is easily 12 to 15 to 1 does to bucks last fall during the months of Sep. through Nov driving everyday I saw one 6 pt buck, now that there is a crossbow season more people are hunting with them and by the time Nov hunting season shows they are either dead or spooked deep into the woods, I believe bow season should come first, then rifle, then crossbow to close the deer season out, just my thoughts.

Every year I sit in my stand for days hoping to see something I can shoot and since it has gone 'buck only' I haven't shot a deer. I haven't shot because I'm not seeing any bucks, just does. It makes it very frustrating to sit in the stand all day and not be able to put ANYTHING in my freezer because I have no antlers to shoot at. I'm highly discouraged and may not even bother doing the gun deer season this year. Why spend the money on a license to sit in my stand and freeze my tail off for nothing…. Also, my views on Junior antlerless hunting - let the kinds harvest does. Get them excited about hunting and being out in the woods with their family members.

Generally in the area South of Lake Nebagamon we have seen a significant increase in the deer population particularly this year indicating a highly successful bucks only program. There are so many does now that I rarely see a buck. I am surprised that there are enough happy bucks available to increase the overall population. Damage now to yard plants is so bad that all new growth is destroyed even plants like lilies, daffodils and hazelnut that are normally left alone are eaten to stubs. My opinion is that in this area there are far too many does and the bucks have been over harvested to the point where many hunter friends have given up on the hunt for now.

Although anecdotal, it seems that I am seeing larger numbers of antlerless deer year over year while I am hunting private lands in Douglas county. The group sizes seem to be increasing and the frequency of antlerless sightings to antlered sightings is going up. For example, last year during bow season, all the animals we saw were antlerless, that's maybe 50 to 75 animals in a couple weekends of hunting. My son was able to harvest a doe with his youth antlerless tag, which makes him want to hunt this year again. I may have missed it in the presentation, but I'm interested if the number of hunters is increasing, decreasing or staying the same in the county.

Many of my family live in Minnesota, they used to live in Wisconsin. The out of state license cost is destroying our family hunting - a history of more than 90 years. The next generation can not afford to hunt. Combine this with the 4th highest state in property taxes and it a sad story. We have a choice to fix and expand the deer shack or migrate to Minnesota. Currently the older hunters are for staying in Wisconsin, the younger ones that are still hunting vote for Minnesota. We are currently looking at property in northern Minnesota. Our younger hunters will come back in if we move, which will probably be the case. A 90 year tradition gone.

There should be antlerless permits available in Douglas county. Deer hunting is a friend and family affair and requires time, effort and expense. There should be an opportunity to harvest an antlerless deer to enjoy the bounty. Deer hunting in Douglas county is a hit or miss depending on the weather. It is still a challenge to harvest a fine animal. Not every year do you get the opportunity. In 2019 where I hunt we lost about half the rifle season due to weather. If permits are not available I might not hunt this year. It just might not be worth it to see a fine antlerless deer and not even have someone in our party being able to harvest it.

In the most recent years when a buck only season was implemented the seven hunters in our camp fired our guns zero times. During that time we saw the numbers of hunters sharply decline and the number of deer increase. There have been successive harvest declines as well as number of hunters/hunter days in the field all while from our perspective an increase in deer population. At this rate we will have no hunters left participating in the traditional gun season. I would recommend a buck only season for all non youth/traditional gun season hunters and a closing of all deer hunting for a short period of time before the traditional gun season.
the deer herd on the east side of Upper St Croix lake has increased greatly in the last few years. With no doe permits it continues to increase every year. People have reported seeing up to 50 deer along Engstad Road which is not all that long. I would rather see the doe numbers reduced by hunting where the deer are feeding people rather than having them herd up in people’s yards all winter being fed by those who feel sorry for them thus risking the chance of CWD. I feel no one at the dnr listens to those of us who have what we feel are valid concerns. Maybe the limits should be set by different areas, rather than for an entire large county!

I do not support 0 antlerless quota numbers for the 2020 season on public, but especially on private. With the recent pandemic unfolding now more than ever are citizens going to be forced to look to fill their freezers with the necessary game to provide for their families. While i understand some of the reasoning, making an exception or modifying the 3 year plan to increase deer population by one year should be evaluated. The true economic impact of this decision was not mentioned what so ever. Taking into consideration, tourism, small businesses that process game, etc., are going to need the support of anterless tags in our county.

The deer harvest in Douglas county in 2019 was DOWN 29% from the prior year. Hunter traffic (and local revenue) is down because of the lack of bucks. Selling doe permits like 5 cent candy is absolutely absurd. Furthermore, the wolves have had a significant effect on the deer population; wolves need to be harvested or the deer count will continue to decline, despite other efforts. As I see it, liberals (lack of wolf hunting) and insurance lobbyists have far too much influence on deer management. Hunters are discouraged and giving up going to northern Wisconsin to hunt because there are virtually no deer, and it gets worse every year.

At least some antlerless permits should be allowed. This gives some incentive to some more hunters or groups that may not participate if they don’t have this chance. A possible way to increase the herd also could be a season where you are only allowed one deer per hunter. This would apply for the entire season Possibly this could be done every other year. Also the season should be moved up a week not back a week, After the Thanksgiving weekend all deer hunting should be done. The deer don’t need more chasing during that winter season. Those extra days are not a traditional time which seems to be what a lot of people complain about.

We have to balance the heard better. If we aren’t going to issue any doe tags , then we can’t issue 2 buck tags ( 1 rifle and 1 bow ). One of these tags should be an either sex tag . That way meat hunters are more likely to kill a doe instead of 1.5 yr old buck . I want to see the heard grow . But the buck to doe ratio is out of wack . If we don’t issue any doe tags , theucks will continue to get slaughtered at a young age . States like ND issue each hunter 1 either sex tag and there heard structure is perfect and it grows . If we don’t do something like this than we have to get back to managing units instead of entire counties.

All the doe only hunts has really hurt the quality of bucks in the unit. Running 30+ cameras around 10’s of thousands of acres of public land and struggling to find a buck over 4.5 years old has started to be the normal in this unit and before we had 0 antlerless quota it was common to have 8+ bucks on camera over 4.5 years of age. The age structure of the population in my opinion has over loaded with young bucks and few if any making it to older age classes. I think this is due to hunters that would normally shot a doe and be happy with meat are now having to wait and end up shooting the first young buck they see.

Whereas I support the concept of providing preference to youth hunters for antlerless permits, I would like to see similar preference given to seniors. While it is important to try to engender a love of hunting in the younger generation, many of us seniors find it increasingly difficult to venture as far into the woods or drag deer long distances through the woods, yet we still enjoy the sport of hunting and the taste of venison. Extending the preference for antlerless permits to seniors where numbers of permits are limited would be a nice gesture of appreciation of their support for hunting over the years.
As a grandfather starting out two new hunters and not seeing any deer, it makes it difficult to compete with all of the phones and games they have today. My grandsons have had doe permits with the youth hunts, but I have not allowed them to harvest does because of the decline in the number of deer. When explained to them, they do understand. As a hunter, cross bow hunter, and a hunter of every form, I am tired of the attacks on the crossbow hunters. I am the driving force of our hunting group, and if this continues, I will end up quitting hunting, and that will most likely end the entire family's hunting.

I firmly believe that making all of Douglas county 1 Zone is the wrong management practice. The County is large enough to split up. I live in the northern part and we are covered up with does. There isn't a field I drive by in the morning or evening that doesn't contain multiple deer. There are fewer bucks, mostly because we are unable to harvest antlerless deer. We need to be able to open up doe tags in northern Douglas. If we continue as we have and even offer fewer antlerless tags the next normal winter will result in significant mortality. Please allow northern douglas county antlerless tags.

The deer survived this winter much better than I expected with the early snow. I have noticed quite a few small deer that survived the winter and were still in good shape. I recently counted 55 deer on a drive while scouting for turkeys in South East Douglas County. A couple of days before that I saw at least 70 deer on a scouting drive in the same area. I have hunted in this area for over 40 years and the deer herd has rebounded to reasonable numbers. We absolutely need to allow junior antler less deer harvest. We should have an overall antler less quota at least as big as last year.

To the Douglas County CDAC and the Wisconsin D-N-R; I would like to see hunters 80 years of age and older obtain a permit/tag to harvest an antlerless deer. It could be an extra tag offered for purchase with the hunting license or as a hunter’s choice on the deer license. Many senior hunters don't have the stamina nor the abilities of their youth to hunt deer as they have enjoyed for many years. PLEASE consider this option for those elderly hunters who still enjoy deer hunting, and especially, for those seniors with fixed incomes who need the venison to supplement their diet.

Any county/unit that has a 0 quota on antlerless deer means no antlerless deer should be taken by a youth or disabled hunter. A lot of antlerless deer that are harvested are not shot by the youth that carries the permit. This has gotten worse since the introduction of no minimum age requirements. Also, non-resident hunters should not be able to buy bonus tags in any unit that bonus tags are sold. Do away with non-resident first time hunters getting cheap deer hunting tags. The non-residents should pay at least double what they do now. Thank you for your time and considerations.

Antlerless tags in Douglas county should only allow a certain number of tags per hunter. Every year if you don’t buy a doe tag the day the tags go on sale, someone buys them all up. The impact that has is one area of the county has a lower population of doe and depending on where the DNR does research that can offset numbers. Some people I hunt with won’t even go up to Douglas county sometimes because if nobody has a doe tag their chances a buck in that area is so low its not worth the 5 hour trip we drive one way. Thank you for your time and consideration.

The deer population is about the same as the previous year. The amount of deer seen while traveling Douglas County seems to be spotty some deer observed in some areas and none in others. The number of buck rubs are also very spotty. In walking the clear cuts, after having a fairly large acorn harvest have observed many oak trees in the 3-6 foot height have observed NO browsing with many oak trees growing. I believe that where oaks have been observed as being browsed upon may be in deer yarding areas. I also do not believe that oak trees are a major browse feed for deer.
The amount of deer seen is a trick question being there are so few deer around east central Douglas county that seeing 3 or 4 deer in the several days hunted is now a big deal. Very very few deer around at this time. Our area has a serious predator problem that needs to be taken seriously and addressed immediately. Wolves, bears, coyotes need reductions in numbers now!! I realize the predator issues are not involved with CDAC but needs discussion and for once addressed. Zero quotas is a start to build the herd but still needs a boost from other angles to recover.

We are on increase from 2017 and we decreased for two years. No excuses, the DNR said there were 2,000,000 deer on the ground going into last season. Remember the model is only as good as the data put in. Too many wolves and other predators for the herd to grow. Please do the tough thing and don’t have any Antlerless tags, even for the youth. We all know the youth don’t shoot all there own deer. Please get the county split at 53. 5 deer per square mile west of 53 and more to the east of 53. Please don’t cave to those east of 53 like last year. Thanks for all you do!

I feel as a deer hunter and what I see during this time, there should be more wardens on patrol. A lot of unsafe practices with firearms and respect to the wildlife. I have seen it, almost got shot by someone running down the road shooting a deer with me in the firing path. I think that having an Antlerless season should be stopped for a few seasons, or really tightly regulated more. Also what we are seeing is with their habitat being changed from so much logging, we are not seeing the deer like we used to. Private land owners are having more of a success because of this.

This area has for many years been a great place to hunt and harvest deer. However over the last 4-5 years, there seems to be a mismanagement of this area as the deer harvest season has been very low compared to years before. Deer sightings, sign, and harvests have been continued to be low. There seems to be a large increase in predator pressure and much more sign of these predators than I’ve ever seen in the past. There should be an concentrated effort to get the deer population back to a sustainable level or I dont see why people would continue to hunt this area.

In the metro sub unit, other hunters I am in contact with through the season reported seeing significantly more deer than anytime since 2010. In fact, one hunter said he had the most exciting day in the woods in his life due to the amount of buck activity during the rut. I more bucks and does than I have seen in quite sometime. I think the antlerless tags are appropriate given how many does I saw on virtually all my hunts. The number of older, mature bucks is still not back to what it was in the past but they are there. A lot of 3 year old bucks walking around.

I sat for two full days on state property Brule forest during gun season and never saw one deer. There is plenty of wolf sign in the woods and very little deer sign. Something needs to be done with the wolves to bring the deer numbers up. I have plenty of wolf sign on my 40 acres also. I’m 62 years old and when I started hunting you did not get to shoot a doe you had to shoot a buck. If we have no doe permits for hunters over 16 why do we want to have the kids shoot does. It makes no scenes to me to have the kids shoot does. Dead deer is a dead no matter who kills it.

I think zero antlerless permits are a joke period. But if zero it should be zero for ALL thats private land and youth just because someone owns a piece of land they shouldn’t be able to dump a bag of corn to lure the deer off public land and let the kids shoot them. We are teaching our youth nothing about the sport of hunting when we let them sit in a tower over a corn pile and let them shoot does. We continue to make everthing easy for them so they just expect it lets get some programs that actually teach them something beside sitting on a corn pile.
2838 CDAC should not over react to hunter complaints about lower harvest in 2019. The reasons presented for the lower harvest are valid and data based. I run multiple trail cameras on public land throughout the year and numbers of deer on camera including bucks were as high or slightly higher than the previous 3 years. Cameras verified the cessation of buck movement beginning about 11/20/19. Deer numbers around my house on the southern edge of Douglas County continue to increase as evidence by sightings and increased damage to gardens and landscaping.

2839 I have spent a lot of time outdoors this late winter and early spring. There seems to be a decent number of deer in Douglas County. with the limited number of doe permits in recent years there is an imbalance in buck to doe ratios. The herd needs to be managed in such a way to correct this. I hunt Minnesota, and the area I hunt has sold tags that allow for the harvest of one deer, but the hunter choice of either buck or doe. Why not allow only one antlered deer, for either archery or gun seasons for those who hunt both seasons? Just a suggestion.

2840 I hate the fact organization s are protecting wolfs. They kill every thing and destroy wildlife. You really want to save deer numbers get rid of wolves. I hunt deer to provide meat for my family. When I can not get tags it puts an incredible strain on my ability to feed my family. It seems not a single organization task with wild life or wilderness cares about that. For years I have watched wolves move in to areas and destroy the deer population, only response is to limit tags. Wolves are the real problem, not responsible ethical hunters.

2841 I live in rural Douglas County, within a mile of my home there has been 5 deer killed by cars this spring. If you don't fence your garden, fruit trees, plants around the house the deer will eat them to the point of killing them. I can count at least 15 deer and a friend a few miles away has more to me this is over population of deer. Last season thru archery, gun and muzzle loader seasons I never did see a mature buck only spikes, if you go with only bucks the young bucks will never have a chance to mature. In closing we need to shot does.

2842 On 4 wheeler rides today April 22, 2020 we counted 44 deer in T43N - R112W Town of Wascott Douglas County Section 29. On this same day we counted 25 deer in Section 20 of T43N R 11W These were all different deer. We need many more doe tags available for this area for the upcoming season 2020 so we can harvest some venison. That is about 75 deer in one area of 300 acres and 300 acres across East Bondwood Rd. Near Bond Lake. We have deer in our yard, deer on our walks, deer everywhere. A zero antlerless quota is way off the mark!!

2843 If you’re going to have an antlerless quota you should notify license vendors and the general public of the antlerless application due date asap and also in multiple media outlets including radio internet tv and printed signs. I noticed that the news around my area of antlerless permit availability was not very known until it was too late. I feel that a quota would be good due to the fact it gives a potential new hunter a better opportunity to harvest a deer. Which will make that hunter want to continue to hunt in future seasons

2844 With regards to the general health of the deer heard and the trying times myself and my fellow hunter’s have faced this year I strongly believe that antlerless tags should be issued this year. While not all hunter’s rely on deer for sustenance, I believe that we could offset some of the financial hardship that we all have faced this year. I believe that a great solution for this would be one either sex tag issued to each hunter, that way trophy hunter’s could pursue trophy buck’s and sustenance hunter’s could stock their freezer.

2845 Eliminate Year Round Back Yard feeding. Turn Bowhunting back into Bowhunting, Crossbows should be for elderly and disabled ONLY, Modern Muzzle Loaders make it easy enough to harvest a deer for those who want one, (no need for X bows). Help turn hunting back to a family event. After a completing a Hunter Safety course a 12 year old or older can hunt with an adult for their first hunt, then it might stay in their heart for Life. Allowing a small child to hunt with dad because dad thinks it will make the baby a hunter is Wrong.
We need to let the deer regain a normal population. I’ve heard too many stories about the old days how there were so many deer. Let them go let them grow. You need both buck and doe to make fawn. People from Minnesota come over take deer and leave. And take deer from home. Maybe no visitors for a year or 2. I like having venison in the freezer but I like many people might not even go next year because it's so thin out there. I’ve heard stories and seen pictures. Things aren't the same. At all. And hope theres hope for them.

As a person that was raised and lived on a farm for many years I think about how we improved our herd. We did not kill off all the good bull caves and then kill our best bred bull to get a very good strong herd. This seems to be what we are doing with the deer herd by having a bucks only season. Soon we will have only small deer and not a healthy herd coming up. I have noticed that last years fawns are smaller than what we had several years before. I have also noticed fewer bucks small and large as body wise not rack.

I have hunted in this area for 32 years and agree with a zero quota for antlerless deer for the 2020 season, except that Junior antlerless tags should be valid to allow younger hunters a chance to harvest a deer and become involved with the sport. 2018 was a decent year for hunting. 2019 was way worse in terms of deer sightings and harvest. The amount of predator sign (wolves) was also more prevalent in the areas we hunt in 2019. The early onset of winter with deep snow in my opinion drastically impacted the herd yet again.

1, I feel the doe tags should not be a "bonus" deer, rather a hunters choice of either harvesting 1 buck OR 1 doe. 2, I feel that issuing all youths a doe tag is being abused by adults, and they should be included in the lottery. 3, I also believe the current lax harvest registration is too easily abused. 4, Finally, the season is held too late after the rut. The three weeks prior to the firearm season i saw many bucks at all hours of the day. During the nine day season not a single buck was seen. last year was similar.

The deer population still seems very low. I see very few does on the pipeline or logging roads or on bowstand or on my own property. I also have seen a trend with the youth hunt...im actually seeing all adults out and not seeing any youth with them. It appears to have turned into a ‘poachers’ hunt. I was all for the kids to have a chance to be out there in a safer more nature focused environment. And i saw that for a few years. Now i see groups of middle aged men out in the woods with rifles and no youth present.

I feel that the way the doe permit sales are now are very unfair as many of us older folks don’t have the means to get on the computer, and print the info and licenses. we face a real neglect by the DNR of fair treatment . my wife has not been able to hunt because of this and i think if you take a deer by any means that ought to be the only deer of the season, also bucks need to be put at 4 point to preserve a good ratio of bucks to does. we need to be able to purchase doe licenses over the counter for it to be fair.

I am concerned by the lack of regulations when harvesting, tagging, and reporting a deer. My father and I both received the bonus antlerless hunting permit but neither of us harvested a deer. Same issue with many of my surrounding neighbors - no deer harvested. I don’t believe the numbers are even close to accurate. I believe strongly in the Youth Hunt but I believe parents are shooting and using their children’s tags for themselves. There is a lot of illegal hunting and not nearly enough regulating. Feeling hopeless.

I hunted 3 days opener through Monday. I saw no deer in the woods. I saw 6 wolves. 5 bobcats,. Lots of coyotes. Areas that I have hunted for years there was very little deer sign. Even with snow during the week I found no beds and very few tracks of deer. I have brought my boys hunting with me over the years and one has been hunting for 10 years and has never had a good opportunity to shoot a deer. My youth Hunter has came along with no gun the last couple of yrs and is frustrated we have not seen deer.
After hunting in Douglas county for over 30 years and seeing these proposals it breaks my heart. As an out of state land owner that likes to deer hunt in Wisconsin this has me reconsidering whether I will buy a license or not for 2020. I see areas east of Bennett that are loaded with wolf sign that once held many deer and The deer are no longer there. I fear that hunting regulations lately are geared to reducing participation and opportunities of the sport much like the fishing regs have done in the near past.

I think there should be some antlerless permits for Douglas county. I have seen as many deer this year as I have in the past few years. I have owned and hunted on my property for the last 5 years and have seen no noticeable decline in the deer population. I would ask that you reconsider allowing bonus permits on private property! I would also like to see you split bow season off as a separate section when it comes to deciding on antlerless permits, and or allowing a choice of either sex for the bow season.

We need to stop allowing the recreational feeding of deer in Wisconsin to avoid the irreversible consequences of CWD. Additionally, the rule of allowing feeding where the ‘posted speed limit is 55 or greater’ allows people to feed deer where the default speed limit is 55. Speed limits are 55 where not posted. We hit a lot of deer due to people feeding and we’re going to lose our pastime by spreading CWD. Feeding deer doesn’t help the deer or the herd. It is selfish, ignorant and very short sighted.

There are too many does in this county and I hear this from my friends and neighbors. I’m sick of people poaching does because you won’t let them harvest them. I have almost nothing but does on my game cameras and it took me ten days to get a spike buck last year. I didn’t want to shoot it, but it was the only buck I saw. Selective harvest needs to be employed regarding these does. I see tons of them dead on the side of the road. These are wasted on the crows and should be taken by responsible hunters.

The wolves where I hunt are rising as I witnessed 9 wolves running in front of my deer stand last gun season. I haven’t seen 9 deer on my stand in almost 10 years. Also, as a father with a next generation hunter, it would be hard to invest the time, effort and hard earned money to keep up with this downhill trend. Over the last 2 decades I have witnessed a steady decline in herd activity where I hunt. Our trail cams have been steadily producing more and more predators every year to back up this info.

Tons of does on my private land and all surrounding lands. Absolutely no reason not to be able to harvest does. During deer season people harvest tons of small 1 2 year old dear. Just to shoot something. Thus no nice bucks are ever available. Just take a ride up highway 13 east of superior and tell me how many does you count in the fields! Easily over 70 every day in a 10 mile stretch. Just the ones you can see!! Cmon some doe tags, especially to land owners need to be made available!

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A zero quota is ridiculous. There are deer in the county and hunters should have a chance to harvest an antlerless deer. It is better to harvest some and keep the population in balance then have them die in a bad winter. That is irresponsible. I believe the council should be using science rather than just conjecture or preconceived notions to manage deer numbers. The quota should be at least like 2019 if not higher. What are you saving them for? A quota is not going to wipe out the deer.

Opening day. In my chair 730 am. I heard a wolf howl. Thought it strange as it was daylight. Heard howl again but, closer. Then heard another wolf howl, getting closer. After a few minutes many wolves were howling. It seemed that they were about 75 yards away. I left the area as if wolves were there, no deer would be there, On my way around the section I saw two wolves heading toward the other wolves as they crossed the road. I left the area and will not go there next year, if I even hunt.
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>2863</td>
<td>There are too many wolves. Our group sighted 7 different wolves. All on public land. We also harvested zero bucks. We have a large group (ranging from 5-20 guys, about 25 different hunters in all) and we hunt hard all day - we do a lot of deer drives. The previous year we harvested about 7-10 bucks. And the year before was even better. Most hunters went the entire year without seeing a buck. It seems to me that the wolf and predator population is a greater problem than many people realize.</td>
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<td>2864</td>
<td>I think baiting needs to end. To much corn out there deer do not have to move. See more deer during bow season than than gun season and start and there is nothing and the only thing I see that change is gun hunters and more corn. Also the wolves are taking a lot of dear. Bears are also taking look of fawns. First twenty years of hunting you had to go to a dump to see a bear and never did see one know you see than all the time. I think the bear population is also to high along with the wolves.</td>
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<td>2865</td>
<td>I do not believe in the youth hunt and if it brings in additional hunters. I think it should be eliminated. With high predator populations and deep snow, I believe we should limit antlerless harvest in the county. In particular in the southwestern part of the county. Unless and until there is more predator management or a succession of very mild, low snow winters, I do not think we should harvest antlerless deer. Thanks so much! Appreciate the work of the committee.</td>
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<td>2866</td>
<td>Way too many does in the area I hunt. I have seen as many as 30 deer at one time in the area I hunt. I hunt in the Lake Nebagamon area. Please consider doe permits for at least this area. The deer are so bad now that the eat everything. The never used to eat rhubarb but now do. The rip up apple trees. They even try to eat the plastic flowers we put out. They over browse the forests. They are a pain in the butt and taste great so its a win win if we could thin them out a little.</td>
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<td>2867</td>
<td>I strongly believe that antlerless harvest permits should be issued to the general public this coming season. I believe we should have an increased quota over last year as it seems the deer population is rising in many areas of the county. The people that hunt Douglas County clearly want to shoot antlerless deer as shown by the quick sellout of permits. It should also be taken into account that if no permits are issued antlerless deer may still be killed only without a permit.</td>
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<td>2868</td>
<td>Over the past 5 years I have seen a steady increase in the Wolf population, to the point of seeing more wolves than deer. The wolf population in Wisconsin is becoming out of control. Your numbers on the population are way under estimated to say the least. These animals kill for just plain killing. They deviate deer populations wherever they are. Trail cam by a wolf den, 31 fawns in 26 days, really? The population will never rebound unless something is done about the wolves.</td>
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<td>2869</td>
<td>Deer still are no where near as plentiful as when they were horribly mismanaged by the DNR in the 2000’s. After the biggest Winter kill of deer back then, they issued doe permits. Where we hunt I personally saw 7 dead doe in the woods by hunters. Huge mistake, been downhill ever since. We even left to try and find other spots in Northern WI with more deer. NO doe permits until numbers get back up there and then do it to prevent big Winter kill in a bad Winter. Thanks!</td>
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<td>2870</td>
<td>Foresters always state we have too many deer and they cause browse damage. I find this very hard to believe. We have not been able to find ANY validity or examples of damage done to our woods. Total BS. What is the County’s Agenda here? Why do they NOT want deer? I had about 40 acres that were flooded out because of Beavers. Almost all the trees were killed. These were mature tree’s, DEAD, not browse damaged. I think the Beavers are doing much more damage than the deer.</td>
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<td>2871</td>
<td>I am sure like many DMU’s there are pockets of deer. Where I have been hunting their is an abundance of deer. It is common to see 8-15 deer per day. Sometimes they are traveling in groups of 5-7 deer, so I’m not seeing the same deer multiple times. I know many people that will not shoot a doe or a small buck anymore. They don't eat the meat, so the complain that because they don't see a bug buck that deer numbers are down. My cameras tell a different story!</td>
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I hunted Douglas county with my son for the youth hunt, by myself for bow and rifle season and I counted over 50 doe versus the 4 bucks I saw from my stand and blind. My mother lives in Douglas county and has on average 20 antlerless deer in her yard daily. From my trail cameras and physical sightings I would say there is not a shortage of antlerless deer in Douglas county and anterless permits should be available the same way they have in the last few years.

Hunting number are way down in this unit. Not ouch pressure like there used to be. The weather was not good for the 19 season so that was a factor in harvest. Junior tags need to be valid in Douglas regardless of doe harvest. Should issue bounus tags on public to keep people hunting! We need to encourage youth and in general hunting back the way it was. Wolves are not helping this situation. People are not coming which is why less deer harvested!

Why is it when you talk about deer population it's only about the doe population and tags. What about the bucks? There getting slaughtered because of the lack of doe tags. It's hard to find a mature buck and getting worse every year. Why don't you also put a point restriction on the bucks or limit the amount of non tax payers coming up and shooting all the deer. It used to be a great place to hunt with a lot of quality deer. In my opinion its miss managed.

I live @ 20 south of the city of Superior. We hunt private land in Metro Unit 1. I have seen a large number of antlerless deer throughout the fall of 2019, the winter of 2019/20, and now the spring of 2020 both where I live, and around our hunting property. I notice dead deer on many roads, and have had close calls avoiding some while driving. I drive a motorcycle as well as a pickup truck, and don't like all the deer I see on and near the roads I travel.

Please, please, please bring back the party permit to control antlerless deer. I believe this is a better way to control the number of antlerless deer we have, therefore easier to manage. The estimates by the DNR of how many deer that are in Douglas county have not been consistent with what we see during the summer and fall, for years! Whatever there means of taking populations, it has to get better. Also, take the wolves off the protection list.

Having deer hunted in Douglas county for over 35 years, I’m in total support of BUCKS ONLY for the 2020 season. The deer herd is not where it should be and needs to be grown. Having spoke with over twenty die hard hunters in the area that I’ve known for years, this is the unanimous opinion of the group. We would all sacrifice the opportunity of harvesting a doe in 2020 if it meant helping the long term goal of increasing the herd for future hunters.

Douglas County has somewhat of a predator problem. My family and neighbors are always on alert and don’t let young children out alone and walk with others (Some packing protection). You can tell when they’re around as Deer somewhat disappear. Deer fairly healthy looking. Need to break county DMU. Northern agricultural land (What’s left), has plenty of deer. I sympathize with the Southwest part of the County. Maybe transfer some within the County.

I like the way things have been going. I see , 3_4 deer when I am hunting. The way I hunt, I will always see deer. , But of course day bucks is another subject. Whether we kill 500 does per season or 10 does doesn't make any difference. I have many years of experience under my belt @ priviely would like to give a very strong @ factual opinion to the state of wis. On there proposal of no baiting. Coming from years of baiting @ not baiting.

I am dismayed that the CDAC largely ignored the best data available provided by the DNR biologists and instead relied on a series of anecdotes. It was clear that some of the CDAC members had either not seen the biologist’s presentation or had not understood it. A junior antlerless quota makes no sense to me. It seems counter to raising the deer population. Cross-bows seem to be almost as lethal as rifles. They should be classified as such.
I have hunted this area for many years and seen the population drop dramatically over the last several. We used to never see or hear wolves but they have moved into the area last 20 years or so. Too much clear cut logging in Douglas County. Although it provides new growth it eliminates safety habitat and likely increases poaching chances. Bear hunters are a pain during bow season and trespass, drive recklessly and are generally rude.

I feed deer from snow till good grass, 4 yrs ago I had 11 deer come regularly up to 15 at times, 3 yrs to present 3 up to 7 come. They are a mixed bag big bucks to yearlings, none of which were over 120 lbs, therefore I have killed no deer in the past 2 years. This year the bunnies, mice and deer decimated my forest, 75% of the deciduous saplings are dead now from bark stripping, 3' off the ground. That's my words for the birds today!

In my opinion the doe numbers are way too high! So many people complain about not seeing many bucks. The buck to doe ratio is out of balance resulting in very little buck movement. Combined with so many hunters wanting to get "their buck" and not harvesting does. States with lots of bucks and lots of trophy bucks also protect the young bucks. If I remember correctly in Missouri bucks need to have at least 3 legal points on one side.

I think the longterm issue will be encouraging people to hunt. I hunted 7 days (two gun,4 bow) on public land and saw no other hunters in the woods other than our party of three. Every year we see less and less hunters. We hunt out of Solon off Pierce road. With no antlerless permits I have less incentive to hunt. I hunt deer for the camaraderie of camp life, the joy of being out in nature and because I really, really like venison.

Seeing lots of deer this spring, seems like end of winter was mild and survival rate near me was good. Have 3 sons, trying to get them into hunting and fishing and need to have success early to “catch the fever” and become lifelong hunters. Competing with technology is hard to do so I feel giving junior deer and turkey tags to youth is key to keeping the next generation outdoors and not staring at a screen all day long. Thank you

There’s more wolves and because of that less deer to hunt Something needs to be done about wolves before you start shutting down seasons Seen more does then bucks in Douglas county And very small amount of tags available for does When first started hunting brule River State Park Roads were filled with hunters Wolves came in know no one hunts there Need to fix problem with wolves and deer will return Not shut seasons down

I am very lucky in that, I have two adult sons who still hunt with me. They started hunting when they were 12, to me, it is very important to keep the youth involved. I still teach Hunters Ed and have done so for the past 28 years. It is very important to get these young folks involved in hunting. If no antlers tags were issued, I believe it is still important to provide an opportunity for a young person to harvest a deer.

I have been hunting this property since 1993 both public and private and seen a lot of swings and population over the years. There are so many factors obviously that influence, like logging, wolf packs, winter. I’m encouraged and supportive of these efforts. My only other comment is, stop the proliferation of deer farms. This state's "business friendly" climate at the expense of natural resources has got to be examined.

We are finally getting the deer populations back up, my fear is that they will issue to many antlerless permits in the future like the did in the past, unlimited, and it’s taken years to recover. Wolf and bear predation is also a problem, perhaps a few more bear tags, and I hope the State will get control of the wolf population from the Federal Govt. and reinstate a wolf season. Finally, good presentation, lots of info.
Based in actual hours per day hunting out in the field (9 hrs), the sighting of deer was one to include Zero bucks. The habit is sufficient to support considerably more deer. Natural predation seems to be high, along with nocturnal movement, may account for these results. Other factors may be residents or others providing feed influencing their movement. (Speculation). Area hunted was private forest land open to the public.

If this unit is to be buck only, it must also apply to the tribal hunting as well. Some areas are being over hunted due to the length and set up of the tribal season. Changes and harvest amounts need to be made to secure future herd quantity/quality. Deer I hunt are skittish and nocturnal by October due to being shot at with guns due to the structure of the tribal season. Makes hunting without bait nearly impossible.

Douglas county has a serious deer predator problem combined with multiple harsh winters. I've been hunting public land for 25 years in this area and this last year was one of the top three worst we've ever had hunting. I agree completely with the zero doe permits for these areas. We need to control our predators also to increase the deer population. There are as many bears and wolves on trail cameras as there are deer.

I have never seen so many Does in the areas of Gordon to minong and over to dairyland. Driving around dark its not uncommon to see 100 deer in a couple square miles just on the side of the roads. All of them are Does and Fawns. This has significantly reduced bucks and the over pressure has pushed bucks out making it harder to harvest antlered deer. There has to be some Doe tags issued to limit this population growth.

I still believe that you will never be able to get the deer herd back to where it should be until you get the Wolf numbers down where they need to be. Hopefully we can get someone to pull there head out of the sand and tell us what the real number of Wolves is up in this area and not the number they want us to think there is. I am starting to believe that there is more wolves in some of the areas then there are Deer.

I believe we should change the gun deer season dates. I would prefer a system similar to what MN does. They have the season opener earlier in Nov. This would give us a season more closely to the deer rutting season. We could have a longer season date of say 18 days which you would choose the 9 you wish to hunt. Few hunt on Thanksgiving day and usually after that up north the weather is too miserable to hunt.

I have hunted this area for 40 years. I hunt both the bow season on private land and the rifle season on public and private land. My observations of deer were very low during both seasons. I hunted the first eight days of the rifle season and only saw deer on the opening day. Many in my party of ten hunters saw 0 deer for the rifle season. This is the lowest number of sightings I have has since the early 80's.

I saw more wolves than deer, yet again this season. I know it's a federal problem, but until we get the predators under control, the deer will never rebound. please keep the crossbow season as it currently is. Hunter numbers are declining enough already. Don't pit hunter against hunter. As long as people are out hunting legally and ethically, it shouldn't matter the weapon of choice. Thank you for what you all do.

The wolf population is out of hand, also I believe that the old style of registering you harvest was better and kept more un ethical hunters honest. I also believe that due to the electronic registration process there are actually more deer harvested than reported. Just my two cents. I also only crossbow hunt in early November and would like to continue to do so, please don't change the season structure.

During the 1,000 hours I spend in the field annually, I have seen ample deer numbers that are affecting regeneration of oak, jack pine, white pine, and other hardwood and conifer species. I saw plenty of small bucks and does, especially in oak cover types and I passed on numerous forks. I would like to see more larger bucks and I don’t think that increasing the herd quantity increases the herd quality.

Four of us have hunted SE Douglas co. (Cheever rd area) for decades. We are dawn to dusk hunters. We have not seen an increase in population reflected in the harvest totals over the last 5 years. I would be happy to see buck only seasons until the deer numbers rise. The only exception to this should be to allow youth hunters to take a doe as youth interest in hunting is so important for the future.
Deer density varies widely through Douglas County. Big public woods numbers are very low compared to private land habitat close to roads. Agricultural land, food plots, feeding and predator suppression result in higher deer numbers. I believe a significant number of deer harvested in Douglas County are shoot over bait on private land. Big woods public land deer numbers are down significantly.

COVID-19 is putting financial pressure on all. Meat costs are going to increase. Give hunters a legal chance to feed their family. Allow COVID tag option. If beef prices at SuperOne increase by more than 15% over last year, allow every buck tag to become buck or doe in Douglas. Give me a chance to fill the freezer. If it is buck only, it might be better for me not to hunt at all this year.

The idea of allowing zero authorizations is ludicrous! All we see on cameras are antlerless deer. The idea that we won’t have an opportunity to harvest deer on our own property is extremely frustrating. Who cares if we have a huge population of deer if they are all the size of large dogs and we can’t shoot them anyways. Maybe strive to improve the overall quality instead of the quantity.

Living on the land I hunt, I do not feel that the WDNR is taking predation seriously. The amount of wolves in northern Douglas county is under-reported and has grown substantially in the past 5yrs. Their impact on the deer population and on other animal life has been very noticeable. Something more needs to be done to control the rapid growth of the wolf population in NW Wisconsin.

We will continue to struggle with trying to increase our deer herd if we don’t finally realize our predator numbers must be reduced. Our deer herd and keeping our young hunters interested. How about we error on the plus size of our deer herd numbers. Now that would be something new. Less predators means we could enjoy our hunt again. Is that asking too much for our young hunters.

Why have the biologists spend his time and my $$ putting together a recommendation and then the CDAC morons don’t even take into consideration what the biologists has said go by his recommendation. The biologists has been doing this for over 20 years. Also how about a landowner who has 80 plus acres and is not able to harvest an antlerless animal on his own property this sucks !!!

To have a healthy deer herd the predators need to be managed. Hunters are managed by the number of tags that are available. What is out of balance is the bear and wolf population. Way to many bear killing fawns in the spring and early summer. Put out more bear tags! Also the wolves need to be managed. A large portion of the wolf population is is the northern third of Wisconsin.

no doe tags again for the average hunter in seven years it will be four years with no tags and three years that i believe were 600,then 1200 ,then 800 totaling 2600 all of which sold out in a extremely short amount of time which tells me people want them i think people are tired of watching deer they cant shoot and the buck to doe ratio is getting way out of balance

I commute from southern Douglas county to Superior daily. I see multiple deer daily. Most of the deer I see are mid to southern parts of Douglas county. I have had damage to my vehicles from deer collisions. I also have several "near misses" each summer while on my motorcycle. I believe the deer population is too high, especially in southern Douglas county. Thank you

Having both bow and crossbow hunts prior to the gun deer and muzzleloader seasons is resulting in a reduction of overall deer seen (especially bucks in the 2 to 4 year old range) during the gun/ muzzleloader season. Suggest shortening bow / crossbow seasons to limit harvest, or combining muzzleloader with crossbow / bow season and calling it primitive weapon season.

Since the introduction of wolves to the Brule River State Forest, there has been a steep decline in the number of deer in the region along the Jersett Rd. No recovery has taken place. Deer sightings have gone from 6-8 per day to 0-2 per week. This happened as fast as you can flip on a light switch. Deer trails that have existed for decades have completely disappeared.
I have been out Turkey hunting and scouting over the past several weeks in Douglas Co. I have been seeing a great number of deer and wolf sign at almost every stop, have seen 3 different wolves in different locations. I believe we need to up the doe harvest but also control the wolf population. Does the DNR even have a clue about the wolf population in Douglas Co.???

First. Stop the late season doe hunts!!! You cant even hunt bucks during the archery late season because they have lost thier antlers to early. I have multiple bucks on multiple properties losing their antlers before or during the doe only seasons. Stop the junior hunting seasons. People still like to bow hunt. Now it seems every weekend is some sort of gun hunt.

I seen more deer last deer season then in the last ten or so seasons. I've said it before and I'll say it again. BAN baiting and we will all see more deer. More natural movement. Take a ride in the evening and you will see plenty of deer all over this county. Please leave the doe tags at about last years level. Give more people the opportunity to harvest a DEER.

I would like to see 0 antlerless quota in Douglas county. No junior either. Need to split county from 53 east. Need to get our legislative people to get wolves numbers down. We have been in a increase for 2 years and had antlerless tags and the kill has decreased. If we are going by statistics than it should be a no brainer to have zero tags across the board.

I have owned cabins in the county for over 40 years. The timber harvest the last 10 years has encouraged new growth and helped the deer population. I return each fall to hunt deer with bow and arrow. Seems to me the herd is growing. I have seen more bucks over the past 5 years. I believe the management of forest areas is on the right track. Thank you.

I own 120 acres in the cloverland and we have about 3-4 doe's for every buck and of the limited bucks few are mature deer (based on trail cameras and stand hours over the previous years). We do not have a healthy balance in the deer herds in that area. We see more and more doe's each year and less and less bucks with each year of buck only licencing.

appear to be a lot of road kill this Spring which suggests that the population may be higher than expected. Very heavy snowfall early this winter suggested a high level of winter kill, but Spring observations of deer in my neighborhood show no impact. There are a lot of deer with the same family groups around now as last fall, no losses observed.

In my observations, there are many does on private land. There are few bucks. I have seen farmers fields filled with 75 deer with 95% of them being does. I do not know how farmers in the country in Douglas County can even bring in any crops after the deer are done feasting. I own property and the deer (once again, mostly does) are over browsing it.

1. Science & research should weigh heavily on decisions (not politicians). 2. Children are the foundation/future of hunting in Wisconsin. Absolutely need to keep antlerless harvest open for kids. How can you truely love this sport and not give kids the option for early harvest. 3. Baiting deer is not natural to our habitat. Please stop baiting

Over the past decade and a half, the total number of deer (buck and doe) observed from an elevated tree stand throughout the entire 9 day deer gun season has been fewer and fewer; however, the predator tracks left in the snow (weather permitting) has been on the increase in the area of Douglas County closest to the town of Barnes (Bayfield county).

I am 67 years old and have been an avid deer hunter in the northern forest zone since I was 13, particularly in Douglas and Bayfield counties. There are two ongoing/major problems in these two counties:  * Excessive logging.  * Baiting. The deer populations will never fully recover until the Wisconsin DNR moves to control these two problems.
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<td>2924</td>
<td>I would like to see a rifle season with an earlier opener. I understand the, “Thanksgiving” tradition but deer hunting is the tradition and regardless of the season start date, the heartburn over an earlier start would soon be forgotten. Possible start the 2nd Saturday in November and extend the rifle season to the Sunday after Thanksgiving.</td>
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<td>2925</td>
<td>I work as a deputy with the Sheriff’s Dept., patrolling approximately 150 miles/day, and also run approximately 25 trail cameras 10 months a year. Based on daily observations, the deer numbers are recovering in some areas such as NE Douglas but areas with heavy wolf and bear populations such as SW part of the county seem to still struggle.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2926</td>
<td>Although i can’t speak for all of douglas county the deer numbers along the western half are low as i have seen. The 2019 deer season was the fewest deer i can ever remember seeing during any of the past deer hunting season. I contribute this to over harvest on antlerless deer high number of predators and a couple of severe extended winters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2927</td>
<td>For the first time in the 15 years I've saw 4 different wolves in the 9 day rifle gun season and bow season saw bear and 3 Cubs, bar and 2 Cubs and 1 lone bear thinking that was a Male in 21 days of bow season. My hunting season both bow and gun I saw 2 deer both females. I've never had a hunting season like 2019, I'm not a happy hunter!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2928</td>
<td>I am very concerned about the idea of no antlerless permits being issued. All I see are does along the road. It’s almost impossible to find bucks anywhere. You’ve more than shown your lack of concern with people being able to provide food especially in a time like this. All this will accomplish is deer getting killed and not registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2929</td>
<td>I agree with the CDAC that this DMU needs to be adjusted to have at least 2 different units. Farmland/private, or County/public land. To many antlerless deer, Young bucks and Does have been harvested over the last 12 years on the public land that I hunt. That factor along with predation has had a negative result on the deer herd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2930</td>
<td>Every evening we see between 15 and 25 deer in our 20 acre parcel as part of our 300 acres. Many deer. Possibly 30 to 40 in our half square mile. Motley does. We need more doe tags. I think land owners should get a doe tag. Much to eat. Clear cut poplar. Clear cut oak. New sprouts. Grass. Buds. Oak brush from stumps after cut over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2931</td>
<td>The wolves need to be taken off the endangered list and hunted. Not to such low numbers to endanger them again but controlled. There are pictures of six wolves in one trail camera picture in Douglas county. SIX! That’s just one camera. How many others have similar pictures. Every year they go un checked the more we see of that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2932</td>
<td>I believe issuing 0 antlerless permits for Douglas Co. is a mistake. The overwhelming factor leading to the reduced deer harvest in 2019 was the weather. I saw a large number of deer come into my stand before the storm hit. I would hate to see an outbreak of CWD in Douglas County due to overpopulation in the upcoming years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2933</td>
<td>There are to many wolves in the Gordon and Solon Springs area where I hunt. There needs to be a season for them soon because I have already seen a few carcasses ripped apart from wolves and tracks all over our property. Wolves are becoming a serious problem to the deer herd in Douglas county. Please think about this. Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2934</td>
<td>There are too many predators making an impact on the overall deer population than hunters are. Since governmental regulation and lottery tags prohibit predator seasons or severely limit the number of predators than can be killed, the only other alternative is to limit the tags issued to hunters in order to grow the herd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2935</td>
<td>I am frequently in the wood and driving many of the roads in Douglas County and the actual visual evidence this Spring does not support a zero antlerless recommendation. Quite honestly I have never seen more deer than I am seeing this Spring. That is also the observation of many people I know who live in Douglas County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2936</td>
<td>Make sure in the future not to give out so many tags when the population is good. Keep it reasonable, or it will drop to the point where you will be giving out 0 tags. It is really hard on hunters to propose 0 tags. Have more frequent short surveys on deer sightings, throughout the year. So that you don’t propose 0 tags.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many deer do you need in this unit?? Increase the number of antlerless tags. There are far too many deer in this area. It seems like the management by county system is broken - too many deer in one part and too few in another - all in the same county. I believe we have moved backwards in deer management in Wisconsin.

I've hunted Douglas county for 3 yrs now, I see a lot of does in this area. It gets frustrating that Wisconsin late start (after the rut) to try to get a buck. Any chance you can start the season earlier like Minnesota? Maybe the years that you don't have antler less tags, you could start the buck season earlier. Thanks

Hunting in South Range area of NW Wisconsin, it's not a problem seeing deer where we are, it would be the lack of buck deer sightings. Either the ratio is completely skewed, or most bucks are not getting a chance to mature, or are dying off after the rut is over. It has been this way in this area for at least 15 years.

should increase slightly antlerless tags back to 2019 totals. In many places I see an increase of deer numbers. Mostly in more southern part of county where big swamps are numbers are down. Wish a way to divide county better to help control densities. Within 20-25 miles of Superior deer seem to be in very numbers.

In Ofer to increase the herd junior antlerless harvest should not be happening. I would bet a high percentage of the junior antlerless deer are harvested by someone other than the junior tag holder. The free antlerless tag that accompanies a junior license should not be allowed to be filled in a bucks only county.

to have a recommended antlerless number of 0 is way to low. I drove down a 3.3 mile road where we hunt public land last Saturday and counted 64 deer. People have to actually spend time in the woods if they want to harvest a deer. Last year by 12 on Sunday, everyone had called it a season. Saturday was terrible.

I agree with the buck only idea even though I have a lot of antler less deer in my specific area, Poplar. I know a lot of fellow hunters in Douglas County that don't see the numbers I do. I would also like to see a buck point minimum in coming years to boost mature buck population, say a 6pt or more restriction.

I'd like to see a minimum size requirement for the antlered harvest. Douglas produces very few large bucks these days. A minimum size requirement would increase both quantity and quality of deer in Douglas. Also, the crossbow harvest has gotten too large in my opinion. The crossbow season needs to be shortened.

Our group of older hunters have started crossbow hunting have ready enjoyed it. The weather and less hunters have made this a option that we have started, which otherwise was starting to end. This helps the local businesses at this time of year, please Do Not End Crossbow Hunting at the End of October. Thanks.

Need to worry on getting rid of wolves before you try to bring deer heard up. Need to get wolf numbers down and deer heard will grow. We had buck only for last 3 years with very little doe tags available. Bucks are hard to come by in Douglas county last few years. Just looking for non-resident license money.

Zero antlerless quota is exactly what we need to increase the amount of deer in Douglas County. I am very appreciative of the Douglas County biologist action and recommendation to help restore deer numbers. Furthermore, we need a much higher wolf harvest and bear harvest to help restore the deer numbers.

No antleress hunting for at least 3 yrs, then reviewed. WHAY to many predators! Harsh winters! plenty of browse and clearcuts. YOU the dnr just have to give the herd a chance to rebound! Quit the war on antleress deer! You want more hunters out there put a better product out there.

There are too many wolves. The DNR should focus on live trapping them and relocate them to Madison so that our high population areas can enjoy them. When they are gone, you can start on coyotes next, then move on to bears. There is a reason Grandpa killed all the wolves. Grandpa was smarter than you.

opening day had wolves to the west of me in the morning and wolves to the west of me in the evening. Too many bear hunters running dogs all fall. the dogs woke me many mornings. the deer don't like the domestic or the wild dogs you released. there must be deer near me because thats what the wolves eat.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2951</td>
<td>I think it's a good plan to have 0 zero, doe tags available with the exception to junior deer hunters for 2020 season. The does need to be left alone until deer population in northern WI forest is higher, also believe northern WI has too many wolves and other deer predators at this time. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2952</td>
<td>I bought 80 acres of forest land this year and could not believe how few deer I have using my property. I am working on providing better food sources, but would very much like to see an increase in the deer population in the area. I moved here from southern Minnesota, tons of deer down there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2953</td>
<td>With the deer numbers being so low compared to the past, I think there should be increased tags for bear hunters, more bobcat trapping tags, and opening a hunting season on wolves. Also stop the hunting of does entirely until herd numbers get back to levels that bring hunters back to hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2954</td>
<td>Went I go driving and glassing the fields for deer on private land areas, I saw over 500 deer and only 30 of them were antlered deer. I believe there is almost an overabundance of antlerless deer in comparison of antlered deer. I would like to see more doe tags for the private land areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2955</td>
<td>We work very hard to provide for the deer on our property. We saw more deer last year than many years prior. We hunt for meat and are not horn hunters so for us it's a question of weather to make the 6 hour drive to our land or just pass on the deer season which we have done in the past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2956</td>
<td>I found 3 times in less than 12 months where Wolves had killed deer on 60 acres. Wolves are the problem!!!!!!! If we don't get control of the Wolves in Douglas county the deer will be gone. I sat all day Saturday and Sunday of opening weekend 2 years in a row without seeing a deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2957</td>
<td>In the past 3 years I have not seen an antlered deer within 3 miles of my property. This includes trail cams as well as daily driving on the roads surrounding it. It's hard to increase a population when the dies aren't being bred because there isn't any bucks around to breed them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2958</td>
<td>Doe bonus tags not being given out is very sad, the deer population is healthy like Bayfield Co. Yet we vary greatly, not allowing for doe tags limits successful harvests &amp; impacts our youth's experience in a negative way which will impact the sport/tradition for our future hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2959</td>
<td>We hunt private land in Gordon and are always tracking deer count seen on our land and surrounding public land. My husband and I both fully support 0 antlerless deer. Thank you for making this survey so user friendly and I appreciate your care for managing our deer population!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2960</td>
<td>I honestly have very little confidence in the deer population estimates. When we go two days seeing two wolves and no deer, something is wrong. Way too many wolves in Douglas county and I think they are much more influential on deer populations than we give them credit for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2961</td>
<td>I would like to have the longer gun season starting with the first Saturday in November and ending the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Open the muzzloadder season after Thanksgiving Day, such as the following Saturday for one week only. No Holiday hunt up North.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2962</td>
<td>When antlerless quotas increase in this DMU, consideration should be given to include Antlerless authorizations with archery licenses, thus reducing the number of bonus antlerless authorizations available for gun licenses. Far fewer bow hunters than gun hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2963</td>
<td>The online sale of bonus and antlerless tags in 2019 was terrible. These tags should be a lottery or only available at brick and mortar vendors. Private landowners should not have priority rights on the deer since the deer do not respect property boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2964</td>
<td>I hunt in a quiet area with few hunters. I’ve always found it interesting how few deer are around compared to the forage available. (Deep forest with acorns and running river) Is it the winter or predators? Keep working as you do to manage our deer population.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I am concerned about the growing wolf population again in Douglas County. In 2019 I saw several wolves during the 9 day hunt, along with numerous wolf tracks and sign. I think this puts the deer on high alert at all times, making them much harder to hunt.

I believe that due to the size and diversity in many of the northern counties it is not appropriate to make blanket decisions for the whole county. Northern Douglas continues to have a large doe population and not harvesting some of these doe's is a concern.

There is not enough deer in Douglas county to have a buck season let alone a doe season. In my opinion I think it should be a drawing to even get a buck tag. Then get the wolf numbers under control by working diligently to get them off the endangered list.

Douglas county should be managed for everyone, not just the vocal minority. Landowners should have an opportunity to manage our herds as best we can based on our own judgement not that imposed by the minority who are unwilling to hunt where there deer are.

I think it is time to use non county employed people on the cdac board. There could very easily be a conflict of interest because of this.

We have kept track of our deer hunts for over 20 years at our cabin and the number of deer we see is way down. There are also hardly any does around. Predators are high in number between bear and wolves as well are really hurting the deer population.

Since Douglas County enjoys a wide but clearly delineated range in private/public and Metro/Forest, is it possible to consider splitting the unit in half allowing one set of rules for the northern section and another set of rules for the southern section?

I want the crossbow season shortened. Its a joke that so many antlered deer are being harvested before the firearm season even starts. A crossbow is not archery. It should not be given the lengthy season that compound bows and traditional archery is.

The early snow storm this year has decreased the population around my area severely as far as I can see due to observing decreased number of deer coming to feed now. I think since we had two hard winters that the youth hunt should also be only antlers.

tere a lot of deer in the northern and eastern part of the county where I spend a lot of time. we have plenty of deer here. we need and should have an antlerless harvest in the county. if some people don't want to shoot does, they don't have to.

management on deer populations should not be based on gov. boundaries. there is to much variation within landscapes using this as a criteria. System should ignore government boundaries and shift to habitat classification and ownership patterns.

Private lands North of Hwy 2 have an over abundance of does and young bucks. There is alot of competition for food sources and deer grazing on livestock feed in the winter months. Please look at issuing more private land antler less permits.

The Douglas County CDAC made solid decisions to aid them in achieving their deer population goals. I believe forestry concerns are being given too much consideration in regards to deer management in the Northern Forest Counties.

Much thanks to CDAC members for volunteering their time and efforts! The buck kill last year was almost right on the 59 year average. Let's attempt to MAINTAIN the deer herd. Issue some antlerless permits - same as last year.

Phone visit with resident owners of tree farms 4/27/2020. Commenting they still see deer herds around the farms with up to 20 deer together. Herds sighted in varying numbers from 4 to 20, regularly. Gordon / Minong areas
When are you going to call a spade a spade? The wolf abundance is a huge detriment to the Deer population! The thought of extending the duration of rifle season and limiting crossbow hunting in November is ridiculous.

I think whoever is coming up with these recommendations needs to spend a little time actually out in the woods to see what is going on not just go by skewed numbers with the new easy to cheat registration procedures. We have had many mild Winters. If a terrible Winter would arise it could hurt deer populations for years. I think the carrying capacity is where it should be. You can’t expect there to be a deer under every tree.

Open up some doe tags I would say about 1000 to 1200. Loosing hunters in the north. Seeing plenty of deer. Let the youth have state wide doe tags need to get kids hooked on hunting for the future of the sport.

I would like to see the deer population in Douglas County increased so my family can continue to enjoy the hunting there otherwise we will have to seek property ownership elsewhere, where there are deer to hunt.

I BELIEVE ANDELESS DEER ARE MUCH HIGHER THAN 2019. I SEE MANY DEER JUST DRIVING SEVERAL MILES PER DAY. EVERYDAY I SEE MOSTLY ANDELESS DEER. EVERYOTHER DAY I SEE ANOTHER THAT WAS HIT AND KILLED. HOW MANY MADE IT?

I would like to see numbers as high as 2006 or later as deer management was see as its best in the last 15 plus year. As both deer harvest and sightings were significantly higher than 2012 and to present day.

Deer demographics are being compromised with far too many does and far too few mature bucks. 0 Antlerless quota is only increasing the severity of this issue. Far too much deer browse on forest regeneration.

Our hunting group saw more wolves this past hunting season than whitetail bucks. Need to have control measures in place. Also, it is concerning the amount of logging taking place around the town of Brule.

while traveling in and through this zone I see a considerable number of deer on the roads and in the fields. I don’t think the winter was severe enough to warrant a reduction in what the quota was last year

Issuing a few hundred doe tags will keep hunters happy and allow the herd to grow. I would recommend a quota system where you have a target harvest for does and when it’s met, shut down doe hunting.

I find the 0 tag availability to be ridiculous, the number of antlerless deer in the area is way above average when compared to other counties. For further proof just drive around for 10 minutes.

Plenty of deer around the last 2 years. Could not get antlerless permit last year. Lucky to have harvested a buck. I would prefer to have antlerless option. Especially on my private property.

The biggest problem with the low deer population is the number of wolf packs and cougars. Unless the predator population is decreased, there will never be a rebound in the deer population.

I did see fewer deer last year than the previous two years and the deer I did see were all young deer however, I believe there are enough deer to support a very limited antlerless harvest.

I hope we can manage our deer like Wyoming. Need more bear tags. Longer bear season. Wolf season. Sadly the hunting season for our children is gone if we don’t do anything mentioned.

I think during the current year there should be zero bonus tags for military personnel and zero bonus tags for junior hunters. Sorry but I did not see a single deer last deer season.

I’d like to applaud the efforts of WI DNR for the platform they’ve instituted to make sure that all constituents are heard regardless of their availability to attend a CDAC meeting.

There should be antler less permits. I and my family have owned property in Dairyland since 1946, and I think landowners ought to get first crack at private property bonus permits.

I have seen less deer starting last spring until now and I am in the woods 3 to 4 days per week for about 11 months out of the year, please keep it with no antlerless permits issued.
Let the kids shoot the ford saw plenty last year. Open a fair amount of doe tags for hunters. We are loosing hunters in this area big time I would saw open up about 900 doe tags.

I have noticed a increase in dow numbers of about 15 percent over last 2 years because I hunt the farmland around were I live I can watch total deer numbers very closely in my area.

My opinion is that the deer numbers are back up well enough that an antlerless tag should be sold with the licenses. And also any NON resident licenses should be $400 not $180.

Dont change the traditional hunting season time just because you think you can control deer population by having earlier during more rut activity. Leave it for the bowhunters.

I believe that doe permits need to be offered in 2020. I see a tremendous amount of does in the Gordon and Barnes area and travel these roads five days a week to go to work.

I think you are doing a great job, lot's of wolves, deer are coming back, keep doing what you are, bring back the wolf hunt and trapping too balance it out. Thanks. DNR.

Damage to gardens and orchards are very high in my location. Seen no decrease in number of deer seen this spring. Number of deer need to be controlled to reduce damage.

Hi, I wish more of you folks could have hunted deer in this area back 50-60 years ago to see how good deer hunting really was in the old days. It will NEVER be the same.

I would like to see an option for elderly hunters maybe 80 years of age and older the option to harvest an antlerless deer. They deserve a better chance at a harvest.

I think cross bow hunting is really making a mess of bow hunting and the other thing is baiting of deer should be outlawed because all it does is make deer night deer.

The youth hunt should not occur. At the very least Doe’s should not be allowed. It is a known fact that adults are shooting many of the claimed “youth shot” numbers.

I hunt 900 acres of private land in Douglas county WI and I've seen 95% does last year the doe population needs a little control to get a good population ratio back.

As a land owner I've seen a increase in antlerless deer, decline in big buck age structure and bucks. I believe we need to take more antlerless deer on private lands.

Severe winters are hard enough for deer, wolves do NOT belong in our society, this is the 20th century! Put a bounty on them and get rid of the wolves for good!

The amount of wolf predation on the deer heard is way too high. Most of the questions in this will have little or no meaning if the wolves are not also managed.

Like to see the wolf population go down, seen 1 deer track for every 2 wolf tracks, I'm sure the wolves are decreasing the deer where I hunt near the brule river.

Let the junior hunters harvest an antlerless that will hopefully interest more to hunt to increase the heard cut your predators down that means the WOLVES also.

Saw 0 deer last season. Hunted 4 days, the wolves moved in and where there were previously deer and then none. Way to many predators impacting the deer herd.

There are too many does and no trophy bucks. Open doe hunting in Douglas and stop the cars from hitting them. They only feed the crows on the side of the road.

Wolves have killed at least 8 deer since December on my property. These are just the ones I've found. A wolf season would really help the deer population.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2972</td>
<td>Deer numbers in this county are struggling due to the high wolf kill that we see on a regular basis. I get more wolves on camera than I get deer pictures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2973</td>
<td>The habitat and deer numbers vary a great deal throughout Douglas County. To initiate a zero antlerless permit policy in the whole county is unnecessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2974</td>
<td>I live and work in an area where I see a 100 to 200 deer a day in a small area and I'm a farmer and there eating a lot of my product and doing damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2975</td>
<td>I see the same 4 does all hunting season long. I have been hunting Douglas County for over 40 years. The worst I have ever seen it. It sucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2976</td>
<td>Deer population needs to come back. Kids aren't hunting because there are no deer left. This sport will die unless the deer herd comes back up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2977</td>
<td>I saw fewer deer in 2019 than any previous year. Given the impact of the wolf population we need to harvest some wolves and grow the deer herd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2978</td>
<td>The buck to doe ratio is out of balance. Please at least give doe tags to private land owners so they can manage the deer heard on their land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2979</td>
<td>As I am taking this survey, I have 7 doe in my back yard. Every time I'm hunting in the fall, I see 4 to 5 doe. I rarely see bucks any more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2980</td>
<td>Thanks for the hard work, but please allow one antlerless tag for 4 people hunting or at least have 500 anterless tags for Douglas county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2981</td>
<td>Every time I drive, and I drive a lot, I almost hit a deer. I've hit way too many deer in recent years. The population needs to be reduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2982</td>
<td>See lots Uv deer in spring wolves take 2 many then u give for permits 2 people with health problems @ kids defeats ur purpose uv more does</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2983</td>
<td>I think every person that buys a license should get one buck tag and one doe tag that way they have a better chance at harvesting a deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2984</td>
<td>Only complaint is that some of the hunters in the area have no respect. They will walk directly under your stand while you are in it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2985</td>
<td>Keep the same game plan with low antlerless harvest. Its nice to finally see the deer numbers on the rise compared to 5 years ago.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2986</td>
<td>We need to boost up more numbers of deer as we don’t see nearly the amount we did back in the 90’s early 2000’s. Especially Bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2987</td>
<td>Please consider at the very least issuing antlerless permits for private landowners to allow us to manage our deer herds better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2988</td>
<td>The science says that an antlerless harvest is reasonable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2989</td>
<td>Just want to say thanks for considering what we hunters would like to see. I know it’s a complicated balance of forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2990</td>
<td>The season should be moved up a week not increased a additional week. Especially if no antlerless permits are allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2991</td>
<td>I support the youth antlerless option and also would support an antlerless option for first-time hunters of any age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2992</td>
<td>Has a study ever been done to determine if running the bear dogs, starting in July, has an effect on the deer herd?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2993</td>
<td>Most people who have hunted the area for years, indicate the deer numbers are lower due to wolves and bears. Thanks</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020  Douglas, Northern Forest
With the amount of antlerless deer that are on my property it is not prudent to give up a year of harvesting them.

So far in 2020, I've been seeing a ton more deer in the poplar, lakeside, lake nebegemon areas of the county. Who are you saving the antlerless deer for? Quota should be the same as last year. No reason to decrease.

Doe tags should still be available for youth. The small harvest will not effect the herd size at all.

I think there should be at least the same number of antlerless permits for 2020 as there was for 2019. Plenty of doe open some tags let kids shoot what ever they want. Sport is dying up in Douglas county keep xbow season keep bow season keep gun and muzzle loader all the same 0 does except for youngsters.

Predation, especially wolves, is affecting my herd. I found 6 wolf kills on my property this winter. Great reporting and explanations. Thank you for putting in the effort to increase the populations. The buck/doe ratio is out of proportion. There are too many antlerless deer in comparison to bucks.

The area needs wolf management. Far too many and if they move into an area deer are gone for weeks. My opinion is the deer season lengths and start and stop dates need to stay just as they are.

I believe the rifle hunting season should be permanently moved 1 week earlier every year. Too many wolves killing the deer. Too many exceptions for people to hunt antlerless deer.

I own 25 acres, and I been seeing about ten antlerless deer every day, very few bucks. I would like to see a ban on baiting, not only in the northern region, but statewide.

I would like to see this unit go to a 4 point minimum on one side for buck harvests. We need to return to the old DMU units to equally manage to deer across the county.

We see so many deer every day. It's outrageous that the DNRIs proposing 0 premits. No antler-less harvest, need more bear and cat tags, and open the wolf season.

Keep it buck only in Douglas county until wolves come off the endangered list! We need to bring back the wolf season we have more wolfs on camera then deer.

In dmu 4 2019 season I saw sixteen antler less deer in three days of hunting. The deer population has decreased because of the rapid increase of predators. In 2019 I didn’t even see a deer during the 9 day gun season while hunting.

Been a very drastic increase in predator kills of deer this past winter. We have way to many predators in the area. Need to do something about it!

I hunt in dmu 4 saw 16 deer in three days all antler less we tagged one. The two places that I hunt in Douglas County are overwhelming with does.

Good call. Herd numbers are down and predation is taking a heavy toll. I strongly support zero antlerless permits offered in Douglas County.

Increase beer kill tags and allow tags to decrease wolf population. Deer population is struggling and is very lie in Douglas county.

Close all whitetail seasons for one year to rebuild population.

no antlerless tags for the next 3 years then revisit this again.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3030</td>
<td>If antlers permits are available they should be adult deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3031</td>
<td>I am against having a longer deer season. Keep it at 9 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3032</td>
<td>The northern half of Douglas county is loaded with deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3033</td>
<td>I would like to see the rifle deer season start earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3034</td>
<td>I believe the youth hunts should be stopped entirely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3035</td>
<td>too many predators in the unit, mainly gray wolves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3036</td>
<td>we've got to get the predator problem under control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3037</td>
<td>timber wolves killed number of young deer in area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3038</td>
<td>there are deer everywhere, need to thin the herd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3039</td>
<td>Numbers down to predation. Need a wolf season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3040</td>
<td>2 many wolves in area taking fawns @ all deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3041</td>
<td>Way to many predators wolves coyotes ......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3042</td>
<td>Should allow antlerless in Douglas county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3043</td>
<td>Kill all the turkeys but leave the deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3044</td>
<td>Wolf numbers are out of control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3045</td>
<td>let nature take care of things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3046</td>
<td>Waaaaaay too many wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3047</td>
<td>Need a longer season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3048</td>
<td>Please more doe tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3049</td>
<td>Too much Baiting!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3050</td>
<td>More doe permits!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3051</td>
<td>De-list wolves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3052</td>
<td>Too many wolves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Dunn, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

511 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 285
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 90
   - I hunt in this unit: 471
   - General interest in this unit: 92

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 448
   - Bow: 283
   - Crossbow: 172
   - Muzzleloader: 185

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 21.49
   - Maximum: 63

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 280
   - Mostly Private Land: 90
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 56
   - Mostly Public Land: 24
   - Exclusively Public Land: 18
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 25
   - Not too crowded: 77
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 40
   - Somewhat crowded: 20
   - Very crowded: 18
   - Not applicable: 8

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 61
   - Fewer: 154
   - Same: 208
   - More: 56
   - Many More: 19
   - Unsure: 13

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I grew up in Northwest Dunn County. I currently own 130 acres of prime wildlife habitat. Trout stream and the whole package. I purchased 38 acres 10 years ago, and another 92 acres 2 years ago. I have been managing the woodland for wildlife habitat regeneration through the MFL program (80 acres). So I see the problem of overpopulation of deer has on our forest lands. Dunn county is almost all private land with a lot of summer feed through agriculture. Basically, we have doe factories. You folks are concerned about the drop off of gun license sales, which in turn creates reduced revenue number one, but also reduced doe/deer harvest. Which is actually a bigger problem. I do not bow hunt or cross bow hunt. But I have NO problem with the folks who do. I do have issue with them hunting, only targeting "the big buck". I have never been a horn/trophy hunter. Or what I affectionately call a "TV Hunter". This is really what has caused an issue/change in our hunting culture. People want instant gratification and not understand the science of woodland management. I have been studying the harvest data from WI the last few years and it is obvious that many hunters are killing bucks with bows and using the gun hunt to kill does. BUT we should not pit the gun hunters against the bow/crossbow hunters. As my family and friends that hunt on my property have killed more does the last 10 years, the body size and health of the deer population has improved. 2 years ago we killed 18 deer of which 13 where breeding age does (2 where in the Holiday Hunt when it was -17 degrees. Best deer hunt of my life, please bring it back). Last year we killed 14 deer, of which 10 where does). What people need to understand the fewer does you have on property, the number of bigger bucks that call your property home will be. Mature bucks HATE density and love privacy. As I have gently suggested to my land neighbors this fact, and they started removing more does, the number of bigger bucks on our properties has increased. And I am not a horn hunter but it has changed! I understand that you folks are talking about changing hunting season to get more participation in gun season. The issue is private land owners (like myself) and public land hunters. To hunt public requires scouting time to ensure a great hunt. Most gun hunters are only going to spend 2 days hunting and NO days scouting. That is a fact. The social aspect of hunting has changed. Public land hunting has many different challenges than I have. When WI had the mass slaughter of deer a few years ago with multiple doe permits, it was the public land that got wiped out but the private lands, we never killed enough deer. You add on top of that a couple of hard winters in the last 5 years and a liberal judge on Milwaukee who stopped the wolf hunt, and you have a lot of folks saying it is not worth it. I get it. I will end with this, do NOT limit the bow hunters or cross bow hunters, do not pit one group against another. And for God's sake, have a Holiday Hunt PLEASE!, Educate land owners on the importance to ALL wildlife of having a balanced herd on their land. Our forests are being over browsed. One other thing before I end, hunter recruitment is key. But taking a kid out and setting them up for a certain "kill shot" is not the answer. They do not experience the time and work that goes into making a successful hunt. For this reason I respect the bow hunters, to have success you need to put time into the woods.
The 2019 season provided the numbers to maintain the county’s objective. My biggest concern is with regard to registration data. Registering online is very convenient and effortless. Not having to take your harvest to a registration station introduces the possibility of harvests going unregistered. The data regarding car/deer accidents is also only as good as the source. If (as the video suggested) there is a lack of reporting due to decreased funding, then it may be worth investigating an alternative source for our data. I don’t think we can look at the data we have and make assumptions that the numbers aren’t right due to a drop in funding for a given department. Crop damage is another topic that I feel is difficult to measure. Is it possible to offer tags to land owners reporting this damage? Reducing the amount of crop damage could be mitigated by issuing tags to those farmers rather than to an area that likely includes property that is not affected by crop damage. Tags could be issued to the land owners for them to distribute as they see fit. It’s not a perfect solution but a suggestion and opportunity for dialog to solve this problem. White Oak sapling data also raises some concern. How is this data gathered and do housing developments or other man-made structures play a role in what the data says. The area I spend most of the time hunting is East of Menomonie. Here we see a consistent deer herd each year. So far in 2020, I suspect we’ve seen about the same number of deer in our area than in previous years. We do our best to manage the population each year during both the archery and gun seasons. We communicate with our local farmers/land owners in understanding their concerns with crop damage, etc. While it’s a lot to ask, promoting a positive relationship between hunters and land owners can go a long way. The DNR website could execute a mission to promote this relationship and broadcast it on their website and related hunting documentation. Understanding the concerns of local land owners can help hunters understand the situation in their area. Finally, I’d like to just say that all the work put in to these numbers is greatly appreciated. Getting better data should be key in future decisions. How can we get better data? Can we engage volunteers across the state to report on local areas and apply that to adjacent parcels? Can we utilize insurance claims to gather current, accurate data regarding car/deer collisions? How do we differentiate between crop damage via deer or weather? I think the policies in place for 2019 will be relevant in 2020. Thanks.

* There are a concerning number of deer that are being harvested in this county that aren't being accounted for. Without in-person registration, there are hunters shooting deer and not registering them. It is a problem. A very high number of private land acreage, large farms, and there are more deer that are not accounted for. I personally know a fair number of older farm families that just shake there heads at the direction things have gone. Dunn county has very hilly topography. Very likely that it is difficult to get cell phone coverage to call in and register your deer, and without tagging regulations required anymore, there is alot of numbers not being accounted for. Unfortunately, there is likely a large number of bucks in this number, in addition to does. Read through the Warden reports through just about any county in fall, and it happens everywhere. I believe Dunn is worse than "average". * Crossbow season needs to be reviewed. By law it was supposed to be reviewed after the first 3? seasons, and it was never evaluated, or changed. The percentage and qty of bucks being taken w/crossbows necessitates a review and change. * Outlaw Baiting. Too many confusing regulations based on county/county. If 75% of the state is no-baiting; make it easy and outlaw it everywhere. Give Wardens meaningful tasks to perform and investigate important matters. Hunters that aren't seeing deer are likely the lazy ones, and ironically are probably the ones that are more likely to bait. Hunting is hunting; need to put in effort, scouting, and time in the woods. * Outlaw Shining in Dunn County; There is no reason to support continuing to make it legal to shine deer. There is nothing positive that results from the practice of shining deer. Nothing. There are other methods such as glassing fields during diurnal hours, talking to neighbors, going out and sitting on edges of woods, etc. Trail cameras are wonderful tools to understand what is out in the woods. Use other methods to scout; get rid of shining. * The combination of shining and crossbows is a big issue; Dunn county has too many violators. Get rid of shining and a homeowner/landowner will never have to look out the window late at night and wonder if that person shining the fields near their house is violating. You see shining, you know it is not for a good reason.
Land access, as in private property, is a big issue. For many years after I first started hunting families hunted in groups and did drives to move deer, with younger hunters actively doing the driving and eventually getting to stand. Their was alot of activity, tradition, interaction with young and senior family members. Now it is standing only, no large family groups, young hunters starting out get bored and lose interest. You rarely see any hunters out after opening weekend, or hear any gunshots. If deer pushed off your property onto posted land the deer will stay there because nothing is going push them back to your property. There needs to be some type of incentive i.e. tax break, deer damage payments vs no payments if posted. Back tags need to come back for accountability, for reporting violators by complainants or witnesses and enforcement by wardens. Deer registration stations brought back to help businesses with revenue. No crowds in town of people eating and drinking and enjoying the camaraderie, comparing big bucks. All part of the experience and tradition that is changed and gone. Deer kill tags brought back to prevent violations, and make enforcement easier against unsportsmanship, illegal kills and poaching. I see groups of hunters shooting and transporting deer to residence where they have commercial meat possessing equipment to process without reporting the kill and going back out to hunt again because they did not fill their tag. This skews statistic and makes it hard for enforcement actions or track exact number of deer actually taken from deer management areas if not being reported. This is going on. Kill tags and deer registration stations would help keep senior hunters hunting because the do not use computers, and tech or have cellphones. They have just gave up hunting because they don't understand tech or do not have gadgets and became frustrated.

I feel that for too long we have had too big of an emphasis on eliminating our doe herd. We offer way too many "free" harvest authorizations and then add the opportunity for several bonus authorizations on top of it. Harvesting a doe earlier in the season was always one of my personal objectives which allowed me to be choosier while hunting mature bucks. As of the last 5 years I have not even had the opportunity to harvest a doe and was surprised when I did see one from the stand. While I agree that there are certain isolated pockets of large deer populations including does, many of these are "unhuntable". These pockets of deer reside on private tracts of land that if hunted at all, are only hunted by the landowner/family. Many of these circumstances also include ownership that have a no doe harvest mentality. In these circumstances it doesn't matter if we offer no doe tags or a million, the does will not and cannot be harvested there. With the ever growing troubles of over crowded public land opportunities I feel that doe harvest is still necessary, but may best be suited with the "old" hunters choice permit. With that a relatively equal balance of harvest would most likely be seen, while hopefully increasing public land populations slightly. As someone who has been hunting hard and smart here for so long, I can honestly say my seasons have been declining in quality each year, and I'm sure there are many others similar. Without wanting to lose any more hunters in the system, and in the sake of preserving our resources, I hope that you take my comments into consideration. Thank you.

Somewhere in the algorithm for all of this, there needs to be an account for hunting season pressure. The trend used to be on "pushing" woods, but now everyone sits and and prefers to wait for deer to come to them. Also, land ownership makes it hard to set up pushing woods that can be done safely or non-infringing. The cost of property and taxes has added to this. It is hard to ask someone who owns property to hunt on their land when there is no benefit to them to allow it. They would rather not take the risk of hunters and people on their property, so there is a lot of land that goes untouched each year. When we push, we are able to see deer, but then the area pushed is essentially used up for days or the rest of the season as they hang low in less pressure areas. It is not uncommon to push public woods that people have been sitting in for days and have deer come out. Therefore, the model should be based on not the number of deer you see gathered in a corn field, but on the number that will potentially move during the season. This is why nobody says they are there. A good assessment would be to have each property evaluated first if it is even hunted and the type of hunting that occurs (sit of push or both). Lastly, please publish the methodology for counting deer populations and add in wolf, bear, coyote, and turkey. Perhaps a heat map style for each type of wildlife, etc. Thank you.
About 15 years ago we had earn a buck for my zone in northern dunn county. At that time i was hard pressed to see more than a couple deer while driving through checking crops. The deer population at that time seemed like a adequate amount. Last night april 25th 2020 i drove a total of 5.5 miles around the country block and counted 62 deer. They ranged from groups of 2 to almost 20 at a time. There are way too many and They are destroying fields that i farm. I have been unsuccessful in getting deer damage tags because of a lack of cooperation to where i called. People say the will get in touch with me to get the problem figured out but they dont. Dealing with this problem has been like hitting my head against a brick wall over and over again. My neighbor has tried for damage tags as well. His experience was everyone passing the buck and telling him to call a different person until he went full circle. Everyone told him he needed to talk to someone different about the problem. He called the different places where each person told him to call eventually ending at the first person he talked to. The deer population in my are is out of control! I am quite certain if it does not go down local farmers will take the matter into their own hands.

Has anyone ever thought about moving muzzleloader season back a week and extending it to a 3 week season in place of all these extra hunts that no one likes or enjoys? For example after the 9 day gun season give the deer a week to regather themselves and get back to their natural movement patterns and then open up a 2-3 week muzzle loader season like other states. I think you would be surprised at the number of people who would partake in a season like this! Having a season like this would also increase out of state license sales as well.... Just my two cents take it for what it's worth, but as a long time conservationist, a member of the Dunn county fish and game board, and someone who observes and studies whitetails year round we need to take a better look at how we manage and go about harvesting whitetails in this state! Extending rifle season to a 19 day season is going to do nothing but upset people and turn them off to hunting. I like the fact that the DNR is actually asking the opinions of the people who spend hundreds of thousands of hours a year Devoted to whitetail deer and harvest preparations. Thank you for your time and effort in managing our resources.

If you want to increase harvest numbers, re-educate people on the importance of passing on a tradition to all kids. IMO, too many private landowner restrict access to hunting through no trespassing signs and lack of access. Too busy caught up in the pursuit of a "trophy" deer and restrict others until the landowner harvest "their deer" roaming across their land. That and the ideology that kids can't even hunt for a less than agreed upon antler size by general public and hunting celebrities makes it increasingly difficult to hunt in the traditional form of hunting. As an acreage owner and bordering neighbors who chastise my young teenage daughters from harvesting a buck rather than harvesting a mature 3 1/2 + year old giant versus having an enjoyable experience, I say that with the utmost confidence. Until that mentality changes, we will see less numbers and harvest rates no matter how long the season. The increased proposed season length will only allow selfish private landowner to harvest a "trophy deer".
I'm just going to use this space to give you something to think about. All these meetings on how many tags to be allowed to be available doesn't really matter, especially as far as doe harvest. Unfortunately today's deer hunters no longer like to share land or should I say share "there deer"!!! I know this because every year I'm knocking on doors trying to get access to private land, and it's getting very tough. My point is no matter how many tags you give out people don't hunt the same anymore, meaning no more big hunting parties doing deer drives. We still hunt the old fashioned way and try to bring our kids up the same, but it's very hard when your the only group pushing deer (deer drives). We push them off of the land we can hunt and now there's no deer there for 2-3 days! They go into someone else's land who goes out only to shoot his 200 inch buck and are never forced back out. So releasing 20,000 doe tags isn't going to help anything. The people just aren't going to shoot them!

I think opening weekend of the 9 day gun hunt there should be a rule of no driving public land. With that said my reasoning is I live by some of the public land and I know people that don't have land of their own to hunt on so they rely on being able to use public land to hunt to get food for their family but there are groups of Minnesota that come about twice a day or more to all the public land starting opening day and are around till just about Wednesday doing nothing but driving everything out and shooting everything that moves so it's no good for the people who need to use it to actually hunt on and they are very disrespectful drinking going on private land and wounding a deer and just letting it go something should be addressed about this problem so everyone can use the land like it's available for not just walking through and shooting everything I don't find it fair for the people that live around here that need to use the land and will actually sit and hunt.

I am not sure if farmers still receive crop damage money or tags? I would suggest not paying a dime to any land owner/ crop farm that is not open to public hunting. Population control will never be achieved with the large tracts of land that a huge reserves to deer with very little hunting pressure. That being said I am a firm believer in control of ones own property. I think large tracts of land in managed forestry should have to be open to some extent of hunting. Large tax breaks to people who own large amounts of land that find loop holes to keep other hunters out are very detrimental to the plans you are trying to implement. Anyone who can afford to have 200 plus acres should be able to pay regular tax or move over and let the general public who is making up for the lost tax revenue by paying higher taxes on there own property. Just a few thoughts. There are several examples of this that I know of in Dunn county.

I would like to see all of Wisconsin go back to a 9 day gun season. One tag per hunter with an option to purchase a hunters choice permit. In the end one hunter one deer. No extra tags. This way hunters will have to choose when to shoot a deer versus, what u see now is shoot them all no matter what size we can just go buy more tags. I and my family see a lot of small fawns and yearlings being shot just because of all the extra tags available. I firmly believe if it goes back to a one deer per hunter, people will start letting the small deer go by and wait for a much larger buck too. It just seems that Wisconsin has gone from hunting deer and enjoying the hunt to rather just hand out extra tags and shoot all the deer you see. If you have read my comment this far, I would like to say thank you. I do appreciate all the hard work the DNR does every year. God bless and God speed.

Earn a buck I believe is the best solution here is why no matter how many special doe seasons you have or make people are not going to go into there woods they own rent or lease to wreck there chance for the buck there after to shoot a doe there is way to many does to buck ratio almost every we're I go I put in food plots for a living c it coyote hunting, trapping in general driving around and talking to a variety of hunters people are going to wreck the heard due to superstition make them shoot a doe with earn a buck it's that simple and by extending seasons it's not gonna do a damn thing other than for the hunters to wait longer in the stand for the trophy buck. Extending seasons doesn't help a damn thing other than for trophy hunters trust me 80% of the hunters can get meat on the table with in the 9 day gun season if need be Earn a buck make em shoot some does. Thanks.
I have no doubt that the deer numbers in the area of Dunn that I hunt are overwhelmingly high. This poses a serious health risk to the herd. I have observed that 90 percent of the regen in the forest is browsed off, this is a clear indication of too many deer. I am certain the numbers in this area are over 200 a square mile. I can not speak for the entire county, but overall numbers must be reduced aot maintained. Because this problem is most present on private land more Antlerless harvest authorizations must be given to private land licence holders. It is up to them to manage and reduce deer numbers so the resources to do so must be available to them. If action is not taken to reduce numbers it will leave a devastating impact on the forest, farmland and the deer herd. Today’s poor management policies are robbing timber and hunting opportunity form future generations.

I understand the DNR wants lower deer numbers. I appreciate the efforts to do this through antlerless harvest. I hunt for meat but mostly sport and enjoying seeing older/larger bucks. I think earn a buck is the best tool to push the doe harvest numbers up. More opportunities aren’t needed. The seasons are watered down and drawn out too much already. People need a push to harvest more does. Free tags won’t get us to the harvest goal. I do support an antlerless only season every 4 years or so. This would help establish some age structure in the buck heard which is badly needed if you enjoy hunting larger bucks. However, I don’t see how it helps with harvest goal. However, if passed I would do my part to shoot multiple does to try to help. Thanks for taking the time to do these questionnaires. I know the public is impossible to please.

An antlerless only season would be terrible I know a lot of people who are against that and the proposed extended gun season my family are bow hunters and gun hunters and I think everyone is satisfied with the ability to get more mature deer nowadays than it used to be there is not too much deer cwd is like for any other thing in nature it will run its course a lot of deer sickness will a rise it’s nature don’t change anything because people are already getting upset with your people’s decision making it’s been a yearly tradition nothings different please don’t change anything this year I will not hunt if their isn’t a chance to get a buck or my bow season is cut short by gun hunting and all those extra doe hunts if nobody can’t get a doe in 9 days there’s something wrong in my opinion and they shouldn’t be hunting

Overall I think this unit doesnt need to be changed. Deer herd seems to be staying steady or increasing even where I hunt. One thing I wish the DNR could change is how crop damage is handled. I hear alot of farmers where I live complain about crop damage from deer, turkeys, and bears. But when you go to ask these said farmers if you can hunt their land they say no, rightfully so because it’s their land. But if they are going to take a check for crop damage then they should have to be allowed to let people hunt. Since taxpayers are now paying for their crops/income. Overall I hunt 3 different spots in Dunn county and all 3 spots have a very good deer herd. Last year I’ve seen the most fawns I have in a while. I think this unit doesnt need any changes and might need to allow more doe tags in the future.

I think our biggest problem in the state of Wisconsin is the land owners that own alot of property, for instance we a gentleman where I hunt that own,s 1300+ acres,Tand he problem with that is he only lets 6 people hunt the land and bitches about how many deer are getting hit pon the road by his land. this samefella also guards the road,s around the property like he owns the Damn road and accusing hunter,s of pouching deer off his land. i understand this is his land but everytime he approaches someone with a young hunter in the vechile and starts yelling, what is doing to this young hunter? it is turning him away from hunting. The DNR needs to also raise out of state liecense, look what Wisconsin residents have to pay when they go out of state.

Last year was the worst year yet. I have hunted the same area for years and the deer were not there. Never seen a deer during the gun season and never heard a shot close by. Very poor. My young sons are still waiting to see deer during the gun season. Not sure how much longer they will want to hunt if they know they are not going to see anything. I hunted a lot in the 90’s and that was tops. I may never see it like that again. Every day I could see deer while hunting. Now, I see just a couple all year long (bow and gun combined). Need to save some does. I live and hunt south of Colfax. I know north of Colfax deer numbers are much, much more stronger has I drive around there just to show my kids what deer look like.
I was hoping this would have more to do with the new hunting regulations. I am against having a longer season. If you are going to have it longer I am against having it earlier and affecting the bow hunters ability to hunt the rut. I gun hunt Dunn county but bow hunt Washington county. All in all I trust you the experts to manage the deer population I just think an earlier gun hunt would mess with gun and bow hunters. I hunt an open field and if you made it earlier I wouldn’t have a spot because crops would still be on. Also I consider the rut a bow hunters best opportunity to see a nice buck. Especially in public land so why take that away from them... just my thoughts since I couldn’t make the meeting. Thank you

I believe it would be in our best interests to limit antlerless permits to no more than 1 per license for public land. The deer numbers on public land have been reduced to minimal numbers. Many groups coming thru public land doing drives are shooting any deer that are make an appearance. Thank God for all the cornfields in 2019 that gave deer a place to survive! I live next to public land and see the activity first hand. Last season that I spent a lot of time in my stand; I seen no deer. This isn’t normal. Gets worse every year almost makes a guy want to quit hunting deer! Please consider this; if the board hunted public land it would be obvious how bad its become in last ten years! Please listen!!! Thank you

The gun deer season is becoming a waist of time. Hunters don’t move deer around anymore. They tiptoe in and out of there heated mansions of a tree stands because their afraid they might kick a deer to there neighbor’s. I hunt several other states and have been much better success gun hunting those states then here in Wisconsin. Mostly because there is much larger public tracks to hunt. Bow hunting is so much better then gun season is in Wisconsin. One more thing when you went away from in person registration stations you removed a big part of Wisconsin’s deer hunt heritage and hunters hanging out showing off there trophies and just hanging out telling stories of the hunt.

I would like to address an issue that has not been brought up to my knowledge, that issue Is of hunters doing deer drives on public land. I have been in the woods several times when after sitting for hours have a deer drive coming towards me. That is very unsafe when the hunters don’t know that there are others in the woods and when you end up being in the middle of a drive especially when a deer jumps up and they start shooting. I have actually laid on the ground as bullets whizzed by. It is troubling that it is allowed to have deer drives on public land. Maybe we could adapt an every other year thing where one year it is allowed and one year it is not.

A longer gun season does not solve anything and is greatly opposed by everyone I have talked with. Most the hunters I know are bowhunters that also gun hunt and its my belief if the rut is taken away from bowhunters you will upset a large population of hunters and maybe loose hunters. Also the buck harvest would go way up making the quality of the bucks we have in WI go way down. Earn a buck worked really well to make trophy bucks bountiful and if there is gun hunting during the rut that would all be for not. Keep things as it is and maybe consider adding another buck tag for landowners or for shooting an antlerless deer similar to what Iowa does.

I believe there, There are increased numbers of Ag damage claims in 2019 compared to 2018. This indicates an increased population. The consensus is to maintain the herd, if never reaching the antlerless goal year after year, isn’t the herd growing? Please utilize all tools, holiday hunt, extended bow season( or don’t to satisfy snowmobile enthusiasts) yo limit our herd. We have CWD on our doorsteps, let’s limit the spread before it’s everywhere. Our forests, farmers, and our younger hunters are relying on you to make the tough decisions, which may not be the most popular ones at this time. Thank you for your considerations.

I would like to see a couple of changes to the structure. I would like to see a simpler harvest structure. Go back to applying for 1 antlerless permit and dont make it a given. I would like to see the permits for private or public eliminate. Now a days the laws are way to complex and confusing! Go back to the structure that was in place back in the 90’s such as registration stations and back tags . I would like to see higher out of state costs such as how iowa does it. The out of state hunters can be helping out way more ! This way maybe we can justify more wardens so the ones we have are not spread so thin .
Rules and seasons from last year are ok. I prefer gun season to be week earlier. A lot more fun when I see more bucks. But do realize it depends on when thanksgiving is. Which is ok. But I am definitely against extending bow season for the month of January. Reason is January is an important month for snowmobiling in Wisconsin. Being involved with marking and maintaining snowmobile trails ,there is a conflict with land owners when we try to open trails during hunting season. Plus it is not safe. For the few additional deer harvested during the month of January ,it would really cause problems for the snowmobile industry.

Unfortunately, many hunters do not think or care about the herd quality and health. Most only think about filling their tags. Also forest management has declined over the years on private lands. Few are worried about habitat for wildlife. Those of us sportsman that are concerned cant do anything on our own to help it. I know that i dont have the land volume to make an impact on herd quality or numbers. I've hunted since i was able to, i only recently harvested a buck because i finally gave up on waiting for the "big one". I believe one doe tag per license is more than enough to help build herd quality in dunn county.

More needs to be done about violators, an repeat violators. Stiffer punishment....it is rampant. Even if they get caught, loose hunting priveledges, fined and loose weapon, they are right back in the same stands shooting the same amount of deer every year. Excessive food plots, baiting, and violators are ruining the sport I love, and they are harvesting a ton of wildlife, and try to leave none for their neighbors. The extended seasons and liberal tags just gives them more and more time and opportunity. I think the game wardens are doing a very good job though....just too much for them to handle.

Hello, where there is an overabundance of deer is private property. Hunt in the Chippewa, Dunn and Cariville bottoms, where on opening day we can sit for an Hr. 1-1/2 without hearing a shot, even the first 1 or 2 Hrs of opening, the large groups that come shoot maybe 3 deer as to a few yrs ago, 25. Tyrone the shooting never used to stop, now it is hard to hear a shot [ hunters every where. ] They shoot every fawn, doe they see. Maybe news to you- deer come from their mothers, dead mothers, no deer. Does not matter if the deer live on public or not. Doe hunting on public land ?????? Thank You

Like to take kids to introduce to the sport and see deer or use it as a zone to get venison if unsuccessful to only take what I need for food. Current structure for 2 antlerless tags make this difficult sometimes as it limits tags and flexibility in zones closer to home preventing Harvest due to lack of tag and lack of tag available through dnr. This is even with hunting metro zone. Also if the goal is to harvest animals from those zones why not give hunters 2-3 metro zones so if they do have the ability to hunt multiple the possibility to harvest the deer in those areas are greater.

Every year my sons and I hunt in five or six different counties, not in the same DMU. In order to legally take an Antlerless deer in each county we need to buy an Antlerless tag for each county. Just wondering, if the DNR would ever issue an Antlerless only tag, One per person, for a certain DMU? Or maybe even one per person state wide? I know that it helps the DNR to make people pay extra money for extra tags in this time of decreasing hunters, but for those of us who are retired and on fixed incomes it can mount up rather fast.

I started hunting 30 years ago in the same spot I hunt now. 30 years ago everyone who hunted around me shot everything and anything, no matter how big the deer was. We had group's of hunters with 35+ people in them and they would drive every property they could shooting all the deer that were in that patch of woods!! Now I see hunters being more conservative and hunt more for the sport than just to kill something!! In the past 10 years I've been seeing deer when hunting. I live in hay river township and believe that we still have to few deer, thanks for listening to me.
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>3088</td>
<td>Please outlaw baiting for deer Permanently! Also please enforce deer baiting and feeding bans in back yards year-round. I would also appreciate it if hunters could report illegal motor vehicles driving on private land open to public hunting (MFL) if the hunter reporting the illegal activity is not the landowner. Some landowners are living in other states and do not want to be bothered with making the call, or are hard to reach on short notice. I do appreciate the work you all do to support our outdoor interests! Thank you.</td>
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<td>3089</td>
<td>DO NOT extend the bow season. To extend and yes i know you are not going to do it this year. However it is something that is on the table. That would be a JOKE can there be a POORER way to control deer numbers than using a bow. Look at how much time they have to hunt now. EX: they start their season in September and go to the end of December four months minus a couple of days for the t-zone and rifle season, wait I forgot they can hunt those season can't they. So again it is 4 months to shoot deer and they want more please.</td>
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<td>3090</td>
<td>I understand that deer population fluctuates greatly in Dunn County from section to section. However, I've hunted the same private property for the past 20 seasons and have seen a decline in the number of deer in the past 5+ years. In the section that I live/hunt there are too many deer taken each season. 1 mile to the north there are large herds of deer visible. Small tracts of owned land where I hunt, larger tracts of private land just north of me. I would like to see more deer in my section and less harvest.</td>
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<td>3091</td>
<td>I wish to commend the presentation by the Dunn county liason, it is well organized and provided key information to make data driven decisions. Unfortunately, I don't hold the same opinion of the latest proposed bear management zone modifications and the interpretation of data from that study. I see a connection between the proposed intrusion of hunting with dogs into Dunn county and deer season management in that this change will likely negatively affect early season archery deer hunting on public lands.</td>
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<td>3092</td>
<td>Private lands should increase in deer tags as there are more deer and most roads with deer-vehicle accidents occur on roads around private lands and not public. Bonus tags purchase should increase for these private areas. Public land should decrease deer tags as there is much too many traffic so everyone gets a chance to hunt. Extra bonus tags sale should decrease as well for public hunt for the same reason for this county. Deer in public land I notice has significantly decrease due to over hunting.</td>
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<td>3093</td>
<td>I think having an early primitive muzzleloader only season in October would be nice. When hunting with a musket, especially a matchlock one is arguably at a greater disadvantage than the modern bow and crossbow hunters. Having a week long flintlock, or more primitive, season in October would help renew an interest in the arms that fist settled Wisconsin and provide a better opportunity as the deer are terrified during the current black powder season due to the regular hunting season preceding it.</td>
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<td>3094</td>
<td>I think registration numbers are influenced (negatively) by not requiring a deer to be tagged in the field. Once a hunter gets a deer home there is no incentive to register if they plan to process themselves and could lead to illegal hunting. I strongly recommend returning to the practice of requiring a deer to be tagged once they are recovered. Harvest tags should be part of the process when purchasing hunting license. A deer that is tagged would reduce poaching and encourage registering.</td>
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<td>3095</td>
<td>If 2 free tags are too many and not generating revenue, 1 tag and purchasing a 2nd bonus tag isn't out of the question. We had standing corn for gun season, colder temps and a major snow storm coupled with a later opening day all factored in. Another odd noticeable item would be the lack of rutting activity in early November must've just been something out of the normal. I sat many sits in stand bowhunting and didn't see the usual chasing and rutting activity. It all depends on many factors.</td>
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<td>3096</td>
<td>The deer herd is up in areas where you cannot hunt and down where you can. When you see herds of 30 plus deer in city limits that strongly shows herds are up there. Another example is seeing over 100 deer in the field by 3m. On an average hunt, you typically see 2-3 deer on a 10 hour sit. this has been reported all over the county. The herd needs to be controlled in areas where hunting is not allowed so the overall herd is maintained and the hunted areas do not continue to be destroyed.</td>
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3098 Hunter population on opening weekend on public land is excessive. I don’t hunt public land on opening weekend in the Dunnville bottoms for safety concerns. Amount of forested land has been greatly reduced by DNR policies. Nobody wants to hunt the Sarengeti areas. I am sure the deer use these areas but it is not safe to hunt there (nothing to stop bullets). All hunters have then been forced to hunt on the vastly smaller area that still has trees. This has caused the overcrowding.

3097 I would just like to voice my deep concern for the spread of CWD. My hope is that the DNR (which I’m sure they are) is taking the threat of the disease very seriously. All measures should be taken to control the spread of the disease which obviously comes from regulation, educating the public (especially hunters), and controlling herds to the best of our ability. There should be stronger regulations on how deer are farmed and transported because that is responsible for the spread of CWD.

3099 I would support longer or extra seasons if the amount of antler-less tags was less. That would give everyone more opportunities to harvest a deer but not over do it. I see so many deer hanging for a long time after season that go to waste. I have not seen an increase in the deer population over the last couple of years. I believe we have a lower count than we should in the northern Dunn area. I’ve had conversations with my neighbors and most agree on this. Thank You.

3100 We live between Elk Mound and Colfax and I think the doe population is very high, we usually shoot deer to check their pop. from year to year as well as using cameras, we saw one night 50 deer within a 5 mile radius of our house but only counted 2-3 bucks, but on camera we are seeing 10-15 different bucks each week and lower # of deer/car kills on Hwy 40, because of this "pandemic" I am expecting lower car kills so an even higher population of deer this year!

3101 I think the deer seasons are in a good place right now, although I think the deer population is vulnerable. I feel like the population in the last couple years has made a comeback from prior years. I’ve started to expect to see deer when I hunt instead of hoping I see deer, and I haven’t felt that way in many years. I think we need to be careful on giving out too many farmland and bonus tags so the population at least maintains or possibly grows. Thank you.

3102 We need more young hunters and we need to provide the chance for them to shoot a deer with antlers. I oppose anything that comes close to "earn a buck" especially in the northernmost part of our state where the majority of the public land is located. Less does to be shot on public I agree with. Let’s get back to the old northern deer camp but to do that they need to shoot fewer does and replenish the northern herd. People need public land "with deer".

3103 Crossbow season is too long and they kill most of the big bucks. I’m getting to the point of quitting hunting along with the rest of the family. Then there is talk of a longer season, kills the tradition of the hunt. The worst thing the DNR ever did was hire that deer czar. Doing away with back tags was also a bad move. Use to be able to tell who was a nonresident, now I just assume everyone is nonresident and don’t let anyone hunt our property.

3104 I think when us hunters buy deer hunting license that there only needs to be one dough tag when purchasing a buck tag. Between me and my son we could have shot 10 deer with a bow and gun license if I remember correctly I feel that no family could eat all that venison in a year I think I did get an extra dough tag just Incase there was a bad decision made during the hunting season than you for your hard work on this matter we truly appreciate it.

3105 Our family hunts in the township of Wilson. We see so many deer. We sometime refer to them as rats because we see so many - 20 - 50 in half a day. As a former ag teacher/forestry/wildlife instructor, I'm concerned about the numbers. I shot 2 does and let the bucks go. I donated one to the food pantry. Had them tested for CWD which I am very concerned about, along with Forestry .regeneration. Thanks for sharing and for all your hard work.
Wisconsin needs to keep the crossbow ability to all ages. If we want more young people and women to join the hunting community we need to make it easier and more enjoyable for them to get introduced into hunting. If you take away the current crossbow use for all ages it will have a great negative effect on the people deer hunting. Therefore which means more deer which means more chances for CWD and vehicle accidents.

I think with kids of all ages being able to shoot a deer while hunting with a guardian we no longer need the youth hunt. In our area it just seems like the youth hunt is just opportunity for the parent to shoot a nice buck out of season. Make this a doe only season if you think we need it. This hunt interrupts our bow season. I have 10 grand children (ages 4-16) and we don't need the youth hunt any more.

I hope that the crossbows can continue to be used for the entire season. I do not fit the legal description of disabled but, I can no longer pull back a compound bow. Being able to use a crossbow keeps me hunting. If some people are worried that too many bucks are taken, especially during the rut, antlerless hunting only during the rut could be utilized. Taking a doe is a great hunt for me! 

Tell the police to pick up speeders, less deer will be in car deer crashes. If there is a 19 day deer hunt the tradition will die. We most likely will quit deer hunting then. The worst thing that ever happened to deer hunting is the “deer czar” that was hired. The amount of hunters has dropped every year after his hiring. Ruin the traditional 9 day season and you will see a big drop in hunters.

I am very happy with my experience deer hunting in Dunn County. I have taken a buck and doe with my crossbow in each of the last two years. That is my goal, and I think deer managers in Wisconsin are doing a very good job managing the hunting and the herd. I think things are working very well and don't need to be changed. I think maintaining the current herd is a great idea, and I support it!

You mentioned CWD testing Deer Road kills. If you test them they should be removed from the roadside. If you do not test them we will know which were tested and which were not. What I saw in Dunn County all of 2019 and into 2020 were a lot of dead deer carcasses on the sides of the roads. I would like to see the statistic on the number of deer road kills that tested positive for CWD.

The way the deer seasons are currently held is fine. Numbers are expected to drop due to hunting becoming less and less popular. I feel changing the gun season appeals only to "weekend warriors" and out of staters. To appease Wisconsin hunters focus on the hunters that spend the most time in the woods, bow hunters. Keep the bow seasons the same, as well as the 9 day gun hunt.

With tax payers money. Not only should the roads be better. But they all should have a walk way under and or over every road. If you don't know what that is. Look it up. Europe has been doing it for 100s of years. Doesn't stop all of the deer from being hit. But it definitely helps. Thank you for everything you do for us hunters, fisherman and anyone who enjoys the wildlife.

Need more accurate data points on deer - vehicle mortality. CWD to much of a deciding factor in over all deer metrics. No data points on mortality caused by CWD? Deer found dead in wild. As stated in video - no data point on deer mortality caused by preditoration or disease. Allow baiting and in person registration to increase harvest numbers and stimulate local economy.

I feel that alot of years, I have to work and as many others. Deer hunting is a time of year that it's hard to take vacation. I like the extra hints. I think we could open up the antlerless hunt for the month of December. That would work for the people working in the factory and weekend. The timing is my biggest problem. I can't be alone. Thanks for reading.

There are to many different types of deer harvest seasons. It looses the excitement and value for middle aged people like myself and for my 2 daughters. Also having 2 daughters ages 12 and 10 that have fell in love with hunting would be devastated if you change the crossbow season to not include the rut. I know you would have 2 less outdoors women if it changes!!!
Deer population is not a problem county wide only in certain areas would b nice to limit the amount of doe tags in certain parts of the county see very few deer where I hunt neighboring farmer has 30 plus kill tags every yr then hunting season and predators and car kills on to of that real hurts in that area go a mile south them guys see all the day they want!!

In other counties south, southwest of Dunn, the extended holiday season to hunt deer interferes with snowmobile trails opening up on land. I would dislike having snowmobile trails not opening up because of extended seasons of deer hunting. If there is enough snow, trail system helps local economy with many on them, as opposed to a few hunting for another doe.

You really need to get in the woods and observe the past 30 year trend of the reduced deer population. For decades there were no doe tags, then "hunters choice", now almost unlimited tags. It has made the deer hunting tradition die especially for kids that can not enjoy seeing deer while in the woods. Please stop the over harvest of the herd in Dunn County.

I would like to see the DNR impose a point or spread restriction on bucks (excludes youth hunters) to enable a higher percentage of bucks to live past 2.5 years and obtain larger racks. Myself and friends spend thousands of dollars annually on deer hunting. Iowa, Illinois, N. Missouri, offer better trophy opportunity, despite WI having better habitat.

Deer numbers are good at this time. I believe responsible deer hunting will maintain deer heard as well as predator control. I do not believe that we need to promote certain Individuals to kill mass quantities of deer to help maintain deer heard. I believe this hurts the heard in certain areas and pushes deer to heard up in "safe/non hunted" areas.

The only comment I will make is in that 2019 Deer Hunting DMU you state one deer was found to have CWD. I would like to know the person that turned in the deer for testing that came out positive for this CWD. No baiting because of 1 deer that tested positive and you may not know if it was really from our Dunn County area. Joke is all I say.

I own private property and lease land for deer hunting. I let 3 hunters on my private and 2 on my lease. I already explained to them that if there are any extended seasons at all, that I would be locking up my land and that its just not just me. Other Land owners and friends have been talking and said they were going to do the same thing.

I'm concerned with the low harvest last year and the mild winter, along with a reduction in car killed deer due to Covid-19, that deer numbers will be markedly higher in 2020. I saw a lot of deer and deer sign even on well hunted public lands and anticipate more this year. Thanks for the work you do to improve deer hunting!

Biggest problem I have seen in probably the last 5-10 years is access. Seem to be plenty of deer but too much private land that is not being hunted the same. Land owners use to be more cooperative about hunting. A lot of deer are hiding out on private land that is no longer driven, and some peoples illegal baiting.

I would like the county to focus on public land habitat and opening up more private land for public hunting. Season dates are very good and should not be changed. Simple and long season dates are good they provide people lots of opportunities. I would like to maybe see muzzle loader and late archery extended.

The county of Dunn had its first CWD positive show up north of I94 corridor. This is the most serious deer threat. More important than deer tag numbers on public or private lands. Get as many mature deer tested as you can. How prevalent is cwd in our herd. Thanh you and good luck to the committee!!!

In my opinion, there are three factors that contribute in our area of Dunn County is the lack of hunters in the woods. Access to land to hunt (large areas of no hunting) posted land. Hunting itself and processing of the animal has become very pricey. Has been hard to get the younger generation out to hunt.
I hunt along Highway 12 just East of Knapp (right by the train crash). There are probably about 10 deer killed there every year from cars and there is still not even any deer signs up or anything. I know it’s a very local issue but it drastically hurts the deer population right around there.

Please consider having tags for hunting.... we have big problems of multi shooting of animals and not tagging them.... also i believe many hunters do not go home and register their deer... so we get an inaccurate count... please help out our wardens by bringing back deer tagging.... thanks

There are plenty of deer so nice job getting a quota. However, there is no way enough deer will be harvested under the existing season framework. They need to bring back the October hunt and Earn-A-Buck. With CWD the population needs to be reeled in if you want to control the disease.

I hunt some prime deer habitat in Dunn County. The past 10 years sightings have dropped and trails that used be worn in, get minimal use even with habitat improvements such as small clear cuts, select cuts, and some food plots. I believe we have been overharvesting the antlerless herd.

The only other addition I would like to make, which is not related to a specific DMU, is I would like to see the back tag criteria come back. Without back tags, the only way to know who is on your land is by approaching them, which is uncomfortable at best, dangerous at worst.

If there is a plan to have more does harvested I sure could see earn a buck brought back! Some hunters are big buck only hunters, should harvest a doe first and donate it to someone or food pantry if they don't want them. The herd is in my view is over populated.

The deer population is getting to the extremely low quantity and keeps being reduced every year I go. I see less and less deer. This year I was luckily to bag a small buck which I only took because if I didn't I wouldn't of gotten anything had I not shot it.

For the first time in decades, hunting in the same woods, no member of our three man party saw a deer during the nine day firearms season. I only saw three deer during the archery season before the firearms season and saw no deer during the muzzleloader season.

The amount of antler-less bonus tags allowed needs to be reduced or limited. In the area we hunt, too many people shoot a large amount of deer during rifle season which negatively impacts future year's hunts, while other areas may not be pressured as much.

I still believe that there are pockets of deer with very high numbers and other places where there are fewer deer in areas that I hunt. I would like to see the archery season remain the same as it has been including using a cross bow for the whole season.

I do not agree with going to a 19 day gun season. This is too long. Crossbow and regular bow can run same season don't see any reason why they need to be different. Our deer get harassed too much with shining. This would be one thing to eliminate.

Have a shorter and later gun deer season. Also have extra DNR officers watching for illegal hunting. Gun season is commonly a free for all with a groups of people drinking more beer then sitting in the woods. It is a huge safety risk for everyone.

Making the gun season longer is a terrible idea. People already are frustrated with the deer numbers in the area, any by making the season longer you will not increase the amount of time the typical gun hunter spends in the woods.

I do not think there is any reason that multiple anterless tags be supplied with each license. I can understand 1 anterless tag per license, but 2 is completely unnecessary. I also see zero need for bonus tags.

Seems to have high doe numbers in my area and lower amounts of 4.5 yr old and older mature bucks. Personally I have been trying to reduce the numbers of does on my land and pass up more bucks to have an older age class.
My area does a good job on our own of quality managing the deer herd. I don't think making rules about shooting only antlerless or earn a buck are needed. Also allowing the use of mineral helps keep the herd healthy.

I would like to see the harvest authorizations be valid in both public and private lands again. I feel the current harvest authorizations overly limit hunting opportunity and reduce the predictability of deer harvests.

We are going to have to reduce the herd to slow the spread of CWD. I would like to see the public/private land antlerless tags system eliminated. It does nothing to reduce pressure on public land.

To maintain numbers in many areas of Dunn co is insane—the health of the deer herd and the health of the habitat cannot sustain the numbers of deer we have now! This is most certainly true!

Archery season (archery includes all string-projectile instruments) has always started too early! Give the bucks a chance to loose velvet and the fawns more maturity. October is soon enough.

No more holiday hunts—too much of a chance to shoot a buck unintentionally. Also, I am both a bow and gun hunter and believe the current seasons should continue to stay the same.

Please change the rule to require landowners to allow a hunter to recover a wounded or dead deer from their premise, sometimes we do not know or have access to the landowner.

I would like to see a longer gun deer season. Like November 15 through the end of November. Also an idea is an early muzzle loader season, possibly the first of October.

Last years plan worked out well. I wouldn't change anything done, in Dunn County. The extra tag was nice. Thank you for all you do to make hunting in Wisconsin enjoyable.

I'd like to see changes that limit xbow hunting during the rut to persons with disabilities only. If an extension of gun season happens go after reg rifle season.

Holiday and anterless only seasons provide the opportunity for extended camaraderie with friends and family while enjoying what our great state provides naturally.

Keep crossbow and archery season the same as the past 5 years. Maybe under the same license. Then when registering the kill just check what was used.

If A youth hunt is held it should only be after the normal gun season. Youth hunts prior to gun season screw up the bow season for everyone else.

Non residents should pay more for licenses and bonus tags. In general, bonus tags should be higher in cost for both residents and non-residents.

I feel that the crossbow season should not be reduced and that being allowed to use crossbows doesn't have any negative effect on deer hunting.

I have heard rumors about declaring Dunn county or Wisconsin a lead free ammunition hunting area. I would be TOTALLY AGAINST THAT DECISION.

I would support a holiday hunt, if it were either sex. With cwd presence we should be able to reduce the whole herd. Not just the does.

I would be in favor of an antlerless only gun season and allowing buck harvest every third year and during primitive weapon seasons.

Too many bonus tags available for the public hunting grounds. At least in the Eastern and South Eastern part of Dunn County.

Would make a healthier deer herd if we harvested more antlerless and less bucks. Would also help the white oak regeneration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3164</td>
<td>Do something about CWD so my grandkids can hunt! We need dumpsters! Carcasses are being dumped along 970th Ave every year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3165</td>
<td>I am pleased with what our members have recommended. Keep up the great work. Please do NOT extend the gun season though!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3166</td>
<td>I have seen problem getting permission to hunt where there is lot of deer or some places want you to pay rent to hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3167</td>
<td>I feel the use of crossbows statewide for all ages is a mistake. It has made it very easy to poach in our area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3168</td>
<td>Killing does is just as important in controlling CWD as killing bucks. Please do not concentrate on just bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3169</td>
<td>The management of deer numbers is difficult because of the small amount of public land available to hunt on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3170</td>
<td>Earn a buck will force some landowners to finally shoot some does. No body shoots does anymore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3171</td>
<td>We need to open more private land. Deer seem to head there during hunting pressure times!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3172</td>
<td>I would like to see limiting the number of buck tags filled to 1 per hunter per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3173</td>
<td>Seems wolves killing fawns as foes killed in season were not nursing bears busy too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3174</td>
<td>I would like to see the back tags come back. Also in person registration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3175</td>
<td>250 antlerless bonus tags for public land in this DMU is way too low.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3176</td>
<td>I think we should go back to back tags and registration stations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3177</td>
<td>Dunn County CDAC Board is doing a great job in decision making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3178</td>
<td>Not seeing enough deer is why hunter numbers are declining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3179</td>
<td>Plain and simple, predators need to be managed more!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3180</td>
<td>Leave things the same as last year, it worked fine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3181</td>
<td>Wish there was baiting allowed in this unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3182</td>
<td>Youth hunt should be antlerless only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3183</td>
<td>Keep the rules the same. No changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3184</td>
<td>Too many out of state hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3185</td>
<td>Support a bounty on Coyotes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3186</td>
<td>Keep up the good work!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3187</td>
<td>Bring back Earn A Buck.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020  Dunn, Central Farmland
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

217 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 143
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 43
   - I hunt in this unit: 194
   - General interest in this unit: 41

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 184
   - Bow: 103
   - Crossbow: 83
   - Muzzleloader: 75

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.95
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 116
   - Mostly Private Land: 39
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 27
   - Mostly Public Land: 3
   - Exclusively Public Land: 7
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 4
   - Not too crowded: 28
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 16
   - Somewhat crowded: 10
   - Very crowded: 11
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 34
   - Fewer: 62
   - Same: 86
   - More: 24
   - Many More: 6
   - Unsure: 5

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VALID</th>
<th>NOT VALID</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I would suggest that in zones where more deer must be harvested that veterans, elderly (over 70) and first time hunters only would be granted these permits at a much reduced price or even free including any extended or "Holiday Hunts" Furthermore, I would like to see a more in depth study done on predator numbers. Each year we see bear and wolf numbers increasing and their ranges being dispersed further out into new areas where they have not been before. I do not see any studies tracking the expansive range of these predators and the damage they are doing to especially our fawn population. I have been bow & gun hunting for 42 years and each year see less & less fawns and more & more predators on my cameras. This has GOT to be taking a toll. Perhaps the DNR should take as strong a look into studying this factor and making it easier to attain bear and wolf tags as they have looking into our deer herd numbers. A longer deer gun season would only take away the lifetime tradition of the deer hunting camp and remove the "Special" anticipation of the hunt. We need to remember that other people (other than us devoted hunters) want to use the woods and if there are always hunters in the woods with rifles they may not feel safe trail riding 4 wheelers, horses or biking through wooded areas. Yes, even walking the roads in the country for fear of mistakenly being shot. I think no one wants to see a full on slaughter of deer. If we could bank on everyone respecting game and taking ethical shots only we would all be happy but that just isn't the case. If I could recommend anything it would be, in addition to giving tags to seniors over 70, kids and first time hunters (all with mentors) it would be to allow bowhunters an additional antlerless tag after they have filled a buck and doe tag. That would prove they can successfully harvest deer consistently and maybe reduce the number of wounded deer. Also, it would still allow for the wounded deer that may get through bow season to gun season to be happened upon then and harvested by a gun hunter. Thus, not to be "left on the landscape" Although, I doubt if that would be for long since I believe our number of predators just about out number our deer herd as it is. That is my 2 cents worth! Thank you for letting me have a voice! A very passionate instructor and bow hunter of 42 years.

I understand the concerns over the possible overpopulation of deer in certain farmland areas. However, I feel that there are more "reasonable" options than adding additional seasons or extending seasons. At some point, weather in late fall/early winter deteriorates enough that few hunters take to the woods. Further, deer have been hunted for months at that point and are largely nocturnal, unless attracted by "bait" in the form of farm crops. Thus, extending seasons will have very minor effects on the number of deer killed or in tourism dollars brought to the region. My own feeling is that many areas with excessive deer populations suffer from a lack of hunting access, which extensions on seasons and similar measures do nothing to address. Maybe it is time to bring back "earn a buck" for these areas. As a snowmobiler and snowmobile club member, I have significant concern that extending hunting seasons will eliminate snowmobiling in these areas until the hunting seasons have concluded. Our club already experience conflicts with the existing hunting seasons and have some trails that we cannot perform maintenance on or put up signs until the hunting seasons are over. My county periodically experiences situations where sections of the county cannot be opened for snowmobiling due to these situations and it only takes one landowner in the wrong place to cause it. Extending hunting seasons will only make conflicts more frequent and more contentious.
I wonder why the crop damage applicant's have gone up? Isn't the deers natural instinct to eat at the edge of the field? So farmers sound know/expect to lose crops close to the tree lines. With my late grandfather farming the land for 70 plus years, and my dad also farming still i have never heard them complain about feeding the deer a portion of their crops. In the specific area i hunt i have seen less and less deer during gun season every year for the past 5 years. I hunt just east of fairchild. Last year i started planting plots in hopes of attracting more deer. Obviously this is a sport that i share with my 4 children, 1 does hunt with me, the others just love being in the stand and experiencing nature. Last year 7 of us hunters did not see one deer for the first 5 days of opener. It is very disheartening because ever since i could remember deer have been abundant and i could always count on seeing 15 plus deer, most times many more. Now i don't know exactly if farmers around us get crop damage tags, that's why i am writing this. So i maybe educated on if there is a correlation between the decline from crop damage tags or something else. If it could get a response with some facts on crop damage tags that would be awesome. Thank You

The Metro Zone is serving no purpose. There is currently no way to adequately track the number of deer harvested in this zone when it comes to metro vs non metro. There’s no way to determine if an individual used the metro tags over their antlerless bonus tags and vice versa. The metro zone is so large, that if hunters choose to utilize the metro tags, more often than not, those are being used OUTSIDE of city limits. The concerns of abundance if city deer is a city issue, not a county issue. Therefore a metro zone should only exist in city limits, or areas where there is a close rural to urban interface. No additional hunting access has been made available for hunters in areas where the abundance of deer exists. Why are we promoting a decrease in deer population with the size of the metro zone when the Central Farmland’s objective is to ‘maintain’. Majority of the metro zone encompasses true rural farmland areas where hunting is prominent and hunters want to see higher numbers of deer. Shooting deer outside of city limits, through the use of metro tags and size of metro zone, doesn't eliminate the true metro deer abundance issue. It’s only promoting more deer to be shot where there currently is no problem.

Not impressed with the numbers of deer in this DMU. Its being over harvested by families who believe they need to feed their family every day with venison. Buck to do numbers were 6 bucks to every doe on our land. Its terrible. The Amish community is shooting deer year round. Hunters in this day and age are not afraid to shoot does. We need to increase the deer per square mile to sustain a healthy population for hunters to take more does. Please adjust the numbers to a higher level so we can shoot the does. Hunted all week during gun season on private land. We saw our first deer on Wednesday. This is the reason people are no longer buying deer license. You have to start listening to the hunters and the decline in numbers in your surveys. Not impressed with the guy telling us he doesnt believe what we are reporting. Thats disgusting!!! My folks and their parents would be disgusted with the way the deer heard has been desimated. Glad they dont have to see what is happening. Bring back back tags and registration stations. Too many dishonest people. The majority of the state does not want you to alter the season lengths either! And get rid of the holiday hunt and The bait ban.

I have hunted this area for many years, and have seen the deer population go from probably too high (which is nice for hunters) , to the population being nearly wiped out by giving out doe tags like candy. I bought a chunk of land next to county land, and for years never saw a deer during bow season, and certainly not during gun season. I was ok with not killing a deer during either season, and now have to risk a fine by the DNR for feeding the deer. I don't feed the deer to kill one during a season, but just to see them when I am out in the woods. I don't care if you hand out doe tags like candy, but I won't shoot a doe until the herd gets back to what my area can support. If I can at least see a deer when I am out hunting, I call myself successful. The thing I don't like about giving tags out is the woods fills up with jokers that shoot the first brown thing that runs by, and if it doesn't drop, they figure they missed. If you want to try something, why not give doe tags to kids under 18, and over 18 all hunters must shoot a buck over 8 points or a 12" spread.
I have hunted this unit for 57 years and seen the deer population decline every year. I have no doubt that a lot of deer are not registered with the new system as the Amish do not have phones and there current recording system they have with the DNR is lacking in registration time and enforcement, so how accurate is the information in your video. Just sit out in your blind and count the number of shots you hear each day tells you there are not the deer there used to be as you cannot count deer. I stay out most days and do not see a deer. They are more nocturnal and with the many more seasons that the DNR have is totally ridiculous. 8 to 10 different seasons, when we used to have Gun and Bow, and bear were hunted with your deer license. Its the same with your fishing regulations, many lakes have different regulations for state and county, what a mess.

First and foremost, leave the 9 day deer gun season alone. Secondly, leave those who hunt with crossbows alone and let them hunt. Don't limit the on/off/on/off season/days they can and can't hunt. In other words the mid-September date opener would continue to open deer hunting as usual for long bows, recurve bows, compound bow, and crossbows. Let it run continuously like we always have with obvious orange clothing for archers during the gun season. Shut the archery season down on December 31st unless there is a valid reason to keep it open longer. Now, that is my opinion for all 72 counties. Regarding antlerless permits, I have no problem with the way it is set up. And I have no problem with one buck per bow / crossbow license and one buck with gun license. Thank you for time in reading my opinions. A 71 year old long time deer hunter

I believe it's important to recognize all the work that all of you put into the calculations to maintain the appropriate herd #s, Thank You. I also think it is very important to get a true handle on the CWD expansion. Therefore I suggest that between 2-3 antlerless tags be given with each license purchased. Provided that after each kill, CWD testing would have to be done until the DNR received the proper #per DMI needed to provide the mapping they need to show how its spreading. The hunter would not be able to receive additional tags until the CWD testing ID # was entered. Also I believe that extending the Holiday antlerless would be a wise move. Submetro tags should be extended 2-3 per license. Thanks again for all the attention and hard work you do for all of us hunters.

Reasons for less deer are influenced by the wolf population being high. Historically, I've seen less deer and more wolves year by year over the last 5-10 years. I feel as though the wolves are taking over where the deer used to be. In our area there is actual data of attacks on other animals via the wolf population. There needs to be consideration for the deer population not only from a harvesting standpoint but a growth perspective and to whom is actually decreasing that growth. I'm not certain the factors other than human harvest are being considered in a manner which is relative to actual condition. The deer population in my area has seen a rapid decline. I do understand it may not affect everyone, however we all need to get to the root of the problem.

It appears that when the deer population study is done that, it does not reflect on what is actually seen in the woods. Some areas of private land have an over abundance of deer while other private and public land does not. Over the last 25 years hunting the same areas I have seen only a few deer each year. The buck population appears to be low. Most of the deer I see are a couple of does with their young. If you shoot all the bucks than what can breed the does. I am lucky to see a buck. Maybe 1 every other year. Lets reduce the buck tags and try to get that population back. Only be able to register (1) Buck per person per year. Just like Minnesota does. Also reduce the amount of doe tags to (2) per person per year. Thank you

The issue I find most important is the conversation surrounding crossbow hunting. I switched to a crossbow when it was opened to all hunters and have read reports that the DNR fears crossbow hunters have been too successful. I hunt public land almost exclusively and even with a crossbow I have gone several years without harvesting a deer. I would propose that before the DNR reverses it's stance on crossbows it would consider tracking individual hunters' harvest. I haven't filled a buck tag in several years so I don't think it's fair to tell me I can no longer hunt with a crossbow because there are too many deer being shot.
My concern is for my grandchildren being able to bag those big bucks with the amount of archery time. We live by DNR land that is hunted pretty good. By the time the gun season starts the big bucks are taken, wounded, or very learey by the time they get a chance to get out in gun season. I think since the archery has a much longer season after gun, that a shorter before gun archery might be nice. I mean if you can hunt from early Sept till Jan. How much is fair. I crossbow hunt and would be willing to start in Oct. instead of Sept. Bow hunts all through the rut and beyond. Just my thoughts.

There is a significant number of antlerless deer on private lands, and in my opinion these numbers continues to increase. I have seen upwards of 60 deer in a single field. The reason is because landowners do not allow access/hunting, prefer to only hunt large bucks, or are against hunting in general. These large numbers of deer damage the ecosystems and agriculture, but reducing the numbers will not be addressed by any of the measures/ideas put forth in this questionnaire. They must be addressed at some point, of that there is no doubt, perhaps by paying landowners to allow public access.

Common and Glossy Buckthorn is rapidly overtaking the woodlands and decreasing the amount of quality browse. It seem so be an insurmountable problem for the private landowner. It takes a huge amount of time, labor, and money to try to control, and there isn't enough of any to make a serious decrease in the density. Regrowth is almost instantaneous with seed sources now so plentiful and widespread. Having failed to effectively control the growth or spread on my land, I, regrettably, don't have any solution to offer. I only seem to know what doesn't work.

I do believe if you wanna fix what we use to call deer hunting is get rid of the wolves take it easy on the deer kill, last year was the worst deer hunting experience I have ever had, but yet we continue to kill off all are does, then farmers renting out there land for such a high dollar that they don't even have to clam on there income cause it's all cash hunting has just gone to poopypoopooy I know alot of people who have quit and others who want to but it's a family thing so they don't please be considerate when killing off so many deer.

I am very concerned about the Holiday and extended archery seasons affecting the opening of snowmobile trails. I hunt from early Sept. to Mid Dec. which should be plenty of time to harvest animals. With the late season hunts, we can have good snow for snowmobiling but yet may not be able to open trails because of hunting seasons remaining open, or landowners requesting re-routes because they want to hunt late.

I think there are WAY to many deer. It is ridiculous to be afraid to drive anywhere with the risk of hitting these road torpedoes and getting your vehicle damaged or personaly injured or killed. Plus the millions of dollars they have cost farmers, just so the DNR can make money. I would like to see an open season on deer year around and the entire population eliminated. White tail deer have killed more people than Covid 19, but no one does any thing to stop that ! They are the DNR's cash cow and it is insane.

Increase slightly the deer density in the county. Was more deer years ago and more harvested then by REAL hunters. We do have a predator problem especialy with coyotes and will be more fawn mortalities due to an increasing bear population. Should stay with current season structure but eliminate the youth hunt, have no holiday hunts and no extensions into january. If need a hunt to help harvest antlerless have a 4 day hunt in October which can also be used as a youth hunt.

I collect deer hides as a part of my business. This allows me to talk to dozens of hunters each year. Many hunters do not register their deer using your new system. Many hunters fill multiple tags for family and friends. Especially archer tags. Many groups especially from out of state are buying less tags than the number of hunters in the group. Without having to display a back tag and if they shoot a deer someone in the group has a tag to use.

Far too many does are being harvested which causes the population to drop radically. I used to see 80 deer in a season and now am lucky to see 3. The DNR always does a poor job of playing Mother Nature and is accepting too much from insurance companies trying to reduce deer accidents. Turkey populations have gone insane. From 13 to 51 to 78 to 151 on opening morning of gun season and has now finally started to drop due to over population.
I live and hunt Eau Claire metro sub-unit. I see many, many deer. Regardless of the time of year I can expect 10-12 deer in an evening sit, early season, late season during the rut we need traffic signals. New growth trees do not stand a chance and that is the most worrying, winter kill as well. Last winter was very mild but food sources are very limited I would like to see archery/crossbow season from September 1st through January 31st.

Please, please help us get our deer herd back and do something about these wolves. As a hunter what we used to have compared to know is a slap in the face all because of the wolves. And to know that they are STILL protected because liberal judge in Madison doesn't have a clue on what's going on in the hunting world is an embarrassment to all the hunters. You're our voice and I hope and pray you can help us....

My observation is that some landowners who say they support some type of quality deer management in fact hunt mostly bucks and take too few antler less deer. The ratio of buck to antler less seems to verify this. I own land but feel that there needs to be at least some increase in antler less deer harvest and maybe that just takes letting hunters know that it’s ok to shoot something other than a buck!

If you want a better success rate I think you need to open the county up to baiting in some way. Since the DNR started restricting baiting, hunter satisfaction is in decline and so is hunter participation. I know CWD is a concern, but using it as an excuse to ban baiting in a larger area is wrong. Keep your restrictions to a more concentrated area. Not the whole county.

I hunt in Eau Claire county in the town of Brunswick we have private land between two public areas. The public lands get hunted heavy do to the closeness of the city of Eau Claire and I continually see less and less deer. Yet the deer eat off our farm land but getting less and less all the time.

Make a program through the DNR to get more property owners in the City of Eau Claire to open their land to hunting. WAY WAY WAY too many deer in town, but without landowner permission can't hunt them and people don't understand that there will be more and more deer if we can't hunt them.

I think overall the DNR do a good job out there, but its my opinion that over the last 30 years the deer population in my area has gone down. 3 years ago I saw 10 deer the whole season, last year I saw 3 deer the whole season. I do hunt just about everyday. Thanks for listening.

There is still way less deer around my property than there was back in the 90's. I think a holiday hunt is overreaching and will put too much stress on the deer herd. Also, too high a percentage of the kill are nubbin bucks where this has taken place.

I generally feel a good balance in season layout but have become frustrated with amount of antlerless seasons that are held or projected to be held. I would recommend more marketing to hunters to encourage doe harvest providing sound basis for doing so.

Would like to see a break between gun and muzzle loader seasons. Would be better to hold mid December. Give hunters and deer a rest. I also believe odds would be better of harvest due to second rut normally around that timeframe.

Access to private land in the EC County Metro Sub-unit is a continuing problem. The townships in the Metro sub-unit need to step up their efforts to encourage a greater antlerless harvest on both public and private land.

What are the numbers of unregistered deer from hunters without licenses. By not making it mandatory to have a back tag and having to register at a station you have opened it up to anyone in an orange jacket to poach deer.

Although I saw fewer deer during deer season last year than in any of the previous 20-30 years I still think, based on what I am seeing daily on my property this spring, the numbers are comparable to previous years.

I would be strongly in favor of reestablishing the tradition of a limited October season prior to the usual season in November. Such a season would make it much easier for seniors (such as myself) to participate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3223</td>
<td>I think we have too many deer, plain and simple. I think an antlerless only hunt would be crushing to some people however. I recommend giving out as many antlerless tags as possible. WE need to shoot more does.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3224</td>
<td>Please make CWD testing mandatory Add more scientific research, scientists and labs to fight against CWD Any way you can add more LEs to test more deer for CWD? What about testing the deer killed by vehicles?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3225</td>
<td>Less Antlerless tags cause years ago we had a lot more deer! We need more deer for the youth to want to get into hunting! I don’t believe in the cwd cause Mother Nature will take care of it if it’s so bad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3226</td>
<td>Metro Deer Hunt is not needed. The 10 day gun season is enough time to harvest the deer you need. Bow hunting and muzzle hunting is good. All these extra hunts are not needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3227</td>
<td>Why can’t we just go back to Earn-a-Buck like it used to be? Do it for every license if you have too. Then we can all use bows/crossbows/guns/muzzleloaders etc, and be just fine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3228</td>
<td>I am very concerned about CWD in Eau Claire county. We need more testing to find out what were dealing with and where! This is not the time to try and stockpile deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3229</td>
<td>Antler-less tags and youth hunts have impacted the population of deer a great deal. I’d like to see more deer and give young, antler-less deer a chance to grow up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3230</td>
<td>We are avid snowmobilers, and hunters and the snowmobile season is to short the way it is, we do not need to have an extended hunting season!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3231</td>
<td>The crops and small wood lots continue to support high numbers of deer. Hopefully the 2 tags will keep the deer herd at maintence level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3232</td>
<td>Keep the archery season the same.do not support the month only crossbows season that was brought up in an earlier questionnaire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3233</td>
<td>We have 400 acres and see fewer deer than in past. I believe we have a real coyote problem and cannot find anyone to trap them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3234</td>
<td>The primary reason for a decrease last year was likely weather but influenced also by poaching by Amish in our area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3235</td>
<td>In my opinion you should shut it down for a year not a lot of deer in our area to many Amish shooting deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3236</td>
<td>I would like to see black powder hunt replace the holiday hunt instead of right after the gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3237</td>
<td>I recommend allowing baiting only during a regular hunting season and one week prior to the season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3238</td>
<td>Raise out of state licenses to what each state charges people of Wisconsin to hunt in there state!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3239</td>
<td>We would PREFER a program that allows the bucks to get a bit older, something like a TROPHY AREA !</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3240</td>
<td>We should raise the out of state tag price. Every other state is way higher than ours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3241</td>
<td>I think the state of Wisconsin should go to buck only for 5 years or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3242</td>
<td>I saw very few yearlings last fall and more coyotes than ever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3243</td>
<td>I am avid snowmobiler and we have a limited season already.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3244</td>
<td>Let’s get the Wolfe population down!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3245</td>
<td>the CDAC is hitting it’s goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3246</td>
<td>I am a snowmobile rider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 48
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 52
   - I hunt in this unit: 148
   - General interest in this unit: 35

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 141
   - Bow: 86
   - Crossbow: 57
   - Muzzleloader: 47

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.72
   - Maximum: 66

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 28
   - Mostly Private Land: 18
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 31
   - Mostly Public Land: 21
   - Exclusively Public Land: 48
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 3
   - Not too crowded: 25
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 30
   - Somewhat crowded: 25
   - Very crowded: 35
   - Not applicable: 0

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 31
   - Fewer: 44
   - Same: 55
   - More: 27
   - Many More: 3
   - Unsure: 2

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Antlerless Quota is...
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? | VALID | NOT VALID | Unsure |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year... 2.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants... 1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions... 2.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)... 2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer... 3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer... 3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer... 2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species... 2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy... 2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit... 3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)... 2.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Eau Claire, Central Forest
I have hunted and recreated in Eau Claire County Central Forest for 40 years. The presentation given by the DNR was a joke, biased, and had an agenda to influence the CDAC to issue 2300 doe tags when none are needed. DNR please take your deer population and deer density estimates that were calculated in Madison using a highly flawed SAK population estimate model and throw these numbers in the garbage. The use of SAK data was supposed to be phased out a couple years ago yet the DNR is still using it. A formula that audits have shown to have an accuracy plus or minus 121% of the deer population. This formula states that on average that there are 30-41 deer per square mile in the Eau Claire County Central Forest, this is laughable. Ask anyone who hunts, lives or spends time in the woods here if they think that number is accurate. You would be lucky if there are 10-12 deer per square mile. From the flawed SAK population model the DNR says the population decreased from 5400 in 2018 to 4500 in 2019 a decrease of 17 % yet they are recommending to issue 2300(550 doe kill quota) antlerless tags in 2020 which is 3-4 times the number issued in 2018 which was 675. The CDAC was told last year with 675 does tags and killing a quota of 200 does that the population would increase by 10 %. That didn’t happen as you can see by the population estimate and by the buck kill numbers all weapons. The total buck kill all weapons in 2019 was 433 the LOWEST IN HISTORY FOR THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY CENTRAL FOREST. In 2018 total buck kill all weapons was 535. So buck kill all weapons was down 19% from 2018 to 2019. Yet the DNR is recommending 2300 doe tags with a doe kill quota of 550 and claiming the population will sill increase 6 %. Give me a break go sell that garbage somewhere else. Obviously predation, winter kill, and poor fawn recruitment are not allowing the population to grow. The only reasons the DNR is trying to influence the CDAC is to sell tags for revenue and to keep the population at all time lows considering this the new normal. They do not care about hunter satisfaction or a quality hunting experience. This is the only state I have hunted in that the DNR feels this way. The CDAC’s goal for the Eau Claire county for several years is to INCREASE the deer population and you have not been successful even with few or no doe tags. Kill numbers are at all time lows and have not increased yet the DNR wants to issue 3-4 times more doe tags. CDAC and hunters we do not have to listen to the DNR and accept all time low deer populations as the new normal. The DNR recommending 2300 does tags when the population is at an all time lows is wildlife management malpractice. Mr. DNR biologist you should be ashamed of yourself. Stop trying to influence the CDAC to kill more does that aren't in the woods to further crash the deer population of the Eau Claire County Central Forest. Get out of the CDAC's way and let them do their job. CDAC members please do what is right to reach your objective to increase the deer herd. CDAC I believe your 550 doe tags in private land and 125 doe tags on public land is still too high to increase the population. Buck only on public and private land is the only way to reach your increase objective. The data shows it plain and simple. Last year you had 550 doe tags and the total buck kill all weapons still decreased by 19 % when it was supposed to increase by 10 %. To increase the buck kill and population buck only is the logical answer.
I recommend no doe tags issued. We had four trail cameras out in the central forest. Predominately in the Northwest section by Luddington. (two by Hay Creak and two by North Fork of the Eau Claire River) The overall number of deer on camera last year was substantially less than previous years. About 50% less on cameras than previous years. We primarily bow hunt near previous cuts and ultimately the deer numbers seen where very low between both my Dad and me. In addition the amount of sign was alarmingly low. I hunt in areas most do not hunt as I wade creeks to get to areas that most cannot access. This allows me to always hunt with the wind in my favor and to hunt un-pressured deer. Without question, this last season in the central forest was the worst we've had in many years. Two years ago both my Dad and me both shot 8 pointers. This past season I saw 3 deer bow hunting the entire year (7 hunts). The previous year I saw over 20. My Dad didn't see a deer the entire bow season when the previous year he saw over 20 as well. Being retired he hunted much more than me and to not see a deer was depressing. Being that we have relatives in Ladysmith we hunted Gun Season up there in the State Forest by Hervas Landing along the Flambeau. We didn't hear a gun shot until 7:30 on opening morning.

I hunt on private land in the far northern portion of the Central Forest Zone. Since the horrendous winter of 2013-14 I've watched deer numbers rise consistently. The herd density is now at levels too high for the landscape and forest health (no oak regeneration occurring where I am). This spring I've heard reports of 70 - 120 deer out grazing new growth in single fields. I support the wildlife biologist's recommendation to offer many more antlerless tags, especially in the private land. If deer densities are that much lower on private land in the southern private land portions of the Central Forest Zone, then those private land hunters don't have to buy them....However, we NEED to harvest more deer in the northern portions. CWD is on our doorstep, and the best way to prevent the spread is to get deer densities lower. Please make many more bonus antlerless tags available to private land hunters that want to manage the deer herd responsibly....Those that just want to see as many deer as possible, or are convinced there aren't many deer in their areas don't have to buy them....We don't need to increase the herd any more in the northern private land portion of the zone, so please stop trying. Thank you.

We farm in the North East corner of Eau Claire County between County H and County G on Hamilton Falls Road. This area is classified as Central Forest Zone 1. I (Richard Selzler) have lived here since I was 7 years old and am now 70 and I have never seen the amount of does that I have seen in the last few years. The deer are over 95% does. I feel that you need to adjust the boundry so that the Northern Tier of Farmland between Hwy 27 and the Clark County Line (Adjacent to the Chippewa County Line) be changed to Central Farmland Zone 2. Or we should be given an antlerless tag. I have not been able to harvest a deer since those boundaries were changed. All of the Farmland Owners should be given priority over the non landowners. One hunter had 10 tags for this area last year and we had zero--(0). We are the ones feeding the deer alfalfa and corn and beans on a daily basis and we get nothing.

The wolves, bobcats and bears are relentless in this central forest. We must protect the does in order to have any chance at a solid deer herd in the future in this area. Wolves have been the worst on the deer herd, just terrible. The quality of mature bucks has slid to a point that I never dreamed possible. If you would have told me in 2010 that wolves will destroy your deer herd, I would not have believed it. Today, I am a believer. They have decimated the deer herds of the northern half of the state and because of it less youth are able to get into deer hunting because there are no deer. Take a youth hunting, that youth needs action to stay interested. No deer sightings for a few days and they are done hunting and probably done for life!! Someone needs to fix this problem !! The DNR needs to help get these wolves under state management and lets get the youth back into deer hunting!
Predators on deer have increased over one thousand percent in the last 45 years, (I have owned 80 acres adjoining public land for over 45 years with a cabin on it). Bear numbers continue to increase, bobcats continue to increase and Wolf numbers have EXPLODED. This year I shot a six point buck directly in front of two wolves, had I not shot the buck, he would have fallen prey to the wolves, (one black, one silver). I am 75 years old, I spend about one thousand dollars a year for food plots and practice sound forest management for deer and grouse (almost no grouse) and declining deer. I am questioning if I am just a feeding program for predators. WE NEED TO DECREASE WOLF NUMBERS AND BEAR NUMBERS. I may not have very many years left to hunt deer on this earth.

The eastern portion of the EC county public/state land still remains at mid/lower end of deer population based on 40 years of hunting this area. I believe it is still recovering from several large deer hunting groups doing deer drives during the days of high doe tag availability. Many hunters (some that own private farmland) go out to areas by Kelly Road, Coon Fork, County G north and east of Augusta to shoot deer, especially does. I witnessed it for many years. It is getting slightly better but if a slew of doe tags are provided, many of these areas quickly become depleted of deer. I am also concerned about the red oak depletion and the amount of oak taken in these aforementioned areas. There was mentioned of this in the material but unclear as to why so much oak is being harvested each year.

Until a control can be established on an actual deer population for central farm and forest in eau claire county other than the outdated and inaccurate sak formula I am for growing the population until we see a five year increase in harvest. No antlerless harvest except juniors. Biologists need to get out of papers and powerpoint presentations and get out into field. Interview deer hunters, bird hunters, farmers, loggers, mail carriers, utility workers, and Dpw workers to count deer. Biologists go afield investigate habitat and assure farming and logging practices are beneficial to deer population increases. Physically go into the public county and state land counting deer. Quit wasting money on cwd. It’s been here longer than all of us and it will be here long after us.

As a non-resident hunter that grew up and continues to hunt in this unit, I find the cost outweighing the benefit of hunting more so each year. I’ve had years in to the late ‘90’s and early ‘00’s where it was common to see dozens of deer each day on public land. The last 3-4 seasons I have seen more wolves than deer. I know this is anecdotal but feel free to drive any of the forest roads in the eastern part of the county when there’s snow...the tracks will tell the story. I’ve struggled to keep my kids interested. Would much rather see deer that we can’t shoot than to not see deer at all. I forget what the trend is in registrations, or if registration demographics were even noted...but keep that in mind when wondering where all the hunters went.

I have hunted public land off of Channey Road my entire adult life. The new rules on not using the 4 wheeler trails/logging roads has significantly impacted the deer hunt in the entire area. Open up the 4 wheeler trails/logging roads just for deer season, PLEASE!!!! We do absolutely ZERO damage to the property, but with the new rules, thousands of acres have been taken away from us taxpayers! We can no longer hunt the areas where everyone in my group and their children shot their first deer. Please take this seriously. It was an absurd rule change and many many families have been affected. So now everyone has to park on Channey road and walk to a spot. No fun anymore and kids don’t even want to go anymore because of this!!!!

The bordering areas between Forest and Farmland do have more deer. The interior of the central forest still seems low in population. Not sure how to address other than the food sources are located on bordering areas and predators typically prefer the deeper forest. A deer will move on if predator presence is too much. This likely will always be a factor to deal with. Overall there are less hunters. I believe if deer numbers are good and hunters can validate they are seeing deer, the hunters will come to the public forest lands. I mostly hear that hunters are not seeing as many deer in the core public land. Private land is likely different.
You have too long of an archery season 105 days at the longest season of any state in the Union and then you don’t close archery season before deer season years ago that you wouldn’t let nobody in the wood for a week or two before you guys got the deer so stirred up as why you don’t see him there in gun season but I know the younger generation thinks they know more I’ve been hunting for 63-64 years you could have muzzleloading before gun instead of giving the archery hunters the cream of the crop they’re a bunch of spoiled brats you let them have everything it’s all about who contributes the money to the DNR right.

My biggest concern is people on private land have access to extra tags, and receive deer crop damage payments, and can still regulate hunting on their land. If they opened their land to others to hunt, this could eliminate damage to their property and give others an opportunity to harvest a deer. As more and more people purchase land, public land is becoming scarce for hunting. We own a cabin in Eau Claire County and enjoy our time there during hunting season, being able to support the local economy while hunting is a boost for a county we don’t live in year round. Thank you!

Very high predator ratio in the EC county forest. I see a high mount of bear, wolf, coyote and bobcat when hunting. Predators are controlling the population not the hunters bc hunters are not seeing the animals bc of the low numbers. Also I hope the long gun season does not pass. That wont solve a thing. Nobody hunts beyond the first wknd anyway. The people who complain aren't real hunters anyway. Manage the herd for the bow hunters. Finally, for the love of god...change the muzzleloader season. Change it to the week of Christmas. Everyone will stop whining about unused rifle tags.

Hunting public land in EC County has become a waste of time. I know of at least three groups of people with guns—they are not hunters, but shooters. Groups range from 25 to 40 persons (and yes I did count them). They hit an area, shooting everything with deer hair and swoop of to the next area to depopulate of deer. The only analogy I can come up with is bring to mind is locusts! Two to four persons stand no chance. They do not respect others at all. The saddest part is that many of them are teen aged; they are not learning to hunt, only to kill.

Limited areas for deer drives during the traditional 9 day hunt on open public lands. Certain open public land areas in EC county that I have hunted in the pass, now has none to very little deer activity. I would see multiple drives groups in small/large open public areas that would just wipe out the deer population. And most of these groups(75%) are from Mn. I'm not completely sure on how to fix the deer population, but something needs to be done. I should not have to drive 2.5 hrs else where to hunt and feed my family!

It is my belief that the deer numbers in the public land of Eau Claire county forest land are way down. I think you see more on the edges of public land feeding in private land. It is also my belief that some of the tags for private land are actually being used on public land for antlerless deer. I believe that the antlerless tags should be cut down for the area to grow a decent sized herd and get the hunting to what it used to be. This would bring more hunters back in the long run, in my opinion. Thanks.

The last few years I have seen very few hunting parties moving deer in the county forest. I have gone out with a group of 7 and we have all had the opportunity to shoot multiple deer a day, while hardly seeing another hunter or hunting party. Hunters don’t push deer like they used to. They sit in their tree stand waiting for a their buck that they’ve had on camera. More hunters in the woods (more antlerless tags), there will be more deer movement, and hunters will see more deer.

Our group has hunted in the same area for over 40 years. The deer population last 5 -7 years been greatly reduced. We have had long time hunters that have decided not to hunt anymore because “there are no more deer”. I am sure it is a multitude of reasons but the #1 priority of the DNR must increase the deer population in the next few years. If not more people especially the next generation will have no interest in hunter.
Online registration is allowing people to harvest deer and not register them. This is causing the population of deer to drop even faster. Along with having youth hunts and doe harvest in December which now give people the opportunity to be hunting even more. With the number of DNR officers lower than previously hunters don’t feel the pressure like before. I am a former law enforcement offer myself and understand.

Please consider raising the antlerless quota. The deer are very hard on oak seedling and new pine plantation regeneration. I’m a forester and see this in the field across the county land. The county and Dnr spend many resources trying to establish solid regeneration only to have deer ruin it. I love deer hunting and wildlife in general but there is just getting to be too many deer.

Please stop cutting down all the public woods. After you clear cut it they don’t clean it up and it’s a mess no one goes in there putting all the hunters in the little woods we have left crowding everybody. You’ve cut enough over the past five years go to a different county and wreck it. Clean up the area when your done. The deer aren’t over browsing your cutting all the woods down.

A lot of antlerless tags go to waste, I think it would be fair to do a use it or lose it on the antlerless especially for very popular areas like zone 1. That way it will give early tag buyers a chance to bag the antlerless as well as the ones who couldn’t get a tag before they sold out. It will bring in extra revenue and hunters can have a chance at getting a deer.

I have hunted public land near Augusta Wisconsin all 48 years that I hunted in this management unit. Most of my hunting is during the rifle season on the public land. The last two years I have seen the absolute fewest number of deer in that entire time. I do believe that the forestry efforts in the public land has helped the antler growth for the buck population.

Do not increase bonus tags. I’ve been hunting forest road 5&4 for 18+ years the hunting was horrible for 12+ years we are just beginning to see some deer. And as in some deer I mean a couple each day if you’re really lucky. Don’t make the mistake you did in the past when you destroyed the heads with unlimited doe tags. Please don’t destroy our deer population.

The public land proposed antler less quota of 125 is too low, only 50 deer were harvested in 2019 with the same 125 antler less quota, that is not enough to get reliable CWD samples. There are more deer present in the County Forest which is about 45,000 acres, that is a harvest of 1 antler less deer for about 1,000 acres.

The number of deer seen on public forest land is still quite low. They should be allowed to recover from present levels. Less antlerless permits will help achieve this. Crossbow harvest numbers should be monitored and compared to overall archery harvest and season lengths and antlerless tags adjusted accordingly.

For the period 2015-2017 CDAC objective is increase, and again 2018-2020 increase 2015 post harvest deer number 3400* (adjusted for acres lost from moving some of Central Forest to Farmland) 2019 estimated population post harvest 4500 That is 30% increase. Seems it is time to slow down the increase for 2020.

The quota of 125 antler less deer in the County Forest is too low. I listened to the entire meeting, and the Warden, State Forester, and Agriculture and Forestry folks all said that there were more deer in the County forest and that quota should be more. These comments were made at the end of meeting review.

If you think deer are concentrated on private and want number minimized in private land make private landowners or those who hunt private who purchase tags earn a buck for a year. That would prevent them from hoarding deer numbers which they likely don’t provide adequate browse for the entire year.

The objective for this unit was to increase deer populations, That objective is being met. Some folks would like to see greater increases, I am not one of them, with an estimated population of 30-40 deer per sq. mile it is not a good idea to keep increasing the population in the Forest.
I would like to see the land size in the metro unit of Eau Claire be decreased to qualify. Not many people except a few can qualify currently. The deer population is overly large in this area and would like to see more people participate in maintaining the population.

There are less deer and they are smaller which has been a continuing pattern for the last 20 years. We are only harvesting larger buck's which are fewer and fewer each year. The total deer population appears to have decreased significantly.

I would recommend that no holiday hunt be allowed in Eau Claire Central Forest zone, with a doe harvest quota so low if the doe was lucky enough to make it through rifle season it should be given a chance to survive. Thank you.

This is a highly pressured unit and I agree the doe tags should be limited especially on public land. Also this unit has a high population of predators which needs to be taken into account along with the high hunter numbers.

Please begin immediately disallowing under age hunters from purchasing licenses and antler less permits! This is often abused by families purchasing tags for infants and is not the purpose of the youth hunting privileges!

I think there should be no bonus antlerless tag for youth hunters going forward as well as no holiday hunt. Especially when there's only going to potentially 125 bonus tags issued for Eau Claire-Central Forest Public.

living in a zone with a large amish population, I don't believe we are getting a accurate kill count with the current registration process as I know that a lot of them are not reporting their kill! My own opinion only

Antlerless deer numbers are too high on the private land as well as neighboring public lands on which I hunt. Please continue to offer private land antlerless tags so that we can continue to manage anterless deer.

I feel the youth hunt should be the first hunt of the season (like turkey), then bow season can start. I also think crossbows should only be used by disabled people or people over age 65.

I'll probably not deer hunt this year because of the cost of the out of state license for a Wisconsin Veteran, probability of actually seeing a deer and age.

I think in general the deer population is much lower than say 15yrs ago, i would like to see the population double so we actually see deer out there.

Too many not registering deer so numbers killed are not accurate

Saw more wolves than deer. That is a problem.

Not enough deer and way to many wolves

eliminate all the extra hunts

9 day gun season is enough.
The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 460
   - Bow: 241
   - Crossbow: 190
   - Muzzleloader: 139

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 27.51
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 92
   - Mostly Private Land: 53
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 85
   - Mostly Public Land: 97
   - Exclusively Public Land: 154
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 6

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 14
   - Not too crowded: 65
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 77
   - Somewhat crowded: 109
   - Very crowded: 121
   - Not applicable: 3

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 157
   - Fewer: 169
   - Same: 118
   - More: 38
   - Many More: 21
   - Unsure: 10

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?  
Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  
Friday, May 01, 2020  
Florence, Northern Forest
Would like to thank the WI DNR for all the work and efforts that are put into making each and every Wisconsin deer hunting season a fun, and safe time in the woods. Also would like to send thanks for all the efforts put into maintaining the well-being of the Wisconsin deer heard. With that being said, I've hunted in Florence County for over 25 years now. The glaring problems that exist with the CDAC recommendations as proposed for 2020 WI deer hunting season are the number of hunters who are illegally killing and processing deer. Through word of mouth and stories heard in the Florence county Taverns and Restaurants, the glaring theme is that people find it easier not only to kill and process deer without registering their harvest these days, but also some take the risk of hunting, but never legally purchasing a valid WI deer hunting license. Doing away with requiring a WI deer hunter to legally wear a valid backtag opened the door to many of these problems. To take it one step further, it has also made it extremely hard for ethical and legal hunters like myself to self report violations that you encounter while out in the woods hunting. In the past couple years I have contacted the DNR on 2 occasions to report violations while hunting, and without having a valid backtag number to report, makes the time sensitive nature of a Warden apprehending poachers extremely difficult, especially during opening weekend of the gun deer hunt. The unfortunate Rice Lake incident where multiple hunters lost their lives years ago should be proof of this. It was the backtag number that lead to the apprehension of the guilty person in those senseless murders. The rate of violations has increased since WI did away with backtags. I firmly believe that the decrease in license sales is more a result of people continuing to hunt, just not continuing to buy a valid deer hunting license. I tend to believe that the deer kill numbers being lower then in the past are a result of both people hunting without a license and also mainly because people find the risk of not registering a kill and continuing to illegally hunt a risk that they are willing to take which wasn’t the case with backtags in the past. Also the number of hunters processing their own kills has dramatically increased over the last 10 years. Without having to register the deer in person, is another step skipped to eliminate poaching. This is evidence on the extremely low number of harvested deer on vehicles driving back home after opening weekend. My last recommendation would also be to do away with the youth Fall deer hunts. I would recommend that if the youth hunts continue that they should be antlerless only hunts state-wide. I have witnessed multiple times during youth hunts where the adults in the hunting party are also carrying guns in the woods. Witnessed on one occasion where an adult harvested a large adult Buck while his young Son was sitting in the car and warming up with his Uncle. I would have wished that the DNR would have had a public review a year or two after eliminating the backtags to discuss these issues. Honestly when fellow hunters gather in person and on the net to discuss the hunting season, there is more talk about violators, then deer hunting success stories these days. Thank You, for your time and consideration. If you would like to discuss further over the phone, my phone number is in the WI DNR system. Thank You, Michael Lee Hegerty
I personally believe the overall population numbers are drastically inaccurate. I spent a lot of time in the woods this year in search of deer and there were the fewest numbers of deer and even tracks in recent history, this was confirmed by several hunters and woodsman alike. This county has drastically different deer population totals by area such as high populations near farmland and developed areas and low populations in most of the hardwood-timber (public) areas. This was very evident this year if took the time to drive through a winter timber cut where the deer congregate to survive the long winters where food is easily available and deer are usually found in these areas in high numbers, but not this year. We are again wasting our efforts of population control by concentrating solely on the doe herd, what this county needs and has needed is an antler restriction or (APR) this type of management works and Florence county greatly needs this implemented to enhance our buck and deer population overall, our buck to doe ratio is way off here, if these numbers were closer to even you would see greater deer movement during the rut, better kill numbers and larger (mature) bucks taken instead of mostly adolescent ones. I feel that there are a number of hunters that agree on this issue and I know that this has been brought up before and we were told here in this county that we would only have a chance at this happening if three adjoining counties agreed on this policy. I believe that the ball has been dropped on this issue and it needs to be pursued again. What do we have to lose? the deer hunting in this county is dismal at best, this would surely boost a hunter’s chances of bagging a decent mature deer, after just a few years of being implemented. You would see hunter interests improve if they’ve seen large bucks on there cameras, who gets excited to head out to the stand with only pictures of spike horns and maybe a small 6 pointer or no bucks at all?? but only one pic of a mature buck by your post will heighten interest, tell me I’m wrong!, if this were to get implemented you would see more hunters in the woods, more licenses purchased, more tourism dollars being spent by motivated hunters that will stay at camp and in the woods longer than opening weekend "like most due now" and overall hunter enthusiasm increase for both bow and rifle, also you would encourage younger new hunters to venture out into the woods with hopes of a trophy whitetail like the one they saw the neighbor get! please take this into consideration, things here can only get better if we had an APR restriction, I will guarantee it! Thank You!
The deer hunting in Florence country over the past 14 years has not been great by any means. I have had a few years of harvesting nice bucks but they were few and far between. This past year was really bad in terms of deer seen per hunt with many nights of not seeing anything. I honestly would not be hunting in this unit if it wasn't for having a cabin in the northwoods. It seems that the DNR is more interested in money than increasing the deer herd numbers. I have seen plenty of bear, coyotes and wolves on my deer cameras which is quite concerning with the winters in Florence country. I am all for having a balanced eco system but not to the point where the whitetail deer have such a hard time of surviving due to weather and then predator threat. It would be nice if initiatives were taken to harvest more coyotes and possibly more bear. Although the bear numbers seem to be going down. I know that the wolf is still a protected species but they seem to be multiplying year by year which is very concerning. I think the state of Wisconsin should push the federal government to have a logical and reasonable way of relocating or harvesting a small number of wolves per year. Particulary in Florence county. I have seen too many videos of wolves taking down a deer in good weather conditions. I can only imagine what they do during the winters in the northern counties. Two years ago in Wabeno I was doing some scouting and the sight was sad to see. The wolves had a field day that winter and I could easily see it by the sights I witnessed. As stated I am all for a balanced eco system and wolves may be apart of that but we have to be sensible in the way we manage it. I want to have kids someday and will love to introduce them to hunting where I learned the sport, however it is hard to think they would enjoy with the hunting I have experienced in recent years. There are plenty of guys who love trapping and go to Canada to harvest wolves. Why not make some sensible harvest restrictions to take out a few wolves year by year? It will help out the deer hunters who love the sport and well as provide money to the DNR and state of Wisconsin. I hope ten years from now I can look back and say hey the DNR really must value hunter input by the changes they put into place but at this point I dont have that confidence. I will never stop hunting but I also would like to see the sport grow and I dont see that happening in Florence county if the DNR doesn't try to make changes to the deer herd numbers. I would love to hear some feedback on this.

nhennes21@gmail.com

We have only seen CWD cases come from deer farms, yet the average hunter now has to suffer from the baiting ban that was imposed as a result of their reckless actions. Their only concern is the almighty dollar and has nothing to do with conserving the sport. I can drive through the many private farms on the way to my totally wooded and bordered by public land hunting grounds and count at times over a hundred deer eating corn, alfalfa, rye, radishes, wheat, beans etc. nose to nose yet heaven forbid I put out 2 gallons of corn to see 4 deer. We all don't have thousands of acres to draw all the deer from miles around, yet you treat the farmers and public land big woods stump sitters as the same. Let's use your heads and allow baiting again. Your basis for comparison borders on lunacy. Walk a mile off hwy 70 into the Nicolet Forest and sit dark to dark with a 10 yr (who your trying to expose the tradition and sport to) and see how excited they are with seeing nothing. Your stats alone tells the story that 61% of the county is public land yet only 30% of the deer are killed here. Why? Because private land owners either have crops, food plots or bait illegally not worrying about someone stumbling across the bait and turning them in. Stop discriminating against public land hunters or small tract wooded private property owners and allow the limited baiting again. It keeps interest in the sport by not only the seasoned but new hunters alike, provides opportunities for ethical shots and probably gives a few deer the needed calories to make it through a harsh winter. And let's not forget, it will increase license sales which ultimately pays your salary! Also, limit buck tags. Why two? It should be one. Be it by bow, rifle, or muzzleloader. I suggest allowing hunters through age 18 to be allowed to shot any size buck along with first time hunters, but then limit it to 3 on one side etc. We'll never have quality bucks with the "I need to kill a buck to be successful attitude.". We hunt in Florence county, not Buffalo where it's all private by the way and people are passing up bucks for a chance at bigger ones. We are hunting with all the people from Buffalo county and every other county that don't own land and must seek out large tracts of public, state or National forest which Florence has plenty of. Stop comparing the state as being equal because it's obviously not. You asked for input and you got it like it or not. But don't think for one minute that I am alone in my thought process.
"MAINTAIN' is the CDAC goal? You have got to be kidding me. Where do these committee members live that they want to "maintain" the deer herd? Where I live, hunt and recreate, we don't have deer numbers. We don't need to maintain, we need to "GROW" the Florence County deer numbers. Take a walk anywhere out in the public woods and tell me what you think. I bet the people making these recommendations have spent ZERO time walking in the public woods. The "amount of damage to backyard plants" is laughable. Put up a deer fence if you wish to protect your petunias and respect the fact you live in the northwoods of Wisconsin. We didn't have any farm land being used within 15 miles of my cabin. What type of deer herd to you expect to maintain when public lands aren't being taken care of. The deer herd doesn't need to be maintained, the public lands need to be maintained!! Somebody needs to stick their necks out for the future of the Florence County deer hunters, and all-around lovers of the outdoors. Hunters will continue to be idiots and break the rules if the DNR isn't willing to put the adjust the numbers of tags available. I don't think your wardens deserve the extra work and stress because of poor management. Kelly Crotty knows his stuff and he can tell you the public lands of Florence County is hurting for deer. Quit caring so much about the land owners opinion and protect the general public who hunt land shared by others. Your recommendations from the CDAC are shocking. Something needs to be done. I hope you are getting plenty of feedback from this internet form, but I doubt it because of the lack of knowledge from the overall population that lives in Florence County. Talk to the old man who lives off Lauterman Lake Rd, and has lived there off the land for his entire life...he certainly won't be logging into your fancy website to provide his feedback. I'm sure your private land owners have the ability to share their opinions freely however. You don't have an easy job, but sometimes the right decisions aren't easy. Us hunters and families who want to continue residing in Florence County would appreciate somebody giving some thought to the public hunting areas. An old avid outdoorsman appreciates you, even if you don't believe it. Thank you.

My observations over 30 years of hunting deer in Florence is as follows. In the years of 1991 and 95 and 96 we had watched deer numbers plummet after the winter kills of those years. However, they rebounded. I primarily hunt by Lake 17. There are no Oaks, primarily maples, hemlocks and cedars, with willows, and the nutritional intake doesn't support large antlers unless the animal can live a long time. The fact of deer rebounding used to be safe to assume every couple years after a winter kill. They just have not rebounded since the early 2000s. Numbers remain low, and the added predation has increased in the last 20 years as well. The logging may help open the canopy but the saplings of the millions of maples seem to take a long time to grow in that soil. Because of the lack of deer, the browse lines are missing. In my observations there is a lack of the dessimation of the foliage in the big forest due to the lack of deer. Many years the deer yards were loaded with 100s of deer in cedar swamps. It isn't that case anymore. Loggers watch wolves take deer in the cold of winter. Very sad. I enjoy the beauty of Florence and love how wild the habitat is. I gun hunt there. I bowhunt in big buck county in Sauk and Richland. But tradition beings me to Florence, and the hope to see a true northwoods giant. I would be in agreement to a fork minimum on one side, or at least 2 points on one side if that would help increase buck survival. There are many spikes shot every year and I am guilty as well. I have seen one true giant once in all the years hunting Florence. The deer populations in Florence truly need help. That county needs money and tourism helps. I would also contemplate a complete deer hunting shutdown for a year or even 2 so the numbers could rise in Florence. I think the antlerless only seasons are unnecessary, at least on public. There just aren't as many deer and many factors are not allowing them to rebound. I believe hunting pressure has lightened in the past 15 years and still the population is suffering. Very sad. Thank you for listening!
I FOUND YOUR SURVEY KIND OF INTERESTING... I LIVE IN DOOR CTY., TO MANY DEER AND NO WAYS TO CONTROL WITHOUT SHOOTING OR HARVESTING FLORENCE CTY ON THE OTHER HAND,,, IS IN TROUBLE,,, DEER HAVE WORKED SOUTH WHERE THE FOOD IS... WINTERS ARE HARD ON THE DEER POPULATION,,, FORESTS AND BIG COUNTRY, LOTS OF ACORN TREES ARE GONE....FARMS ARE FEW AND FARM BETWEEN... ALL THE DEER I FIND IN THE COUNTY ARE SO CALLED POCKETS.. ;NOT IN THE BIG WOODS... I SPEND A LOT OF TIME AT MY CABIN IN THE CTY.. I SEE MORE BEAR ,, COYOTES, WOLVES,, .. IN THE SPRING FEW DOES THAT MAKE IT THREW THE WINTER,, FAWNS ARE EATED BY BEAR, COYOTES OR WOLVES.. TOUGH WINTERS FOR THEM AND THE BEARS COME OUT OF HIBERNATION AND ARE HUNGRY AS WELL AS THE OTHER PREDATORS .. HUNTERS DONT NEED TO CONTROL THE POPULATION OF DEER IN FLORENCE CTY MOTHER NATURE DOES ITS THING... IF PEOPLE WANT TO SHOOT AND HARVEST DOES THEY CAN GO TO BROWN CTY AND DOOR AND SHOOT ALL THEY WANT,, 5 EXTRA TAGS FOR EACH LICENSES. FOR MY PART I DID NOT SEE A DEER LAST YR.. FIRST TIME EVER.. DONT NEED TO SHOOT FOR SMALL BUCK OR FOR THAT MATTER A DOE......... JUST NICE TO GO TO THE WOODS AND SEE SOME DEER.... A COUPLE OF MORE ITEMS  ONE FOR SOME REASON THE PEOPLE THAT SET THE DATES FOR GUN DEER SEASONS ARE OFTEN LATE OF RUT,, BUCKS ARE LAYING THE SWAMPS AND THE DEER ARE DONE MOVING!!!!!!! CONSERVING FOR THE WINTER... FLORENCE CTY HAD AT LEAST 4 MAYBE 5 MONTHS OF HARD TIMES FOR THE DEER,,,,, LET ALONE SHOOT MORE TO CONTROL HARVEST... IF ANY BODY DID A ROAD KILL SURVEY,, FROM ALONE LOGGING TRUCKS,, THEY WOULD BE SURPRISED THE WILD LIFE THAT IS KILLED ON THE RD... I AM NOT BLAMING THEM--------- THAT IS THEIR WAY OF MAKING A LIVING HAULING LOGS.. THEY ARE NOT GOING TO KILL THEMSELVES TO ACCIDENT WITH A DEER OR TURKEY IN THE ROAD.. ANOTHER WAY TO CONTROL THE HERD,, BESIDES SHOOTING.. THIS IS MY OPINION AND WHEN I GO FOR A RIDE DURING SEASON AND SEE FAWNS AND DOES HANGING I AM SAD... PEOPLE ARE IN THE WRONG CTY FOR MEAT.......... 

Can not accept the 2019 late season start excuse for the lack of deer sighted. Not to the EXTENT 1 or others experienced. Listening to wolves howl thru the night opening weekend was a concern. Bad weather came on day 5. I have hunted for 48 years and by day 4 hunting pressure of any amount puts deer on alert and changes their willingness to move by day. Now the WSI must have been severe because snow depths were over 18 inches for all of Jan and Feb. and I believe 25 days below zero. I believe we are lucky to have 10 deer PSM well below the carrying capacity WITH OUT ANY ANTLERLESS PERMITS not to mention an increase in the quota from the 2019. With the current crisis I believe you need to GIVE 600 antlerless tags to residents for free to help supplement their food supplies. If not you need to factor how many deer will be taken by locals for food. Its been a way of life up here years ago and I believe considering the crisis it will return and I do not have a problem with that if factored in. Not a lot of deer where we hunt, We have good habitat with logging taking place all around us with many different stages of growth, highland and lowland and bordering river. Our camp in our family over 70 years and never seen it this bad. With management as proposed I wish I didn't own land in Florence cty. Forest cty Zero antlerless for 2020 ? Last season a 67% decrease in antlerless harvest ? Very disappointed Don't know what you are all thinking. Really believe my opinion is shared by many others and recruitment of new hunters will not happen. Thank you for destroying a tradition that I looked forward to more that Christmas !!!!!! Seems like hunters have no say at all. Forestry wants all the deer killed. Tourism could care less as ATV and snowmobiling dollars are more important. The deck is stacked in someone else's favor If you want a letter grade its a F for failed. Sincerely Richard Kornely 15911 cty r Maribel WI 54227
Regarding Mr. Carlson's preso: 1) The WSI index provided on page 18 is outdated & therefore understated. Through March, the western part of the county reached a number that exceeded 80, and thus became "severe"; 2) I spend a large portion of my free time in the NW part of the county, and the fawn:doe ratio shown on page 14 at 0.88 is not accurate for the NW part of the county, my actual observations in 2019 were about 0.50 following the severe winter of 2018-2019. I did listen to the Apr. 7 CDAC meeting, and I disagree with the logic presented by Mr. Carlson & the foresters to increase antlerless permits for 2020."Maintain" does not equate to an attempt to increase the antlerless permits in 2020 when the post hunt population estimates show a 3-year decline. Furthermore, now after 2-consecutive severe winters in the western portion of the county, allocating 600 permits on public land is too much. I recommend a 1600 total permit amount, and then allocate 75% to private land or 1200 permits and 25% to public land or 400 permits. 400 public land permits would "maintain" the same amount of public land permits as 2019, plus the larger quantity of private land permits get additional help in the eastern ag areas argue that they need to remove more deer from that area of the county. Finally, I want to voice my strong support to CDAC chair Dale Ebert for his efforts to attempt to find a workable solution for all interests involved in making the CDAC recommendation and not just appeasing the wishes of the special interests spoken during the Apr. 7th meeting. I do sincerely appreciate every CDAC member that has volunteered to serve, and I empathize with the tough decisions the CDAC must make in a county with very different resources & needs, east vs west. That said, I encourage all CDAC members to keep an open mind and represent the entire county as you make your final 2020 recommendation for Florence County.

We have a major problem with the Western part of Florence County deer numbers. I understand your video depicts certain numbers for the entire county, but those numbers are very misleading. The Eastern part of the county is full of private land hunters and land owners, but the portion of the county in the National Forest needs to be given its respect. Our numbers are clearly down for both harvested deer AND hunters. The county tourism businesses deserve more and the CDAC meeting (which I listened to on the phone for 2 hours, while at home in Green Bay) was a complete mess of 6 members showing zero willingness to budge on their opinions. 2 women members actually voiced concern for over-population of the Florence County deer herd because there isn’t enough food available and the deer will die anyway. More pressure needs to be put on the National Forest to clear cut and provide the deer population with the food it needs, instead of leaving excuses as to why the deer tags needs to be increased. There are plenty of options available besides increasing tags to appease the land management folks and the ladies concerns with the deer eating their flowers in their yard. We don’t have too many deer on the Northwestern part of the county. Please give thought to finding a way of better managing the entire county and not just the areas where the members exist. More tags is not the answer. Lets bring hunters back to Florence County by bringing back a healthy deer herd by giving them food to eat and CDAC members who are open to embrace other’s ideas and traditions. Florence County deserves better than the CDAC members are treating it. Our gas stations, restaurants, bars and stores deserve the business and this CDAC committee is too worried about forest crop damage instead of the greater whole.
Please look at the trends in deer populations. They are on a steady decline and not just the claimed one year drop that is because of the season being late. Yes there are ups and downs but overall the population is declining. I have been hunting the same area for 27 years and have never in my wildest dreams thought it could get this bad. I saw 3 total deer in 2018 and 1 deer in 2019. You can absolutely not endorse a larger kill in 2020 than you did in 2019. What is wrong with taking a more conservative approach to the amount of tags issued? If after this year things show growth fine but please do not go into this thinking we have the deer population that is being claimed, it is just not the case. If the DNR wants to claim that our deer kill is down because of the late season, look at the reported car kills. There should be no decrease in car kills or one as large if the population is as high as they say, poor weather or a late opener just don’t affect this like it does to hunting. Please do the right thing and reduce the quota and number of issued tags. And don’t just do a small reduction so you can claim it was reduced. Reduce the quota to 200 or split the dam unit so the eastern farm land is not skewing the population estimates. Besides they are the ones getting the crop damage permits anyway. If you are truly listening to the hunting public, you can not tell me the majority of hunters are saying "we want more tags". This use to be a good unit to hunt in with a good amount of activity but it is going in a very poor direction. The good years are not even as close to the past good years and the bad years are falling further down every time one comes around. DO THE RIGHT THING AND TURN THE POPULATION AROUND.

2019 was influenced certainly by a late season , but .......the first 4-5 days of rifle season had near perfect weather . Hunting all fall bow and gun I saw a total of a single deer on private land in the eastern portion of Florence county. Your deer count numbers are extremely inflated as our extremely poor buck kill proved along with almost every metric in the video which was extremely well presented . Stop shooting does especially after a terrible winter, it’s that easy to have good hunting here. We didn’t need a WSI chart to see how bad last winter was all you had to do was look at the deer in June and they still looked to be in terrible shape. You turned out antlerless quotas last year before the winter was even over and that’s a huge problem. My prediction is we will have another rough deer season as it seems you cannot seem to give our Florence county antlerless deer herd a break to be able to recover. It will be proven with another bad buck kill that you will attempt to spin as a rising population when it jumps ten percent or so from last years terrible numbers. I will along with other family members be exploring hunting in other states that seem to want deer and deer hunters spending their hard earned cash in. Spending 1-2 thousand dollars hunting in a state that actively manages for great hunting is a much much better value than buying maintaining and paying taxes on barren Florence county property. Hunting an entire fall to see a single deer will not happen to me again. I’ll go fishing or hunt a new state . It will be amazing if you have any hunters left in a few more years , sitting in the woods watching birds is not deer hunting.

I crossbow hunt limited amount in Florence County. I do more Muzzleloader hunting in the zone. I know the deeper than the average snow for that time of year prevented me from getting to some of the more remote areas I hunt. But even in the areas where there were recent or active timber cutting taking place, the amount of deer sign was minimal compared to the wolf sign. I did enjoy some success putting meat in the freezer, though I did not see a legal buck. If there is going to be clear cutting, it has to work hand in hand with the food that is going to be available. You can not have a large thriving deer herd, and clear cut thousands of acres then call it all good expecting the numbers not to change. I see very little select cutting taking place (only on private owned land), the happy medium to everything.Taking some of the trees yet leaving a habitat that game would still utilize. Nut bearing trees still producing food and cover for the animals, etc. What I see are hundreds of acres in a block getting clear cut that resembles a nuclear bomb going off. There isn’t a living plant standing for a mile in any direction a person looks. Then the only thing that grows back in any number is popple and that take many years to amount to anything. Wolves are not dumb. You rid the forest of timber, the places deer can hide, and finding food disappears too. The herd congregates, and the wolves follow them to those spots. A forest can only support a herd that has enough food available. You cut the trees, the herd is cut too. You can’t have both. A large deer herd, and dwindling forests too.
Thanks for taking the time to read this message. I understand that we are on a 3 year maintain but I have a hard time understanding why we give out so many antlerless tags when every year after the “no antlerless” period was lifted the deer numbers have dropped. What are you maintaining? You’re not, that’s the answer to my own question. Hunted the west side of Florence county for all 25 years and I have been absolutely disappointed in this counties deer management. It gets harder and harder every year to come and hunt this area. I watched every minute of the 27 minute video and it kept covering the deer population and every graph that came up shows this county going down on deer population but want to recommend more doe kill. I’m so confused by that. I come up to Florence county a lot because my dad lives up in the area, I have witnessed doe/fawn ratio in spring and every year we talk like “hey maybe this will be a good year, we are seeing fawns” to coming into fall and that’s all we see along side the roads are does with no fawns if we even see the does. I have so much more to say but you got the point of my message I hope. Also if you look at giving x amount of tags to public and x amount of tags to private, what distinguishes the two? If you don’t think these private owners are hunting public deer and registering these deer as private you’re joking yourself. Come on guys, try to help make this county good again. Would love to try to get my kids to hunt up here someday. I can understand why the youth aren’t interested in hunting up here anymore, it sucks!

I visit Florence County, and I contribute to the (shrinking) tourism numbers. When I heard the number of tags was increasing, I was shocked and astonished the CDAC came to that conclusion. How does the CDAC come up with the recommendation for increasing tags when I spend time riding the trails and hiking through the public areas and see very little deer numbers compared to the neighboring counties! Are the deer hiding in areas I’m not aware of? We spend time in Florence County during all 4 seasons and our time is valuable to us. We are traveling to Florence County less and less because of the lack of attention to the National Forest. Very little amounts of cutting being noticed, which I’m sure is a pretty good reason as to why the amount of wildlife is lower. I know this is a government thing and I’m sure these surveys aren’t even viewed, but I think this committee got the numbers very wrong!! Tags should not be increased, they should be ZERO. If the committee sees deer numbers too high, maybe they should open their private land areas up to the hunters who would appreciate the opportunity to harvest a deer. I’ll drive right through your county in a couple years if this trend continues. Michigan sounds like a pretty good place to visit and there won’t be any reason to stop in Florence County if the bars and gas stations and stores are all closed because the DNR isn’t managing the number 1 reason people visit!!! Try harder to listen to the general public, because I’m hoping others are filling out these surveys!

Since the harvest models and my personal observation frequency while hunting showed significant decline year of year I feel your population model is flawed. It shows the last few years as the highest post hunt populations but some of the lower actual harvests. I also believe the agricultural damage permits are not an indication of the herd, I believe these permits are abused by some to gain access to harvesting additional deer. How many actual farmers are there in the county that rely upon agriculture as their sole source of income compared to history. Not that many. I find it interesting that you only discuss bears and bobcats when you discuss predation. Take a look at population models and draw a line on when the wolf was re-introduced to the state. They don’t only predate fawns, they can kill almost any deer they desire. Not enough population impact is being attributed to these animals either. I personally think the target population can be slightly higher. The hunting is more challenging for many reasons one of which is less hunters to help move the deer as well. I only harvest a 2-1/2 year old buck or older and my goal is one per year. Last year was the first year in many that I didn’t have any opportunities to harvest and I hunted both archery and gun seasons. I think the population wasn’t as high as DNR estimates which aligns with others I know who also hunt in this management unit. We need less antler-less permits for 2020. I’d suggest a target harvest of 300.
I’ve never killed anything in Florence County. I sit in a tree with my bow and have never even had a chance at drawing back at something with antlers. I represent your average guy who loves spending time up north. I love seeing wildlife, kayaking down the river or around the lake, going for a ride to see the beauty of nature and going for a run early in the morning to see the sunrise. The deer population in Florence County is terrible. Driving north to our cabin, you see deer all over and the closer you get out our cabin in Tipler- the less deer you see. It should be that you see more deer the further away you get from Green Bay, but that’s not the case. I see deer in Forest County and I see some deer south of Fence, but when I get onto highway 70 its scary how few deer are seen. The Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest should be an amazing place with tons of wildlife (deer included) but it just seems something isn’t allowing that to happen. We should stop hunting all-together for a year before we increase tags!! How crazy is the CDAC that the recommend providing even more tags when the deer population is as low as I’ve ever seen it. Please help out the average guy who just likes going up north and might want to shoot a buck (not a monster) once every 5 years. I’d be willing to sacrifice not hunting a year or two, since I’m unlikely to see a buck anyhow! Its hard enough to see a doe for goodness sake. I’m hoping you will consider. Much appreciated.

I have seen the video and participated in the on-line meeting. Tom presented the average Winter Severity Index as 66. I use the Florence NOAA site for my work and the WSI for the Florence, WI site as reported by NOAA is 93 which is 41% greater than Tom reports. I believe the Florence NOAA site is in Commonwealth, WI which is not on the western side of the county. Tom indicated western county data was higher than eastern county data. I believe Tom indicated the doe/fawn ratio is an average of the Northern Forest area. Why do we feel this large area is representative of Florence County? My observations were more like 0.5 fawn per doe. Many does did not have fawns last fall. I would surely like to see this data (ie. date and location). I believe the statistics of this data would add to the inaccuracy of our population estimate. Tom indicated the three biggest contributors to the population estimate are buck kill, WSI, and doe/fawn ratio. I believe two of three of his numbers are inaccurate. In addition, the population has decreased the last two years (17,200, 15,600, 12,400). The CDAC voted in the spring of 2018 to 'maintain' it's population which at that time was 17,200. We have not maintained. On the contrary, we have decreased the population 28% from the level the CDAC voted to maintain! With these factors, I urge the CDAC to reconsider and trim the proposed level of doe harvest.

We need more deer in Florence County, period. The harsh winters and natural predators are bad enough...now we need to issue more tags to kill even more?? How about we actually increase the herds around the ENTIRE county before we start issuing more tags? I don’t care about Betty’s plants being eaten by deer down in the southern part of the county. We don’t have any deer up in the northern part so why punish the entire population just because some old post on the committee is complaining about too many deer by her house. I saw the same amount of deer the last 2 years, and that’s not a good thing. We need to increase. We need to protect. We need to provide adequate resources to the deer herd in all areas of the county...not just some. Our national forest needs more attention. It’s one of the biggest reasons people visit Florence county...start protecting it and everything around it. Our CDAC representatives are fools for not being more open to other ideas. Put aside your personal investment and think about the hunters you represent instead of looking out for yourselves. Compare Florence county to comparable and you will see glaring data pop out....and not in a good way. Listen to your hunters. Listen to the people who are out in the woods regularly. Listen to the people that hunt public land...they are the ones who are looking out for everybody, because they have the most at risk!
I have hunted the northern forests (north of highway 8) for the last 55 years so yes I know a thing or two about the woods. The quality of the hunt has not been affected by the number of hunters but buy the introduction of apex predator wolf and the bear population is way over what it should be. When I see 7 bear in one day that is way too many. We used to be able to shoot a bear during the deer gun season. Why should it take 8 to 12 years to get a bear hunting permit? Bear eat deer and in particular fawn plain and simple. Unlike most dnr personnel I live in the woods and am out and about everyday. I can count on one hand the number of doe with fawns I saw the last few years. If you want a more accurate count on the herd look at the yarding areas and do your count. The bottom line is if you really care about the deer herd you will not worry about crop damage in an area where there is very little farming. You will not concern yourself with how many auto claim for deer. Plain and simple we must stop killing the doe north of highway 64, but definitely north of highway 8. Do this for 3 years and watch the herd rebound. The question is how much do you really care about the deer herd? Also lets open a realistic hunt for wolf with realistic goals and quotas. Thanks for your time but I do not have any expectations for things to change as there is more money involved than true concern.

Your video contradicts itself in a major area. The numbers used for doe to fawn ratios drop throughout the year, but you still blame the low kill number last year on the late gun season. To me, you cant blame that on the late gun season at all and its the predators and overall vegetation available for the fawns. This council should not be recommending an increase to tags!!! Where do these people live that they see a healthy deer heard that needs to be maintained? I hope the DNR sees things through their own unbiased set of eyes and doesn't listen to this recommendation from the CDAC members. Our older generations have stories from the 80s and 90s when hunting was good and deer numbers were actually healthy. I used to drive every night to look for deer (still have the log book showing how many we saw) and it was common on a 30 minute drive, to see 30-40 deer. Now my family actually has bets on who ever sees the first (and only deer) gets to pick the evening TV show. Please do a service to the older generations and the younger generations to build the Florence County deer herd and reduce the tags available. It might not be popular amongst the CDAC committee, but its what they need to hear to make them aware of what public land hunters see. Next time maybe check your video and make sure it makes sense to dummies who are a little slower. HA!

First off, thank you for the CDAC presentation. My major concern with deer hunting in Florence County (which I have done for 48 years) is the one size fits all recommendations. I hunt in the very western edge of the county in dense forest areas. I also have friends that hunt in the eastern edge of the county (which I turkey hunt in ) and realize the vast difference of deer habitat. I think, like is done with trout regulations changing at certain roads and bridges, that the same concept could be used for deer hunting. I wish you would consider a split at Hwy 101 and use separate metrics and quotas based on change of habitat and considerable disparity of deer densities. While I realize the farmland/more open terrain of the counties eastern half needs a higher harvest to maintain habitat, I also realize that lumping the western half of the county into those same harvest quotas is not a good recipe for an extended period of a quality hunts. We personally have not shot a doe in our area since 1997 (first bow kill for a friend), and yet we have experienced a trend of less deer sightings for well over a decade, despite the fact we spend an extraordinarily greater amount of time in the woods over that span. It would be greatly appreciated if you could Please consider my proposal. Sincerely A Dedicated Hunter
There are no deer left to hunt but we continue to pass out antlerless tags like candy in a parade. I grew up hunting Florence County and have hunted here every year since I was 12 (all but 1 of those years on public land). It has never been so bad. My son will be old enough in a few years to come sit with me and I will be honest, I’m not sure I want to take him because of the lack of deer sightings make me fearful he will never want to hunt when he comes of age. Family Traditions of hunting the Northwoods of Wisconsin are dying because of the poor management of the herd. Don’t even get me started on the online registration now as well. All that did was kill the local businesses who survived off tourism dollars during hunting season (another great decision made in Madison without any consideration for majority.) Lastly, the wolf population is getting out of control. Trail cam pics full of wolves, sightings everywhere. I have seen more wolves hunting than I have deer during the 2019 season - 1 wolf, 0 deer during opening weekend. I packed up and went home after that. I will just add that my message above probably makes me sound like a 60 year old, but I’m only 35 and technically "labeled" a millennial.

My cabin is in Iron Country Mi, just across the border. Unlike Wis, they are on the radio all the time, talking deer hunting. They (the managers) do not believe, or have any intention of stopping baiting. I do not bait, (I am 70 years old), but if some old guy wants to throw out 10 apples, he is not hurting, anything. With an extensive 40 year career in law enforcement, I can not believe the waste of time, our wardens work on some guy using bait.... Now that it is illegal, yes they should not violate. If I was in charge, I would put together a task force. I would have one UC in the local bars etc. I would get on the poachers and violators, who inhabit, Long Lake area, Fence etc..... there is serious local poaching, cabin shooting, etc, going on, that would be my focus.... Its an absolute joke, that private food plots are allowed, and some old guy, gets a tag, for an open apple, while hunting.. Do you honestly believe, that deer crossing back and forth the Brule River, are going to contract CWD, from some guys bait. I believe in Wildlife Science, not Social or Political Science. Show me the science, and maybe I will believe it, but MI does not.

Please no doe tags for public land . I hunt western Florence Co the deer population in the area I hunt is down considerably. One thing nice about very few deer is we do not have many hunters at all in this area any more. I would much rather have deer and deal with the people.About 6 or so years ago I went to the meeting in Florence and it was brought up by one of the board members that sit up front that we notice that most people only hunt a couple days and go home and that is a trend we are seeing and don’t know why. Well I’m here to tell you why VERY FEW DEER.Last few years I’m getting more trail cam pics of Wolves.I see a few fawns early in summer then after a couple months go by not many left.Its getting real disgusting. I also have talk to board members and they admit that they are just a pawn in the game of the management of this system also disgusting.One last thing, this may be out of the hands of the Florence Co forest service but let’s manage the forest for game animals. The select cutting that is being done is not going to help the grouse or deer hunting.Lets try to get it back to where it’s not a waste of time.

Over the years the deer population in Florence county has greatly diminished! We have hunted the same area for years and it was noting years back to see 50 deer a day! Yes that’s correct, we haven’t seen 50 deer in the last 10 years combined with four hunters in camp. Predators are a big issue and it did not help one bit the antler less tags you put out and the bad winters we have had up here, over the last several years! People do not come up to Florence to hunt like they once did because the deer population is so low. When you go out into the woods you want to see deer of some kind, not sit for 8-10 hours and see nothing. Private property may hold some deer but we all know Florence county is not made up of large quantities of private land that is. Killing does is not helping the deer heard issue at all, we all have a great steak in our deer heard and at one time Florence county was know for good deer hunting and it’s sadly not the case any longer. This small community thrives off tourism people who have camps have them up here for a reason, but they won’t keep them if there are no deer to see or hunt.
My major concern is deer populations are down. No matter what formulas or numbers are used a true hunter can see that. My family has hunted Florence county for almost 100 years. We sit all day, hunt multiple stands and are avid outdoorsman. Last year 2 out of 3 people did not see a deer until the 6th and 7th day of the season. This means it took 55 to 65 hours of sitting before seeing a deer. That is incredibly bad. We have hunted the same stands over the 100 years and even on the worst seasons we would see a deer every couple of days. This is so disheartening to us. I have young kids that I cannot get into the sport of hunting due to the low population. How do you tell a 10 year old "sit for 55 hours and you might see a deer". I'm afraid if the numbers stay the same my family may not continue gun hunting. I'm more and more concerned with more antlerless tags being given as well as crop damage tags. It is remarkable that we, as a state, would rather reduce the heard to such low numbers than risk losing a few trees to browsing. If this mentality continues your hunting numbers will exponentially decrease.

Hunting public land in Florence county is nothing short of a joke. Your deer biologist is nothing more than a DNR propagandist. My dad built a hunting cabin in 1970. Now myself brother and 2 sisters have year round homes in the county. Most of my nieces nephews son and daughter in laws ect won’t even hunt in the county. As for me and my siblings we have been done spending even a dime up there for 4 or 5 years. Due too what you’ve done to the deer herd up there we refuse to go to your grocery stores bars hardware stores diners ect. So go ahead and give out 10000 doe tags. I really don’t give a shit anymore. As for the CDAC the DNR just came up with that idea so hunters think they have a voice. That’s another pile of BS. Claiming to maintain the deer herd in Florence county would lead one to believe there actually was a deer herd. Take it from a guy who actually goes out in the woods and hunts you and your deer biologist are delusional. You people have no idea how angry hunters up there are but I’m not so delusional as to actually think you people care as do all hunters in the county.

I’ve been hunting that unit since 12 years old I am now 62 there were no deer in the 70s they started coming back and from about 85 to 95 hunting was fabulous you could let little buck go and shoot a nice buck then you came out all your bonus tags and all your permits and you ruined it by shooting every deer every young little knob buck in the buck kill was up because people are just shooting deer and finding out they were Spike horns and deer bucks so don’t tell me about all the damage in this not up there cause I’m sick of hearing it there’s no deer because you ruined it and there won’t be any less you let them alone and let them come back and now you’re planted wolves up there they got cougars up there. The deer have no chance of coming back keep putting out your permits you wonder why people aren’t buying licenses you should do what they did after the 60 slaughter 64 and 68 they slaughtered everything up there there was no permits available at all for 10 years and then deer started to come back that’s when you had a good hunting in the early 80s to the mid 90s

Been hunting Florence Co for many years on public land. Ever since the mid 1990s the deer hunting is steadily going down hill. The last few years gun hunting has been a waste of time. If you don’t believe me come over to the western part of the Co and sit outside of your car and listen for gun shots on opening morning. You wouldn’t know it’s opening day by what your hearing. Just drive around the Co and look at the hunting cabins that no one is using for deer hunting compared to years ago. It’s a dam shame. Bow hunting is not much better. If the forest management does not change in 30 years Public Land in Florence Co will be like one big park no mix of young growth nothing for deer or grouse to eat. Also I have gone to these meetings and I get the impression I’m wasting my time. I spend more time than most scouting looking for hunting spots and for some time I ask why do I still hunt here. No-No doe tags for public land in Florence Co. And if they do issue doe tags out I am done trying to work with you people.
We need to get control of all predators impacting the deer herd under state control, not federal, in order to efficiently control the deer herd population. Why are all predators...human, bear, coyote, bobcat, etc. managed by the state, yet you can’t manage wolves. There has to be developed a way to control wolf depredation on deer. I keep hearing that an adult wolf only needs 20 deer a year to survive, but nobody has told the wolves that. They do what is natural to them and kill every deer, every day they see them, because they don't know if it's the last deer or animal they'll see. I have come upon mass killings of deer, with all their throats ripped open, and only the ravens and eagles are feeding on them. None were consumed by the wolves that killed them. When I see more fresh wolf tracks than fresh deer tracks, you can't tell me there isn't a problem. More petitions from state to the federal level has to start happening before the population reaches critical mass...if it hasn't already.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback for Florence County and deer management. I love Florence and I love the opportunity I get to hunt there. I have been hunting in Florence for a very long time. I have seen the ebb and flow of deer numbers. But, 2019 overall was about as disappointing as I can remember. And this includes the 1996 and 1997 seasons. The low deer sightings during gun aren’t simply due to the late opener of 11/23. Something else is responsible and I truly believe the numbers are not what the CDAC team members said on the call a few weeks ago. If you want the balance between a sustainable deer herd and hunter numbers to remain at a good level, then people will want to see deer, especially the younger generation. Right now there aren’t enough deer to make that happen. We should have a few years of zero antlerless tags, with only jr tags, military, and disabled being allowed to take an antlerless deer. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

I don’t think we need to reinvent the wheel. Many western states have the framework to provide units with abundant over the counter tags and also restricted permit applications for trophy units. How are we managing our buck to doe ratio? This is one of the biggest challenges to managing private land trophy opportunities. Two years ago I hunted a general unit in eastern Montana I saw 11 different bucks opening day 75% were 2 1/2 years or older. The buck to doe ratio was about 3-1 by my limited observations. This is what I would like my children to experience on our 120 acres in Florence county. At home I’m lucky to have more than one buck That’s 2 1/2 years old on the trail cameras pre rut. When my trail camera surveys are suggesting 10 to 15 does per buck I am concerned that we have major problems. I would like to see a shift from managing the deer kill to managing to allow bucks to reach maturity on both public and private lands.

Our camp has hunted in Florence county for 4 generations (soon to be a 5th). We have noted a significant drop in deer population starting in the late 80s due to some extreme winter’s, with a gradual increase back to the mid 2000s with a gradual decrease since then. The peak mid 2000 numbers did not come close to the early 80s and the gradual decline in deer numbers have corresponded with an increase in wolf activity/sign and decrease in coyote activity/sign. For the past 8 years we have witnessed wolf kills, seen tracks, or heard howling during hunting hours and very rarely see coyote tracks or hear them find gut piles at night. We hunt in the forest land managed areas and do not see nearly as many deer as we do along the highways and farmland. If an antlerless season were to be proposed it may be best to split the county appropriately potentially highway 101 as a divider.

The places We hunt in the National Forest do not need antlerless harvest. The bear population is way too high and fawns don't survive. I have 5 cameras in the forest from May thru October and in the last 5 years the fawn rate had dropped every year. Does appear in early June with 2-3 fawns and by July there are none. It is crazy that it takes 11 years to get a bear permit for this zone. Of the 5 cameras I only see maybe 2-3 different does and maybe 6 different bucks in an area of about 10 square miles. This is not an acceptable number of deer compared to 10-20 years ago when we had many more hunters in the area. Last year for the whole bow and gun season I saw 0 deer while hunting 25-30 days. That's a lot of hours staring at trees. Don't kill anymore does on public land for at least 4 years. Let the east side of the county private land owners have at it.
I watched the video from Tom Carlson and found it very informative. I also read the minutes of the April 7 Florence CDAC meeting. I agree with the recommendation of Mr. Carlson, and the comments from Mr. Wood, that the quota for Florence County should be 950; 900 public, and 1800 private anterless permits should be made available for purchase. My basis for recommending a higher quota is because I believe the opinions of DNR experts like Mr. Carlson and Mr. Wood should carry far more weight in the evaluation process. These folks do this for a living. They are good at it. I also believe that later deer seasons like the one coming up in 2020 have a significant negative impact on hunter success, because the rut is over and the weather is usually worse. My own observations of hunting in Florence County for the last 30 years supports this. Thank you.

Where does a guy start. My overall hunting experience the last 15 to 20 years on a scale of 1 to 10 meaning good I would judge it at a 2. The western part of Florence Co has turned into a Four wheeler Bird watching shit show. Four wheelers all over the place and then the Forest Service is gating off logging roads so we can’t get back in to hunt a lot of places. I’m not getting younger. Predators are killing plenty of deer thru the year. I see very few fawns as the summer goes by. I think it’s time to stop selling Doe tags on National Forest land in Florence Co and time to Increase the number of deer. Compare gun hunting from the 1990s to these past few years with the amount of gun shots tells you everything you need to know. A guy may as well stay in bed. If things don’t change I will spend my money elsewhere.

I have more crop damage on our land from the bears and turkeys than the deer. The bear population in our area is getting out of hand. The turkeys are trashing the crops in our food plots. Then there is the coyotes and the wolves are killing to many animals. This is the reasons in my opinion that there our no deer in the north woods. Has any one thought of the season becoming 11 day instead of 9 day. It could be the weekend before and then the 9 days during Thanksgiving. More people would hunt the northern areas. People do not hunt for the whole season because of vacation time. That would make people more interested having 3 weekends available. I also feel that a deer farm that has CWD can affect our whole area and still be open. How come they aloud to have deer that are spreading the disease that are possibly affecting the north woods?

600 antlerless permits for public land is too high for Florence County. All that hunted on public land in Florence County in 2019 agree that they saw fewer deer when compared to 2018, and this reduction was not a surprise following the severe winter of 2018-2019. I don’t believe there is any “magic” nor science behind the previous history of private/public land permit split of 67%/33% from this CDAC. For 2020, a 75%/25% split seems more appropriate because some on the CDAC and Tom Carlson seem to be of the opinion that we need to increase the quantity of permits on the private land/mostly east side of the county. I would much prefer to see the public land permits frozen at the 400 quantity (same as 2019), and then the private land permit quantity to increase to 1200; 1600 permits total, and a 75% private land, 25% public land split.

I run a free hunting program for people with disabilities called Wheelchair Whitetails (see wheelchairwhitetails.org) on my 529 private acres in southeast Florence Co. I am registered with DMAP and have had Tom Carlson, Tyler Wood, and Liz Wood on the property from the DNR. Our hunts are crossbow only and draws disabled hunters from around the country and Canada. Very few participants can draw a bow back. Using crossbows allows us to spread our hunts out over the entire archery/crossbow season from September to November (until the snow makes it difficult to access the property for our disabled hunters.). There was discussion about minimizing the length of the crossbow season. This would be devastating and virtually end our program.
As a year round permanent resident of Florence County, I was disappointed to find that the antlerless harvest authorizations are sold to non-residents at the same time, thus not giving locals the first chance to get antlerless harvest authorizations in their own county. I, and many locals, believe year round permanent residents should give first pick. Allowing those that are not full time year round residents equal access to harvests means less for our citizens and a majority of citizens use their harvest to supplement their food wares to thrive in this economy. Our priority should be 1st to our citizens, 2nd to others. And just to be nit-picky, Harvest authorization is a ridiculously long phrase. Can we just say tag like the good ol' days? :-)

Thank you for all your hard work in ensuring our deer population thrives!

I used to enjoy being in the Northwoods and be proud to own land in Florence County. Now I receive snickers and laughs at the poor quality of deer hunting in my county. Florence County has become a joke. And the CDAC is ridiculous for recommending more tags be available. What part of the county do they live in? I’d love to know how many surveys are filled out from Florence County and I hope the numbers of surveys are posted for the public to see. The age of people living in this county will hurt the internet survey numbers but I still hope the public takes the time to explain their thoughts— even if they don’t share my same thought. Please bring Florence County back into the picture of good deer hunting, before its too far gone and the responsibility of the next generations.

I’ve been hunting all over the US and Canada for over 37 years and Florence county right now is the worst hunting I have ever experienced. Years of doe seasons, crop damage tags, youth antlerless tags and presumably predators have destroyed the hunting. I remember deer season used to be a big deal here, always a big draw for hunters. Now there is nothing for hunters because the hunting is not worth it. Many hunters have and will continue to drop out until their experiences are taken seriously. If things don't improve this year I will be forced to move on. I put too much effort, time and money into my hunting to hunt for days or even weeks without seeing a deer. Its a shame, living in northern Wisconsin and I have to leave my back yard to find adequate deer numbers. Sad. Thank you.

Our group of hunters are very disappointed with the run away wolf population, In two areas we hunt we see more signs of wolves than deer. I don't think Wisconsin puts enough pressure on the federal government to remove wolves from the endangered species list. The DNR should be able to see the level of frustration people have. Look at news reports, Some people have gone to work trying to poison wolves and end up killing dogs, birds and other animals, pretty sad. Hunter numbers are down, This may be the last year I and some of our crew hunt deer. You can jockey all the deer numbers around all you want. The wolf predation is out of control, We are experienced hunters and know what we see in the woods. The DNR should expect hunting numbers to decline every year, sad, but true.

I have hunted in Florence County for over 50 years. This past gun deer season my boys and I saw 1 deer in four days of hard hunting. That’s over 100 hours of hard hunting in the field with only one deer sighted. The herd numbers in MOST of Florence County are below average and the number of anterless tags needs to be reduced in 2020 not increased. My experienced recommendation would be to limit anterless tags to a total of 500 combined (private and public land). Until the DNR brings the northern herd back to huntable numbers Florence County will continue to lose hunters to either not hunt or go elsewhere to hunt. I know of about a dozen hunters who are going out of state for their deer hunts in 2020 or 2021. They are getting fed up with hunting hared and not seeing any deer.
I have always felt Florence County has two regions within itself, the forest region in the southern 3rd of the county, and the agricultural region in the northern 2/3rds of the county. The northern 2/3rds has farm land and agriculture which promotes larger numbers of deer. The Lower southern 3rd of the county is national forest without agriculture. I feel the lower 3rd is over hunted due to the availability of public land, for this reason and due to wolf predation the deer population is significantly lower in the southern 3rd of Florence county where I hunt. I would like the committee to consider dividing the county in half when issuing antlerless only tags. Perhaps none in the southern forest and a quota amount in the northern agricultural region of the county.

In the late 80s and 90s we saw many more deer in the fall and along the roadsides. I have not seen that in the last 10 plus years. Car crashes to deer are more prevalent because there are many more cars on the road driving much faster than they should be. The roads are in better shape so everyone is driving much faster. It is much harder to miss deer when driving 65 to 70 mph as I see many drive that fast. In the 80s and 90s there were only hunter’s choice tags, allowing 1 deer per hunter buck or doe. Usually I would receive a hunter’s choice every other year. We would see deer. 3 to 5 years after the bonus tag system started, the deer herd significantly declined. Several years back it was buck only and now too many tags are being handed out.

Deer sightings on public land in southern Florence Co over the last several years has been pathetic. I stand sit an average of 25 hrs during the 1st 4 days of the season and would be lucky to see 6 deer. The last 3 years I have not seen more than 2 deer total. There are many days that I dont see a deer. I have had 2 seasons out of the last 10 that I did not see a deer at all. There are many other hunters that I know or have talked to that have had the same results. I believe there should be no antlerless hunting for at least one season. I wouldnt mind having no hunting at all for one season just to get the numbers up. I plan to hunt some other states in the future if it doesnt improve. I hunt the Spur Lake Rd just east of the Tower/Shrine Rd.

Where I hunt we normally see plenty of deer tracks in the snow/mud. Last year (2019) there was an inch of snow on the ground and we counted 2 sets of deer tracks crossing the logging road over a 1/2 mile. That was over 2 days the deer had to make tracks. That told me the deer numbers were way down in that section. There were wolves on camera which may have caused the shift in the numbers. I know the wolves didn't eat them all, but may have caused them to move their home range. Out of 5 hunters, no one saw a fawn. We saw 2 does, and 2 bucks over 2 full days of hunting. The buck I harvested was in rut and came in to doe in heat scent. This is why I think the doe tags should be limited at least in the northern forest Zone. Thank You.

In my opinion you should do away with the public and private anterless tags and just have one tag. What's to stop people that didn't get a public land tag form using a more abundant public tag. Just have a happy medium of tags between the two. As far as the low harvest numbers from gun season. That's hunting! Some years you get em some you dont. I dont agree with totally overhauling the season structure. And leave the archery season and crossbow season alone. The people that complain about crossbows will some day have bad shoulders too. Everyone deserves the same opportunity to hunt no matter what legal weapon they use. Look a t muzzleloader 20 years ago they weren't nearly as accurate or have the range as they do today.

I would like to see specific WOLF data in the metrics such as their YEARLY numbers in Florence Co. Hunting crossbow in 2018 on public land near the Michigan border, my wife and I saw several bucks and many doe. I was able to harvest a buck. Hunting the same area at the same time period in 2019 we saw ZERO deer! We did however see wolf tracks representing at least 4 wolves in a pack. You're now witnessing the senseless poisoning extremes that people are taking to deal with the wolves. While I absolutely denounce this indiscriminate poisoning, ESPECIALLY on public land-I understand the people’s frustration with wolves. If you don’t address the wolf problem on our game animals-you’re not serious about managing our game.
I've been a hunter in Florence county for 40 years and a property owner for 20. Your goal to maintain the deer herd in Florence county is ludicrous as there is nothing to maintain in the public portion of the county. My 2 adult sons and my son in law won't even hunt up there anymore and have purchased hunting land in Shiocton. My place up there will be going up for sale in spring and I know I'll be taking a loss but at my age I don't care at least we will have a reasonable chance to see some deer. There's a few reasons Florence county is one of the most depressed areas of the state and the DNR and CDAC are part of the problem. This guy for one and I know a lot more are done with you people. Good luck.

Extending the gun season is a bad idea. Why change things instead of letting things play themselves out and look at the trends and data before reacting to last season. Your deer hunter numbers are getting smaller because the generations are changing and because the forests aren't being managed as well as they should be. The Florence county CDAC recommended ideas of increasing tags is also a bad idea. There are not enough deer to increase the antlerless tags. I cannot stress this enough that tags should not be increased, they should be ZERO!!! The Florence County hunting situation is getting scary and your $$ from hunters is going to keep getting smaller when less hunters buy bow or gun tags.

The deer hunting in western Florence county the last 10 years has been horrible. Issuing antlerless tags is a slap in the face to those who hunt on public land in the county. There isn't half the hunters we had even 7 or 8 years ago. Guess why? This also means there's far less people that spend money in the county so think about what such a reduction in the deer herd has done to the economy in the county. Predators have also contributed to the decimation of the herd. As a property owner who pays 1800 dollars a year in property taxes I'm very mad about the quality of our deer hunting in Florence as are 10 other family members and friends who own property in the county.

in the last 2 years we just are not seeing as many deer on trail cams as well as during the season. Hard to get the grandkids interested in hunting when they sit for 16 to 20 hours opening weekend and only see 1 or 2 deer and no bucks. My 1 grandson didn't even hunt in 2019. His quote, "Let me know when you start seeing dear then I'll come hunting". We see a good number of does with fawns early and then very few during the seasons. There are a lot of bears and the Spread Eagle wolf pack. We have been finding what is left of dead fawns in the woods this past couple of years. I personally got a buck last year but it was 1 of 4 deer that I saw in 4 days of hunting.

I am an older individual and do not perform activities on the Internet. I am a forest land owner of a (40) acre parcel. I do not feel that the present method of selling the antlerless permits is fair, based on my above comment. I would rather be able to call in or use the preference point system. When all the permits are sold in a few hours, I feel it is unfair that individuals w/o private property are able to apply at the same time as land owners - who has the greater investment is a question, I would ask? As a property owner of oak, maple and aspen trees, I see tree damage on a regular basis. Please consider my concerns and make appropriate changes. Thank you.

Florence county is very different east to west. Roughly using Hwy 101 as the dividing line, the eastern half of the county seems to hold more deer than the western half. This may be due to more timberland in the western half. I am a western half hunter and I have seen year after year of declining deer sightings. I think there is some component of that due to wolf, bear and coyote predation. I think that it is also true that over-harvest of antlerless deer has contributed. I know this Council has recommended splitting Florence county into two management units. This should be a continuing recommendation and it is time for the DNR to approve this recommendation.
I've deer hunted in Florence county for 50 years and been a tax paying property owner for 20 years and I'm done deer hunting in Florence county. This fall my brother and three friends are taking ours adult sons and going to Missouri to deer hunt and taking our money with us. What the DNR and you have done to deer hunting in the northern forest is a travesty. There isn't half the hunters that were in Florence even 5 years ago. I bet u know why but don't seem to care. The county is probably losing over a million dollars in lost revenue from deer hunters compared to 10 years ago. Keep following the DNR and see what happens in your county.

I have hunted Florence county for 16 years. When I began hunting we could bait and you would actually see deer a good number of deer, the past few years we haven't been able to bait and the deer numbers are not what they once were. Florence county isn't a big agricultural county with crop fields, so baiting was essential in success. I have also seen the deer numbers decline while the wolf population grew. I have personally seen more wolves in the 2018 season than I did deer, which really made me consider not buying a Wisconsin deer tag at all the following year. The deer population and baiting regulations need to be looked into for Florence County. Thank you.

In my nearly 40 years of hunting this county, never have I had the experience of not seeing 1 deer after sitting dawn to dusk for opening weekend. I heard 2 shots all weekend, when I used to hear hundreds. I did not see 1 deer on a vehicle or hanging in a camp. Not 1. I have have probably taken over 50 deer in Florence county, most of them bucks. I know what I am doing. My family has land there, but I prefer to hunt the quality public ground that I historically hunted. It is very good deer range, with plenty of mast and preferred browse this year. The deer are simply not there. I have no explanation, just these simple and accurate observations.

We continue to have moderately severe winters with lots of snow, should not be taking additional does at this time. Certainly are seeing less deer during the season, especially if you go back 10 or 15 years, DNR should be working on bringing the overall population back up instead of shooting does at this time. (Or like you are proposing maintain the population). I see more tracks of wolves than 4 or 5 years ago, that includes hunting in Nicolet Nat. forest and eastern Florence county where the last two years have been seeing wolf tracks, that I never saw before their. I spend approx a month hunting deer as it is my favorite sport especially archery.

I have been hunting the western part of Florence co for 48 years. With the gating off of some of the back roads, the amount of bears/wolves/coyote and for the most part it’s all the forest management is select cut the hunting sucks. I spent a good sum of money to build a cottage, build hunting memory’s and my children go other places to hunt. I have not seen a deer the past three years on opening day gun hunting. This year I’m going to a different state to bow hunt not real happy about that but I what to experience what I had in the 1990s. Im sure things will not change but what has happened to the hunting in the western part of Florence co is a shame.

The number of encounters of wolves with our hunting was extremely discouraging. Our camp hunts all week and each day we reported more wolf activity than deer activity. We found multiple deer carcasses prior to and during the season that were clearly a result of wolves. We have young hunters that are rather intimidated by the proximity and amount of wolf sightings and howling that occurred. The last 4-5 years the wolve pack sizes and numbers continue to increase as evidence on our trail cameras and observations from howling each evening. While the wolves have increased unchecked in numbers our deer hunting success and enjoyment has decreased.

I have been hunting the same general area of NW Florence county for 36 years. Deer numbers were just starting to come back a little prior to the last couple years. I spent all summer Bear baiting the area and saw very few deer. I can only speak to about a 10 square mile area but the 40% drop in buck kill was a lot bigger than just a late gun season. I would like to see zero antlerless tags except for juniors. Number of hunters way down and few hunt after opening weekend due to low deer sightings. I had a goal to hunt here every opener for the rest of my life but will likely opt for going to another state if things don’t improve drastically.
Department should require email addresses from all license holders, inform license holders of CDAC meetings, offering participation via the web for all CDAC meetings, request input via email of all license holders for their respective hunting area as a majority or at least a strong minority of hunters hunt in areas other than where their domicile is. DNR needs to do MUCH MORE in seeking hunter input. If you can't do it electronically, then you need to use snail mail which will require a lot more lead time if you really want public input. Just putting something on the web and depending on unpaid public media announcements doesn't cut it.

From a hunter that focuses most his time on public land in Florence county the deer herd is far below par. As a young active hunter not scare to put miles on his boots rather than his truck it's hard to believe that an antler less season is even a consideration. I understand the means for a balanced herd but the reality of it is that the DNRs populations can't even be somewhat realistic. Florence co is 498 square miles and the estimates are approximately 12000 deer (give or take 5000 based on charts provided) that’s roughly 24 deer per square mile. The best farm in the co is lucky to have 10 deer on an alpha field on an August night.

I hunt in the most northern part of the Nicolet National Forest. At the intersection of 2050 and the Brule river. The deer population has dropped off significantly over the past 4 years. We have seen a significant drop off, more than want your numbers are showing in our area. The wolf scat has increased to the point that you can’t walk down a trail without running into it nearly every 30 yards in some areas and it is full of deer hair. What are you going to do to reduce the wolf population, it is completely unchecked from what I can see? I believe the wolf population is doing more much more harm than what I saw in your report.

This past weekend I've gotten together with my hunting group in Florence County that includes 4 property owners and a total of 13 guys that bow hunt and gun hunt in the National forest. Getting too the point we are done hunting in Florence county. Hunting there the last 5 or 6 years is a joke.Between the predators and bonus tags there's nothing left.8 of us booked a hunt through Tombstone Outfitters in Missouri and the other 5 decided to lease hunting land in Central Wisconsin. Good luck partnering with the DNR but we aren't the only hunters leaving the county and taking our money with us.

You've won.... period. I'm 45 years old and have been hunting in Florence/ Marinette northern zone for 32 years with my father and family. I own land but still choose to hunt public land because of the past traditions. I've never harvested a doe and have multiple 135+ class bucks hanging in my office. But again you have won. My archery and most likely my deer gun season will take place out of state moving forward. It's absolutely ridiculous how you can still see the need to issue antlerless permits for these northern zones. I support issuing antlerless permits for youth hunts but that's it. Enough is enough.

If one were to split Florence County in half east to west the management of antlerless deer should be completely different. In the West half of the county there should be zero harvest of antlerless deer. In the East half of the county there should be more than 1100 antlerless deer harvested. It was difficult to answer this survey because of this very important reason. Just because it's easy and convenient to manage the county for deer as the entire county doesn't mean its the correct or right way of doing it. The deer populations have historically shown the county needs to be managed in 2 sub-units!

If I read the minutes correctly, public land represents over 60% of the total land in Florence County; however, only 35% of the antlerless permits are allocated to public land versus 65% to private land. I also saw comments about changing this to 25% public land vs 75% private land. I find this to be inappropriate allocation of the antlerless permits between public vs private land as the allocation should be more closely related to the percentage of land. I also believe that wolves are impacting the deer herd more than what is estimated based on seeing more wolves than deer during the 2019 season.
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>3365</td>
<td>I am not a fan of the new anterless permit system. With limited tags, it is pure luck of the draw if you get one. If you are working, forget it. Why can't there be preference points assigned again? I hunt my private and public. The number of deer we see on public does not come close to the number on private. They need to managed very differently. I've hunted here for 35 years. 2019 was our worst year ever. The only other year close was 2018. Deer hunting is no where near what it used to be. Baiting is a major factor and violators need to have stiffer penalties. Baiting is the biggest issue I see.</td>
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<td>3366</td>
<td>Very informative presentation and thank you for doing this for the public. You do not get enough credit for the work that you do on preserving the hunting tradition and conservation of the deer. It would be nice to see a more favorable approach to the hunt authorizations geared towards Florence County residents. Within minutes of getting authorizations for the hunting area we could not get anterless authorizations in 2019. I know its more limited than antlered, but it would be nice to give local hunters favor for a couple of days before opening to others who do not live year round in the county.</td>
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<td>3367</td>
<td>Our local buck contest had smaller entries, fewer entries, and the winning entries were shot closer to town than ever. On public land, further from people and further from Ag, deer were much harder to find. I wish law enforcement would enforce baiting laws. Truck loads of bait go down County Highway N from August-February. The few deer around are so well fed in November that they don't have to spend much time on their feet in the daylight. I know its a lot of ground to cover for one officer, but there are way too many baiters ruining hunting for honest hunters that follow the rules.</td>
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<td>3368</td>
<td>Having grown up hunting, I was sorely disappointed in how few deer I saw in the area. Even driving down the road, all the deer I saw are young and antler less. In an effort to increase the quality of the deer herd, and to allow for better management practices on small tracts of private land, I respectfully suggest that the buck harvest be managed with at least a fork horn antler restriction. This change would be hard the first season, but would ultimately lead to more and better buck harvests. The better tdd deer will result in an increase in hunting revenue in Florence county.</td>
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<td>3369</td>
<td>My comments do not necessarily pertain to the quotas set forth, but the limitations being proposed for years to come and the views of using crossbows statewide. Limiting the crossbow hunt or extending the gun season is not a good idea to help maintain hear control or to recruit and maintain hunters. I know quite a few older hunters who put down the vertical bow and only hunted gun for years before the crossbow was made so that anyone could use it. In my opinion those hunters have been recruited once again meaning more tags sold and more opportunities to help maintain a heard.</td>
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<td>3370</td>
<td>Extension of Rifle Season would help manage the herd better, especially if you have a storm or two over a 9 day hunt that can completely throw you off on your target quotas. Because then it sets you up with the urge to do almost an over harvest on antlerless the following year. I think those anterless hunts slightly throws off having a good consistent sampling of bucks of different maturities/generations. As a sportsman you like to see a consistent mature buck population and not years where it is hard to find a 3.5Y+ buck because years ago you had to take a wack at antlerless.</td>
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<td>3371</td>
<td>I would like to see the numbers increase in the northern forest, Florence county area. I sat 8 out of 9 days this last year. I saw 3 does opening morning and not another deer after that. I have young children interested in hunting and I would like for them to have an opportunity to enjoy it before all the antlerless tags and predators wipe out the population. I run trail cameras, I scout, I start in spring and go all year till hunting season planning and preparing for my hunt. The deer population is much lower than you assume it is. I can say that from personal experience.</td>
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in my opinion the dnr has ruined hunting in the last too many years , the arrogance of wardens and the so called educated that work for the state is mostly to blame, we didn't have these issues years ago 1960s 1970s when there half the wardens. now they think they are swat team members and fines pay their salaries you do half the work with twice the manpower. hire local wardens that know the residents. many that i know are fed up with the powers that be in the mighty dnr and power hungry wardens. hire ted nugent to run the agency at least he knows what he is talking about.

Hunting between forest and Florence cty off of hwy 139 has been terrible for years now with very few deer sightings. Hunting nine days without a deer sighting is has become the norm. In my opinion counties need to be broken down into smaller units/fractions to better control deer populations based upon their environment i.e. woods or farm lands. The deer are always plentiful in farm land versus straight woodland. To hand out doe permits county wide will not help the woodland population because they are so few now that they cannot rebound to build the herd back up.

I gun hunt in Florence County. I think it is wrong that baiting was taken away. It is very difficult to find deer on public land in Northern Florence County without bait. We saw 3 deer with 11 hunters this year and shot all 3. I bring my boys up North opening weekend and they did not see a deer in the past year. Pretty difficult to get them to like hunting up North. I believe their are deer around but without baiting in a National forest it is very difficult. The CWD case that occurred up there was in a deer farm not sure why we should all be affected.

To many private doe tags taken in public land. Its way out of hand by me, groups from out of state come here for gun season and public tags are gone first so they pick up private tags. They sit around cabins that are feeding on the edge of public. One of these hunters shot a doe between the cabin and garage. Makes my heart sick 45 years and every year it's it seems to be getting worse. U have to back up to 1981 to find the totals equaling last year that's 38 years. We are going backwards Very Unhappy with the way things ate being handled!!

In the area where I hunt, I have seen a declining buck population as well as increasing signs of predators. In my opinion, the baiting of deer should be legal in this area. There are so few deer to begin with, the chance that a few random deer coming together to spread CWD is little or none in this area. The natural patterns of deer usually have several or more travelling together anyway. Due to the predators and lack of deer in this area, you have a better chance of seeing the easter bunny than a deer if you don't bait!

There was a problem that we heard last year with so few antlerless tags that people who hunt public land were just buying private land tags because there were still some available after the public tags sold out. No one on our 640 acres of private land got a doe tag last year, yet someone we work with who hunts on public land had a private land antlerless tag, it was disappointing to say the least, especially because we see so many more does than bucks all year on our trail cameras as if there is an over population.

The changing of the baiting rules has greatly affected the sighting of deer in the big woods of Florence County. While it is claimed that the deer population is significantly higher today than 50 years ago, I can guarantee that the number of deer being seen in the woods today is much less. Why? I don't know but baiting does help provide for more deer sightings’ Also, the number of hunters has decreased substantially as a result of lack of satisfaction with the deer hunting experience in Florence County.

This country NEEDS an antler point restriction of at least three on one side, to sustain proper buck to doe ratios, and to improve overall hunting and Hunter satisfaction in this County! We have size limits on trout for this same reason, am I wrong?? Smaller bucks need to be overlooked and left for potential mature bucks to be harvested in the future, and I would like to thank you kindly for posting real world deer kill numbers for our County! But please consider an APR for Florence County!! Thank you!!
Hunted western Florence for a long time and I am very disappointed with hunting for a while. Hunting isn’t worth a squat. The no baiting is hurting the deer as well with the limited cutting going on in the area. That’s all you guys are doing is creating one big wasteland. CDAC is only worried about their precious flowers in on private property on east side of the county. Maybe bring some people on board that have a valid opinion on the situation rather than your buddies worried about their tulips.

We have hunted Whisker Lake Wilderness since 1930s. Prior to wilderness, great hunting. Since wilderness it’s been a constant decline. Our party has dwindled from 15 hunters to 4 now due to no population. One of our group comes from Oklahoma for past 7 years. He has seen one live deer in 7 years. Pathetic. 2019 no sightings from anyone. Wolf track everywhere. Area is in a drastic decline, and predation is rampant. We often wonder why we even spend time here any longer. Extremely mis managed.

The number of predators for deer are much larger and need to be managed better in the Northern Zone that experiences longer and more snow in winters. The amount of bears, wolves, coyotes are growing out of proportion to have a manageable deer herd to harvest a decent buck. I have trail cameras year round and noticed many increases in predators over the years while deer numbers continue to decline. Having to wait 12 years to harvest a bear is unbelievable considering the number of bears.

I as well as many other hunters walk a mile to a few miles to the area we sit and hunt. We are forced to walk due to the road closed or trails that used to be there blocked by large rocks. Some of us have injuries from the military to just being old. It is becoming more difficult do to terrain age and injuries to drag a deer for a mile or miles. It would be nice to be able to be allowed to have a way to drive a four wheeler in or vehicle to pick the deer up and drive right back out.

Gun season in Florence was very difficult with the amount of snowfall and cold temperatures. Add to that the limited number of tags available for does. I spent approximately 1/2 to 2/3 of the hunting season in the woods. I couldn't believe how many deer I passed up. The population model for 2019 cannot be based on the low number of kills. I've been watching my cameras all winter, and have plenty of deer coming through that look healthy even with all the snow and cold temps.

Enough Enough with the selling of the doe tags. Hunting the last 25 years has gone down to where it is and it sucks. I hunt the North West corner of Florence Co no need to sell doe tags on public land we have very few deer. All the guys that use to hunt with me have gone elsewhere. Hunting in the north is not even close to back in the early 2000s. The deer management in this co is atrocious and it’s time this changes. Please and Thank you. Tired of not seeing deer when hunting.

The herd is beginning to recover after years of excess harvesting but based on our groups sightings remains below reasonable levels. Prior harvest levels and predators decimated the herd and the targeted harvest numbers proposed in the above questionnaire are foolish and very misguided. It may be time to revisit the model and process you are using before over kill practices are repeated. Review of your models and the assumptions you are using are recommended. Thank you!

I am saddened by the sharp increase in the deer kill by bow since crossbows were made legal by all. I think it should have been left to senior citizens and the disabled to use crossbows. If crossbows are going to be available to all, why not allow muzzleloaders to be used during the archery season since they seem to have a minimum impact on the deer herd and in most cases are only accurate to the same distances as crossbows, which shoot in excess of 100 yards anyway.

I typically hunt in the Goodman paper company land north of 70. The hunting has been terrible in this area the last 6 years. It went from being great to almost nothing. The winters have had a hard impact on the herd in this area for sure. Wolves are horrible and we can hear them howling all night long near our camp. In addition to this the antlerless harvests have devastated this area. This is why I am advocating that the antlerless quota should be lowered.
When talking about predators you mentioned bear, coyotes and bobcats, but never mentioned wolves? The people that live here know what is killing most of our deer, but until you people sitting in your offices want to address the wolf problem you are wasting our time and tax money. Until you address the wolf problem you will continue to see declining numbers and also declining hunters. It is your fault the numbers are low and we are losing hunters every year.

I for one am sick and tired of seeing no deer in this county. It is very frustrating when myself as a hunter see people go and shoot does in a northern forest unit where there are already hardly any deer left to survive the winter. Put an antler restriction on the bucks and go three years with buck only and see what happens. People will see nicer bucks and a lot more deer. Then after three years, issue bonus tags at a reasonable number to manage the herd.

I have been hunting in Florence county for 12 years and hunt in a group of guys that have well over 150 years experience in that county between them. They (and I) have never seen the deer numbers this low. I personally believe it is due to greatly overinflated predator population (wolves and bears primarily) as well as mismanaged forests. It is a shame to see the way Northern Wisconsin deer hunting is going. I hope we can change things for the better.

In my opinion predation is the biggest contributor to the lack of deer in this area. We hunt in the Pine River Wild Rivers area, and another contributor is that the forest is not managed for wildlife purposes. A combination of sound forestry management practices and a decrease in predation through removing wolves from the endanger list with the result being a wolf season to manage the population would benefit the deer population in this area greatly.

I see deer coming back slow but as soon as i do i also see sines of wolfs and also wolf kills i do spend pretty much time in the woods i have not shot a buck with my gun in over 10 years or more.I do believe there are more wolfs around then we think i break up all the poop and alot has bones in it in the woods i under stand we need trees to grow for the future but i also say there should be more tags to harvest wolfs.Thank u for reading my feed back

You should go back to the hunters choice permit where you have to apply... I would pay the $3 it is to apply for the the doe tag and then I would pay the $12 for the tag if i was drawn.... it would make it more easier for every one that works to maybe get that doe tag and it should bring in more money if you make people apply again and not get the tag... also you you could get a tag / application for multiply countys if you hunt them...

I’m a property owner a mile east of tipler and an avid deer hunter. Deer hunting in Florence is terrible and selling doe tags is a joke. My neighbor is in his late 70s and from Oconto Falls. Every year his hunting party consisted of about 10 people of whom 6 or 7 hunted hard the first 5 or 6 days of gun hunting. The last two years his 150000 dollar year round cabin has been empty and I’m not kidding. You guys figure out the whys.

Let's beat a dead horse. Forest land and private land in florance county should be two units. The complete lack of deer all season last year in the national forest was so bad trail cams didn't catch many deer sign of deer was days old when you could find them. Well hope is the only reason I will buy a licence and if I can get a doe permit I will let her live. Time for change in Florence co was years ago and to fix will take 10 years

We spend alot of time hunting all winter in the western side of Florence cty. We have seen considerably more deer sign. I apply and enjoy hunting in Montana for deer because there isn’t any baiting and a more optimistic attitude. More logging is really having a positive effect on deer. Mother nature will take care of the deer predators, winter kill. Allow anyone to harvest what they want too many seasons, stipulations, ban baiting forever

Our group has been hunting near Lake Edith for 35 years. We have experienced the worst season ever this past year. We may not return. the management of this area has eroded so much I doubt that it can be improved in my lifetime. Whoever is doing this "managing" has no clue of what is really happening in the woods. I do not have strong enough words to communicate our opinions. Whatever you are doing now-do the opposite.
I've been hunting in Florence County for the past 5 years. Every year, my hunting experience has gotten progressively worse. The number of deer I see casually throughout the year and while on the stand has lowered every year. I hunt in a group of 10 guys and the experience has been the same for everyone. The deer population in our opinion is extremely low and we should be looking to increase the population.

Have hunted the county for over 35 years. The deer hunting over the last 8-10 years has been terrible. Then the baiting ban, which isn’t enforced, so us legal hunters sit and see nothing as others pile bait. It’s unlikely I’ll hunt Florence Co in 2020. I may not buy a deer license at all. I haven’t bought a small game license since the wolves made it unsafe to run my bird dog. Come on folks. We gotta do better.

Been hunting this Co for many many years, and it is terrible how Florence Co has managed the deer heard in the last 25 years. No doe tags on public land for five or so years the predators are killing more than people think. Another thing that bothers me is the CDAC committee recommends to maintain. Really, maintain 5 deer per square mile that’s a joke. How about increase. PLEASE let us have something to hunt.

This last gun season was by far the least amount of shots i heard in over 10 years. Saw tons of deer preseason and post. Talking to other hunters around the farm... saw numerous does no one saw any bucks outside of nubbies. So either those buck numbers are skewed or people are not registering what they truly shot. I miss taking my deer in to be inspected. Made the hunters more truthful and honest.

I had wolves move into our hunting area in Florence County on opening day 2019. Listened to them howling when I was out hunting. Therefore we saw no deer. So predators are a big problem in our area and they definitely affect the hunt. I would like to see the DNR control the wolf population, but I realize they do not have that power. I think they should be able to control that in our state.

Overall, I feel as though antlerless seasons are hurting our deer populations and wolves are far too great in number around here. Without baiting in this unit it is very difficult to harvest a quality buck. We should introduce better management for both antlerless harvest and the taking of mature bucks. Practice of QDM would increase hunter satisfaction as well as economy to this area.

Last year personally does were way down from the previous year which had the most does on private land I have ever seen. I hunted public land for 46 years and have never seen as few deer except in the seventies. Hunt private land only now after seeing 6 does in 8 opening weekends after spending 20 hours on stand. 3 years I saw nothing. 2 wolf packs are in this area and I didn’t bait.

since the majority of antler-less harvest occurs on private lands yet private lands are a third of the area of public lands, I believe antler-less tags for public lands can be increased more than what you propose. I am not a fan of the public / private antler-less tags. We hunt our own land and the public land adjacent to it so, need 2 different tags if we want to shoot a doe.

Deer numbers west of Hwy 101 of Fence seem to be struggling the last 10 years, few deer seen and appears to be the norm. Would like to see more active logging to create browse lines and cover for a variety of wildlife as well as access to more secluded areas. Note - the decline of hunters as well attributes to the deer not being pushed around and made visibly to other hunters.

Having two units(40&50) allowed for better management of deer numbers and hunter satisfaction. I.e: tags sold. The lack of 3+ year old bucks in Florence is a common complaint as you know. Until this addressed, the ability to sell tags resident and especially nonresident will lag. If we need license revenue, 3+ bucks will do that. Control the herd with doe permits. Good luck 👍

I think that the presentation from the wildlife biologist was a good educational tool for people to understand how some of the decision making is done. The graphs give a visual to the understand the suggested tag numbers for the coming season. I'm quite surprised with the number of deer I have seen since the snow melted and it appears that they look quite healthy.
I am a landowner in Florence County and been hunting public land for 41 years by Tipler and this was the worst bow and gun season ever!! We need to improve habitat, cut the forests, and increase the herd numbers. Please split Florence Cty West to East like the old days so you stop lumping us in with all the much larger numbers of deer from 2nd Crossing Road East.

Why is Florence County pushing for thousands of antlerless permits while neighboring Forest county has a zero antlerless harvest recommendation? There should be zero or extremely limited antlerless harvest to recover the Florence county deer herd. The hunting was terrible last fall and there is no excuse to harvest any does here, the same as Forest County.

There are not enough deer in this unit to have that many antlerless permits. The wolves are the main issue and we seem to just try and make other excuses as to why the population has gone down dramatically. It is a shame to see how dramatically the true deer numbers have gone down in the last 25 years. We know the answer, but refuse to address the situation.

I have personally seen the numbers significantly improve over the last three years on my land. My doe to buck ratio is to high and the number of does only seems to improve each year even after allowing for doe permits. To encourage hunting and harvesting doe permits should be allowed to prevent over population and damage to surrounding crops and the forest.

The amount of deer has been dropping for years. And it’s being ignored. The time for more aggressive predator control is now. The deer population in the northern half of the state is drastically different compared to the south. A uniform hunting season to two vastly different climates (for the most part) has long since past its usefulness.

I think that if we were to extend the gun deer season by opening it up 2 weeks earlier, that would solve a lot of problems. Gun hunters that have to be home for Thanksgiving hurt our economy. This way they come hunt either week before Thanksgiving. Also the deep snow has an affect on people going further in the woods. Keep up the good work!

This county cannot support unbridled season harvest as in the past. Years of overharvest and seemingly unlimited special seasons along with predation and winter kill. Listen to the people who live up here and see things on a daily basis. Seems as though we are the last ones who's opinion matters... Everyone else's opinion bears more weight.

Instead of offering bonus antlerless harvest authorizations, I would like to see hunter’s choice permits return. This would still result in some doe harvest, but would give a better opportunity for hunters who live or recreate up here to be successful. In the last several years the amount of bucks that I’ve seen has been next to nothing.

Point restrictions 3 on one side more predator tags no baiting Statewide and restrict when Bear hunters can put out bait with all the baiting going on the bear go into the den and have multiple cubs instead of only 1 or 2 they have more. Also that goes with the baiting for Deer the Bear feeds on ALL the baiting going on for Deer hunting.

I'm sure the wolf population is a major reason for the decline in the deer population in the area I hunt. I have seen the wolf tracks, I have seen the wolves making the tracks, what I didn't see is deer the last two years, or a very limited amount. What is more disheartening is hearing foresters are given tags to lower the herd.

I hunted 7 out of the 9 days and saw two deer. Our deer camp [ 5 people ] did not harvest a no deer, many did not see a tail. We did however see a lot of wolf sign along with wolf howling in the early morning hours. Wolves need to be delisted and hunted. I'm afraid the deer hunting tradition in Wisconsin is fading which is sad.

There are way to many predators killing off deer especially in western side of county. The western side of county needs to be managed differently than eastern side. There is hardly any farming on western side and predation is out of control. You need to leave antlerless deer alone. There is no need for doe tags of any kind!
Resumption of baiting in the unit. I don't believe there have been any cases of CWD in the unit or that baiting causes the spread of CWD with the small home range of deer. If there is the potential for the spread of the disease why has the state Natural Resource board not recommended the shutting down of these deer farms?

The past winter was especially easy for the deer heard. The goal of the deer committee to maintain the deer herd numbers, not increase the herd. The low number of anterless tags will lead to higher deer numbers. The committee should not be able to recommend fewer tags that results in going against the 3 year goal.

Deer population is way down from previous great hunting causing smaller Bucks and less Deer seen. Mostly volition from coyotes and wolves and bear. Limited Hunting pressure because of this which Really brings down the annual harvest. Should be Buck only and the anterless permits should only go to juvenile hunters.

I have a cabin in Florence county. I am there very often. I see lots of deer east of Hwy 101. I am concerned that over-browsing is an issue. My opinion is that the quota should have been higher. Next year it should go up. Thanks for all the time and effort that the committee puts in on this very important topic.

I think you should stop offering crop damage tags to the logging companies and also allowing them to hunt with a rifle to fill the tags all season bow or gun seasons. It's dangerous when all they do is road hunt and makes it very challenging for the late season bow hunters to be able to harvest there own doe.

Deer habitat, actually all species of wildlife is poor on national forest lands. Wi. dnr should work with the forest service to promote more logging. Deer can sustain predators, winter and legal hunting if they have good habitat. Also you really need to enforce atv/orv rules on forest roads!!!!!!

I strongly support eliminating baiting (use of food) of animals as part of a hunting experience. In fact, the use of baiting turns the sport into a "killing" experience rather than a "hunting" experience. Baiting should be banned and strongly enforced through fines and the loss of a future license.

Legalizing crossbows was the worst decision ever made. Why should I buy a gun lic. when Most of the bucks have been harvested with these sissy bows? By the way, I'm 76 years old and haven't missed a season since I was 12. But I'm very much thinking giving all up because that bad decision.

I believe you should go back to allow 2 gallons of bait per 40 on private land only. There of been no wild CWD cases in Florence County. Minimal baiting allows hunters more opportunity to see deer and harvest deer. I don't believe that it increases the probability of disease spreading.

Section 50 should not be a no baiting section in 2020. The likelihood of seeing deer (of any type) is significantly reduced without the baiting and this will lead to reduced license sales which provide the funding for much of the efforts needed to keep hunting viable in Wisconsin.

Please go back to a bucks only in this county. There is not enough deer on public land and the winters are unpredictable. 2016 when it was a buck only county the deer population was coming back and the county overall had a good year for hunting. We need more deer in this county.

There are too many deer. Everyone that has interest in harvesting a doe, should always be issued a doe tag. The Forest Products industry holds higher importance than the recreational hunting industry, and should take priority when considering the management of the deer herd.

Please do not increase the rifle season length in Florence County, leave all season dates the same. Don’t overreact. I would probably stop bow hunting if DNR changes season dates for Deer. I only bow hunt for challenge during rut. Rifle is too easy to harvest a buck during rut.

Being from Illinois and owning a cottage in Florence and paying property taxes, not sure if I will be welcome in Wisconsin. Have not been permitted to enter Wisconsin to check on my cottage on West Bass Lake so I am not sure if I will purchase a non resident hunting license.
Overall deer population down, down more year after year, based on sightings while driving near my camp and by number of deer seen during gun season. Not only sightings but also lack of tracks, scrapes, rubs, etc. Predator count has drastically increased, wolves and bear.

I think the decision to legalize crossbows was very bad. Why should I buy a gun lic. when most of the bucks have killed already with these sissy bows. I'm 76 years old and haven't missed a season since I was 12, but i'm thinking about giving it all up. Don Pritzl

Too long for a person to get a bear permit get rid of baiting statewide if the governor can shut down the state the DNR should be able to shut down baiting Go to a point system (3points) on one side and get rid of the way we have to register deer go back to the old way

Just continue to have antlerless deer as options for the harvest. Having the lack of options & being forced to take yearling bucks as your only option for meat destroyed the buck population in our area over the last several years. Buck only is never a good option!

The wildlife biologist for Florence county stated that population is almost certainly down from 2019, and his model suggests it's down even more than he believes, so why is CDAC's recommendation to increase the anterless permits for the county from 1100 to 1700?

Way too many wolves. Also not allowing hunters to bait. I would like someone from the DNR to explain to me why I cannot date because they're worried about transferring CWD but every family of deer has licking branches that they all use what is the difference.

I would really hate to see the youth antlerless tags to be made not valid if Florence were to become a non quota unit. I truly believe the antlerless youth tags help keep young hunters interested by increasing their chances of harvesting their first deer.

Jack up prices on nonresident hunters, 9 day Gun season 7 day muzzle season NO Youth Hunting No Special seasons shooting deer shorten artery season go back to baiting deer like the state of Michigan did and the Kelly the Game Warden shouldn't be a BIG DICK

Do not allow antlerless deer hunting of any kind in this county------deer population is at the lowest pint I have seen it in the 40 years I have hunted this area. Let it also be known I own a cabin and property in this county for the past 30 years.

50yrs hunting in this area, with family and close freinds. Was very bad timing with late season, and the rut being over, but that is just how things fell. Do not fool around with changing any start or stop dates, for any type of weapon. thank you

Way to many deer being lost to predators. Seeing more wolves than ever before. Also the western side of county should be managed way differently than eastern side. I believe that there should be no doe permits of any kind in western part of county.

My only concern is how anterless permits are distributed. I feel it need to go to a preference lottery system. By having it at 10 am on a week days eliminates many of us able to apply due to the fact they we are working and can’t be online.

thanks for your hardwork in preparing this. In just going off of what I saw during this past fall, i understand the needs for some anterless permits. I would just suggest keeping them the same from 2019. Thanks for your time. Paul

Do away with muzzle loader hunt ,youth hunt,holiday hunt. A combined bow and cross bow hunt no longer than one month. One buck per year your choice of weapon. Return the back tags,and maker required registration in person manditory
What a waste of time the DNR is, let us bait, take away the doe tags, let the deer heard recover, and do more to control predator populations. I own private land I should be allowed to bait since I’m allowed to pay property taxes.

Hunting has been the worst since I started hunting up there. Also need more cutting on the west side of the county. Doe/fawn ratio is terrible when it comes to fall due to predation. I understand why the youth show no interest.

Our group of 6-8 hunts a wide area in Florence county. We have seen less and less deer and more and more predation. Everyone we talked to says the same. Please consider lower antlerless permits, and add some wolf harvest tags.

Based on the number of deer I saw during bow and gun seasons last year, I think 600 antlerless tags is a reasonable amount. Clearly there is a low percentage of hunters who actually fill any of those tags that are issued.

The doe to buck ratio seems much higher here by observation. Possibly bucks are less likely to be seen due to their behavior. I would like to see baiting banned statewide and more timber cutting/active forest management.

There are too many deer in Florence County. Take a spin down Fintown Lane, drive past Roach's Fields and Steber's fields. If you don't count over 100 deer, you should loose your drivers license because you can't see.

The deer population in Florence County is so fragile because of the following ... - Predators (bears, wolves, coyotes) - Weather temps and snow - Violating - Failure to report harvest kills with new reporting system.

My number one concern is the effect deer have on the landscape by over browsing. Our forests can’t support a deer herd population that exceeds capacity. Please consider an allowable harvest with this in mind.

I am very interested in a statewide on doe or one buck tages for deer hunting that is bow or cross bow, rifle and muzzle loader season. That give people a chance to harvest 3 deer and may help with doe tags.

Permits have been way too high the last few seasons. My kids and gran kids are not interested in coming to Florence County. Very disappointing, very little shooting, not many hunters after the first weekend.

I still feel that the deer that I see are almost all young deer with very few mature deer. I would feel more confident in the health of the herd if I were seeing more healthy old deer and less wolf sign.

The last 5 years I have not harvested a buck, I have been unable to obtain a doe tag they sell out to fast , so in order to shoot a deer I have to crossbow hunt and muzzle load to increase my opportunity.

manage deer at the grass roots level,, immediately close all cwd factories(ie) deer farms, we are all intruders in the deers home,, uninvited!! we need to manage , we also need to care ,,with logic ,,.

We keep seeing a growing number of wolves in all areas of the county. Also the number of deer seems to be going down over the past few years on public land. A lot more deer in town for some reason!

I am seeing way to many deer along hwy 101, the forest has little to no regeneration and the high number of deer will wipe out all that is left. please reconsider following the DNR suggestions.

The eastern half of the county has far more deer than the western half and this should be taken into consideration when issuing antlerless permits using factors other than public / private land.

Numbers are too low. I put a lot of time in the woods and I can pretty much name each deer in the areas that I hunt. See the same few deer, that is when I do see one or two a day if I’m lucky.

I would like to see that 'land-owner preference' be given and reinstated for any antlerless deer permit quotas. It once was and could again be 50 or greater contiguous acres within the DMU.

I believe wolves have had a significant impact on the deer population in the part of the county where I've been hunting for 43 years. I would be in favor of reducing the wolf population.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3469</td>
<td>Appreciate all your efforts, and really enjoyed the presentation and ability to view it remotely. I think this change, even if there is in person meetings, should continue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3470</td>
<td>Do not change the bow or gun season dates or length, leave as is. If you change the dates, I am a hunter of over 40 years, I will stop supporting our DNR and not hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3471</td>
<td>29 car kill is a joke more like 400 or more all year. Need to do something with wolf’s. Bring back baiting or get rid of food plots also. People want to see deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3472</td>
<td>Give the northern units a chance to repopulate. Consider closing some northern units for 1 year, maybe even 2. Sick of hearing the excuses year after year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3473</td>
<td>I am very concerned about the wolf population in Florence County. Haven’t seen many deer there in the past five years. Not worth buying a license.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3474</td>
<td>The rough winter with added hunting permits may decimate the herd therefore we need to be cautious in our approach to the next few seasons!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3475</td>
<td>Deer numbers are just starting to reach levels where you have a chance to see deer each day. Absolutely necessary for young hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3476</td>
<td>The population seems to be quite large and healthy. Anyone saying that isn’t the case is either blind or living under a rock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3477</td>
<td>I feel baiting and feeding deer should remain banned. I would like to emphasize my concern of predators on deer population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3478</td>
<td>We have too many small buck harvested which in turn doesn’t leave us with bigger bucks. All I see is does and no bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3479</td>
<td>I think there should be a eather or permits ie one buck or one doe for archery/crossbow and rifle and muzzle loader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3480</td>
<td>Please allow baiting again, CWD only found in fenced in hunting preserve, nothing in the wild in this area! Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3482</td>
<td>Fewer hunters and deer populations stable or increasing. Need at least one antlerless permit with each license.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3481</td>
<td>Northern Wisconsin needs to implement a wolf trapping season as they are devastating the northern deer population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3483</td>
<td>Work hard to have season on wolf and raise number of permits on bear. Please, please open up baiting for deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3484</td>
<td>Would really like to see the bonus antlerless only tags gone and instead go back to hunters choice application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3485</td>
<td>I believe deer are in bad shape due to wolves in my area. And lack of logging for deer to survive in the winter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3486</td>
<td>I feel the baiting/feeding ban is unfair as the CWD positive deer affecting this county were domestic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3487</td>
<td>Deer population has been obliterated between hard winter’s and antlered less permits...and predators...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3488</td>
<td>Keep crossbows throughout archery season. Only juniors allowed to kill antlered. Get rid of wolves!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3489</td>
<td>Allow Baiting to resume in this county. The deer are FEW and FAR BETWEEN TO NOT BE ABLE TO BAIT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3490</td>
<td>Please stop increasing tags in Florence county, we have not seen many deer the last 2 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3491</td>
<td>Too many deer on the landscape and the forest resource is suffering because of this fact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3492</td>
<td>I think Florence county should bring back hunter’s choice tags for the gun deer season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3493</td>
<td>There are too many deer. I doubt the cdac committee will acknowledge this comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3494</td>
<td>Only sell tags to land owners for a year if your worried about the population.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The number of predators is underestimated in zone 40 for bear and wolves.

2018-2019 was a record number of deer seen by our whole party.

Allow Baiting for deer again so hunters can see more deer.

Winter was much more difficult then your WSI numbers show!

Allow baiting again so hunters actually see deer again.

I think it should be buck only except for young hunters

Bring back baiting ... no baiting don’t see deer

Way too many wolves and coyotes in this area

allow baiting again. shut down game farms.

You have a wolf problem in this county!

I seen more wolf sign then game animals.

There should be anterless taken at all

There are too many deer in this area.

Keep up the good work!

Bring back baiting!
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Fond du Lac, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

435 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 295
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 51
   - I hunt in this unit: 393
   - General interest in this unit: 61

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 361
   - Bow: 222
   - Crossbow: 170
   - Muzzleloader: 168

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 24.23
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 194
   - Mostly Private Land: 78
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 42
   - Mostly Public Land: 22
   - Exclusively Public Land: 57
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 25
   - Not too crowded: 72
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 47
   - Somewhat crowded: 29
   - Very crowded: 19
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 65
   - Fewer: 155
   - Same: 170
   - More: 30
   - Many More: 10
   - Unsure: 5

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020

Fond du Lac, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

   Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

   If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
   Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 105 Support 302 Oppose 28 Unsure

   If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
   EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 203 194 38

   If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
   Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 47 365 23

   If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
   ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

   Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Comments for Fond du Lac, Central Farmland**

*Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.*

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**3510** I'm glad to see Fond du Lac Cty. CDAC committee reduce bonus tags. With every license holder getting a free tag I think the bonus tags are window dressing with no real effect on deer harvests except raise more money for DNR which I know they need. The reason is I have hunted the N/E Cty. of Fond du Lac and N/W Cty. of Sheboygan for over 50 years. The biggest change I see is the woods and swamps that provided a good browse food source are now flooded with excess water. Yes it has been very wet years but the real issue is all these so called conservation Crop and Dairy farmers are tiling more and more fields to drain into more private land that was never intended to handle the excess amount of water. Our 60 acres land included, which I know there are laws that you can't legally flood other property owners land. I know that the DNR is suppose to issue permits for the tiling but I know from talking to the farmer themselves they are just doing it and said if caught the fine is minimal compared to permits and benefits. When I went to DNR deer meetings in past they had some of these now flooded areas as deer habitat which all natural cover, browse & food sources are dead from drowning out. This is an issues that the DNR and CDAC committees have to address or we will lose all our good deer habitat. I know deer hunting is an emotional topic but I hunt hard and spend a lot of time in the afield but it is so disappointing to see less deer and deer sign every fall and then the DNR says we are over populated to kill more. I think DNR is finally realizing that with all past years extended hunting periods and rule changes trying to providing more opportunities is backfiring and with the new question proposals on this 2020 spring meeting for deer hunting they are heading in the right directions. Thanks for reading this (I hope) and it provides some input on what frustrations a old deer hunter has.

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**3511** We currently have a very good healthy deer herd in the private land area of Fond Du Lac county. There is plenty of deer and they are very healthy. There is a ton of landowners that are leaving crops up through the winter months to help the deer during the winter months. Also I see and talk to more landowners now planting more food sources, planting trees and trying to help out the deer herd/wildlife. I believe we have a very strong healthy deer herd and the landowners are taking care of them. You need to keep the season structure the same as it always has been. We do not need a 16 day gun season and we do not need a Holiday hunt. I'm not for crossbows but the crossbow hunters are taking a fair amount of deer. The gun hunter has a 9 day gun season, followed upon a 12 day muzzleloader season, then a 4 day doe hunt. I do not like the 4 day doe hunt but will give the hunter that takes off 9 nine days looking for a buck, and 12 days during the muzzleloader season for a buck. If the hunter does not harvest a buck during the two seasons he has the option for the 4 day doe hunt. I believe the 9 day gun season needs to stay along with the starting date with the Saturday before Thanksgiving. I believe we need to give the bucks a chance to breed the does and not push to a completely buck slaughter fest if you would move the season date or extend the seasons in anyways. I push you to keep the same season structure as the last couple seasons and we will very good deer herd, along with some very good hunting. I have a feeling the hunters that are complaining about the current deer hunting, do not put the time and effort and still wouldn't be able to harvest a deer if you gave them the 16 day season and the Holiday hunt and lucky if you would even find them in the woods at all.

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Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
We hunt in the Rosendale area. In the past 15 to 20 years there has been hundreds of acres purchased around us by the state and is now public hunting. That has reduced the deer numbers dramatically. We are now seeing that it is very hard to keep young hunters excited about the sport. We have private land that borders public land. Sometimes we like to go for a walk on the public but we can only shoot a buck because we have to specify public or private. What is the difference if someone has private land next to public and wants to harvest an antler-less deer. Last year we saw one buck during the 9 day gun season and not many does either. This year my 13 year old daughter said she doesn’t want to hunt anymore because it is too boring. 30 years ago I admit there was a deer problem in this area. Now there is a deer shortage. Some of the land owners took it upon themselves not to shoot antler-less because the public lands take care them. Not saying that is right either. I feel that in our area if you archery and gun hunt you should only get to harvest one antler-less deer between the two. Just for a little while until the numbers can come back to spark interest in the young hunters. 

In regards to the public land, now that there are no back tags it is a lot harder not to confront trespassers. We have a lot of issues with this. It would be really nice to have back tags and deer registration again.

Allowing hunters young and old to buy and use crossbows was a great way to get average hunters into the woods and allow younger and weaker hunters to harvest a deer in a clean way. Taking this away would be a huge setback in our area and should be avoided at all costs. I know of several kids that could not draw a 40 lb bow but were able to harvest a deer with a crossbow and parent. Getting the younger generation into hunting is the MOST important thing for our state’s conservation of whitetail deer. Also, countless hunters are not able to practice and use regular bows with the amount of time they spend at work, with their families, and with other hobbies. Using a crossbow gives the majority of hunters another option to successfully and cleanly harvest an animal. Please keep these factors along with the fact that crossbow owners have spent $250-$2,500 on crossbow setups. Taking this away after allowing it will surely cause issues and will drive hunters away from the hunt. Gun and bow hunters that are complaining are not considering all factors. I encourage the DNR to consider the younger and busy hunter demographics before making any changes to the crossbow rules. If you have to change something then move up or extend the gun season to overlap with the rut or pre-rut when large mature buck are active. Please be very careful with what changes you make.

Over the past few years the deer population and health has been improving in my area. I think that is accredited to better regulations on population management and hunters being better educated to properly manage their own properties. As an avid bow hunter, I feel there are too many hunts that interrupt the bows season such as youth hunts, antlerless hunts, and holiday hunts. Specifically the timing of those hunts is what makes it tough. I would rather see an extended gun season of consecutive days vs. random specialty hunts throughout the bow season. This would help increase harvest numbers without interrupting the bow season. Another thing that would help me manage the herd on my property would be to extend the archery season to the end of January. I primarily hunt for mature bucks throughout the season and then during the late season (Dec. & Jan) I evaluate the herd for proper doe to buck ratio, and if needed, that's when I attempt to harvest a doe. I feel that waiting until late season gives me the proper amount of time to evaluate the herd’s health and population throughout all phases of the hunting season. By extending the archery season to the end of January it would give me more time to properly manage the herd on my property if needed.
Hello! Let me begin by stating that I have hunted the same property for over 50 years, this included every day of waterfowl and deer up to early December in the past 3 years. One thing that needs to be addressed is the issue of continuous seasons within the single hunting year. I would like to see gaps from a closure to another opener. We need to let these animals settle down. The quality of the hunt overshadows the number of animals for me. Secondly, an element of the archery season needs to be adjusted. Specifically, the use of crossbows up to and during the rut. Today's crossbows are simply a powderless rifle, very much different from those even a few years ago. The thrill of archery is getting close and lethal, not launching an arrow 60 yards at the trophy buck, only to wound them. Also, as noted earlier, the pressure during the rut season has accelerated dramatically. I see the vehicle count increase from my cabin window, every morning and afternoon. Weekends has become a side show with camo heading by. Let's give these animals chance and make better hunters out of us. It's not just for the meat and the horns. Close crossbows after October 25th. Let's get this hunt back on track, contrary to popular belief, there is not a deer behind every bush. Thanks for listening!

My 16 year old son and myself bust our but hunting during the fall 80 hours a piece in the woods and lucky to see 3 deer in shooting range the whole time. Deer by us a very nocturnal the neighbors provide no hunting pressure to move deer, or other parcels no hunting activity. So seeing deer, poor, number of deer poor, if not for love of nature very depressing rate of success opportunities. Should have no antlerless harvest by us for 5 years. When I hear coworkers in other parts of the state say they saw 50 to 70 deer over their weekend hunt, I am amazed and upset. Why can't we have that here. When you drive by the old dump along HWY 41 in Winnebago CTY, and count 30 deer, how cool would that be. We also seem to have a coyote problem, every once in a while we find a healthy looking, fresh kill. The last one was the Saturday of Easter weekend. Last years fawn, survive the winter, started growing horns and freshly killed, another opportunity gone. As for FDL CTY, deer seem to be segregated in pockets, some places have many, and ours have less than 10 for a whole country block. So how can you regulate different sections of the county? Frustrated!!!

I think the deer numbers are going down statewide especially in fond du lac county. Every year I see fewer and fewer deer especially mature bucks. Last year’s data was a lot lower for deer harvest because of less hunters and less deer. I think extending the gun season would really hurt the deer population. From my observations opening weekend is when I see the most hunters. Extending the gun season will not increase interest in hunting in fact it may due more of the opposite. The rut with a bow is one of the most exciting weeks of the year. Taking this away from people for extra gun hunting does not sit well with many hunters I talked with. I oppose the earn a buck as well because the one time a nice buck comes walking buy the hunter can't shoot it unless he has harvested a doe. Again, taking away hunting opportunities of harvest. In addition, the harvest authorization system that wisconsin uses needs some changes. It is solely based on the honor system. I think a lot of deer get shot and not reported which really affects the numbers.

I would like to see both gun and bow deer hunting season moved up 1 week. Starting off with bow/crossbow. This would allow gun hunters a chance to hunt the rut. Also starting off with the bow season still keeps the woods calm before the storm of guns. I also feel that during gun deer hunting season bows/ and crossbows should be allowed. Continue with blaze orange and let it be the hunters choice for weapon. All deer hunting should end by January 1st. Deer have been bred and are looking to heard up for safety. The longer the woods are disturbed the more chances of the deer succumbing to predators. Another personal opinion is do not take crossbows away during bow season. I rely on using a crossbow and without it I would not be physically able to pull back a regular bow and that would limit me to only be able to gun hunt in which would take away a tag for the freezer. I rely on hunting to provide for my family. Another great idea is too allow gun season throughout all zones to have at least 1 bonus antlerless tag included.
I realize/understand that the 2019 deer season was very unique. We had a lot for rain, a lot of bad weather preventing farmers from harvesting corn. A lot of areas underwater or to wet to access as in previous years. But the fact of the matter is, the 2018 season also saw less deer, both bucks and does. Please stop handing out Authorization Tags like its candy on Halloween. There are way to many tags being authorized which allows the hunters to think they need to fill every single one they can get there hands on. The hunters also need to be educated on this situation as well, just because tags are readily available doesn't mean you need to overkill the population. One last thing, fees for out-of-state hunters needs to be raised to match surrounding states. There is absolutely no reason that you cannot raise these fees. Compare Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan license fees for out-of-state hunters to their in-state hunters and then look at Wisconsin. Those fees need to be put more inline like theirs are.

Everyone is complaining about seeing less deer this last year. It was not because of late season or snowy weather. It was all the rain in spring had lots of areas flooded that deer use for cover. Its been getting wetter the last 3 years. This changes deer patterns to move and home range. I think deer count is down some but having a 16 day deer season, and earlier start will destroy what deer herd is left. Gun hunters drive every piece of woods over and over. And their attitude is if its brown its down. How many deer would be left if they hunted the main rut. That said the rut was still on during gun hunt this last year. I saw bucks still chasing. I think the drive groups are getting so large, lots of people give up worrying they will get shot. Would you feel safe with your child with slug slingers out there shooting at everything that moves. Stop giving out more then one antlers tag per license.

When it comes to crop damage the raccoons do 90 percent of the damage and the deer take the blame and the farmers don’t care they want the money so blame it on the deer and get more money. I’m a bow and gun hunter I’m a good hunter and when I don’t see very little to no deer bow hunting I feel the population is to low near devastation in the public hunting grounds. I feel the dnr has made a grave mistake by getting rid of in person registering deer and back tags I feel violating has gone way up giving false info on deer kill as the low numbers show on registration I feel the youth and handicap hunts put more pressure on deer to put them in a nocturnal state so deer don’t move until very late hours too many hunts. So in conclusion I’m a very dissatisfied hunter that is seriously thinking about quitting hunting in the state it’s becoming not enjoyable not seeing’s deer do to the very low numbers.

My answers to some of the questions may be different if bow vs. crossbow hunting were broken apart. I understand that those questions were posed in a different DNR survey, though it did influence some of my thoughts. I also think that amendments to the current crossbow regulations would directly impact the population. Many hunters use the crossbow option to "extend the length of their gun hunt." This is based on the ease of function as well as the distance they are able to shoot. Please note that I did NOT say effectively shoot. I have heard of several hunters who have taken crossbow shots in excess of 50-75 yards. At least one local cited a ±100 yard shot. This is propagated by misleading marketing campaigns that illustrate tight patterns at long distances. We can agree that stationary targets under perfect conditions are dramatically different than those existent in the field.

I am a very avid hunter who grew up hunting public land. Now that I have 2 sons and a wife that hunt we choose to lease private land since we like to harvest 5 deer amongst all of us for meat. I feel this would never be possible on public land since the number of deer aren't there. My public land hunting decreased after the crossbow use was allowed since the amount of bow hunters there increased greatly. When woods are filled with less skilled hunters deer get educated much faster therefore deer turn nocturnal so they can't be killed then. Holiday hunts ruined my family's interest in spending school vacation hunting. With multiple opportunities to harvest does already it takes away chance for us to fill unused buck tags. We since go to upper Michigan during this time. Public lands are so pressured during rest of seasons anyways deer don't move during light anyways.
I am a landowner in Fond du Lac county. The last two years I have seen an increase in does and deer browse among my fields and woods. As I have planted many trees, the deer seem to eat them as fast as I put them in. It is not within my means to fence the areas of planting so I just continue on. I would not want to see the population expand over what it is now. We see anywhere from twenty doe a day to 150. I am sure of some repeated sightings. I am in the process of entering crep to help water quality and wildlife cover after the tornado of 2018. We had a lot of damage in one of our woods and it will take a few years to clean up and replace some trees. Also, ash, elm, and oak trees need to be replaced as I do not want to lose the woods for habitat. The numbers of deer we hold are fine as long as they do not explode.

I saw less deer this year and I hunt pretty good private land. I am not worried about it because of multiple factors. 1. Standing corn 2. VERY wet year(I hunt a swamp so the deer weren’t in there because walking was easier elsewhere) 3. Late gun season 4. The DNR has been promoting people to do QDM for years and I’ve noticed that becoming a big trend. I am included in that category. I see some deer every time I go out and I like it that way. People are holding back on the trigger to promote good deer hunting for years to come. I do not believe this raises concern for deer harvest. I don’t believe that making more doe seasons will help anything. There is 9 days to harvest a doe if you please, let alone the archery season. I don’t support any of the antlerless only seasons. I want Wisconsin to be that big buck, QDM state. It takes time but is well worth it.

Increasing the amount of public tags is a poor decision. The only reason they sell out is because the bonus permits are typically bought by the private land owners so they don’t have to shoot does on their own property. This is not an over reaction. I know a lot of private lands owners in the county and about 80% I know do this. Then on top of that you can see the large difference between harvest number between private and public and you want to try to increase the harvest on public?????? Issuing more tags to properties that have fewer deer is backwards. The quality of hunting on public land in Fond du lac continues to decrease year after year and still nothing is ever done to help improve it. Lets continue to cater to the private land owners and let us blue collar group who cant purchase our own land continue to suffer.

my personal opinion shut antlerless seasons down statewide over all forms of hunting seasons keeping it buck only for few years, till bring back the deer herds like it used to be! get rid of youth hunts cause the fathers shoot the deer anyways, then after few years introduce hunters choice like it used to be, kids under 18 automatically get hunters choice and a limited drawing. we dont need all these seasons all we are doing is thinning the herd with all these ridiculous tags and seasons, ive hunted the same woods since i was a young boy, was never hard to see 20+ deer any given day, now im lucky if i see a deer at all, Wisconsin deer management is very poor in my opinion hunters dont need 4+ deer a year, thats why we are in the situation we are in

There was a recommendation to shorten the archery season to October only and open to gun season earlier to allow gun hunters more time during the rut. I think this is a very bad idea. from the info on the video, twice as many deer were taken during the gun season then the archery season. I hunt with a crossbow and though there bows that can reach out to 100 yards, most are maxed at 40 - 50 yards. Granted the deer kill was down for the gun season last year for many obvious reasons. Lots of standing corn, latest season possible, bad weather, and lots of water in the marches, but that is no reason to revamp the total season. Granted, the gun season brings in a lot of money for the state and local economy, but so does the archery season. Thank you.

Due to very limited public areas to hunt in Fond du Lac County the majority of the herd control has to be done on private property. I feel that there is a reluctance of property owners to harvest antlerless deer on their property. A lot of pressure on public properties. Might have to consider an antlerless only/earn a buck season to control the herd in the near future. Need more of the public involved with CDAC to under stand process and herd control efforts. Not many people even know what CDAC s do as a required task. A longer gun season starting on the weekend nearest November 15th. would also be an asset to hunters in the field. I do not see an issue with the use of crossbows in the state by everyone.
Hi well i like the dnr take in consideration in the crossbow season. There r alot of people using crossbows now and I know the percentage went through the roof and the dnr can't deny that. That shows that there r more hunters in the woods now. I like to see elementate the 4 day antlerless hunt and holiday hunt and bring back the registration process back its only fair for hunters. I don't mind if the dnr extend gun season for a full 2wks and eliminate muzzle loading season or let the gun season pick their own weapon. But allow crossbow hunters must issue a gun license for gun season only. Well i thank you for letting me give my input. I pray that the dnr really takes people's input into consideration.

I like the Holiday Hunt, (go to a neighboring county) and also the January season, which is a great time, weather related to take a nice buck with the bow. Bucks in this area, drop horns much later, but even so, if they did, they are easy to distinguish. Only hard core hunts in January, but man I have shot some great bucks than, in neighboring county. I would rather hunt, than ice fish. Please have some explain to me, what is wrong with the January hunt? I get on property, I normally can not get on, during the rut, but the landowners are very receptive to January hunting...... Thanks for all the work you do

I understand how important maintaining a healthy deer herd is to this area as I have hunted here all my life. There were two major impacts on the local deer herd... First was the implementation of earn a buck, increasing the herd with larger bucks, definitely a plus ! Second was the logging that took place on public land, that practice moved the deer out, reduced their habitat and in many cases made the area inaccessible, it was the waste that was left behind and the lac of cover from logging that makes these areas less desirable to the deer and almost impossible to hunt, not to mention removing a deer that might be harvested from those areas.

After 40 years of deer hunting in Fond du Lac county, I've seen a lot of transformation to the habitat. The tornadoes that cut through our hunting property 2 years ago was the most significant transformation, but the loss of mature ash trees has also been significant. Thankfully, the surrounding habitat has been maintained or even improved so the deer herd remains strong & healthy in our area. The greatest concern I have is the spread of CWD & I don't think I'm alone. Although Fond du Lac county remains free of CWD, the number of CWD cases statewide continues to increase and the CWD area continues to grow ever closer to Fond du Lac county.

if the focus from what I'm understanding is to manage the deer heard properly why is there never a consideration of the antlered deer? Going to a 4 points on one side or in general getting some age structure to the deer heard. In the last ten years I have seen the average deer age go down and pressure go up especially with the new cross bow season. I understand that some areas have over population but that is normally because of private land owners deciding not to shoot antlerless deer. but over all I beleive the deer heard could use more age structure and that could help create a healthier and more diverse heard like everyone wants.

I disagree with the decision made several years ago to allow rifles for hunting in this unit. Ever since that has happened I've noticed a major decline in the number of deer and the quality of the bucks. I practice quality deer management where I hunt, but have still noticed a decline in the size and age class of bucks. I would like to see this go back to shotgun only or see an age class/antler restriction placed on the bucks being harvested in an effort to allow more bucks to reach a mature age and develop their full potential in body and antler size. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

I believe the backtags need to bring back backtags. Legal. legal. i think and I know of licenses not being bought. Not really having an opinion on whether felons can hunt. This really opens the door. I know every year in the past felons were caught hunting or purchasing licenses. i being an individual that hunted deer and bear in the past was shocked by the fact the don't register deer....I think we need to bring back tags to attach.. I really believe it would raise the registration numbers.
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<tr>
<th>Line Number</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>3537</td>
<td>When I first started hunting I would see deer every time I went out this was 20 years ago and that what got me so interested in deer hunting, now when I go out I’m lucky if I see deer for every 5 times that I go I tried taking my nephew hunting a few years ago never even seen one so now he doesn’t go anymore and now I have kids of my own that I would love to get into hunting when there old enough but the only way to keep any kid interested is to see them and that not happening so my point is we need to get the deer herd back up to what it used to be so that are youth hunters will keep going.</td>
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<td>3538</td>
<td>In my opinion one of the biggest hurdles we as a deer hunting community face is stopping the hunter vs hunter mentality. Crossbow banned or allowed, what does it matter, we are all deer hunters. Use whatever legal weapon you want. Trophy deer hunting is the only way to go. Says who? Why can’t we let someone be happy and celebrate their 6 pointer if that is what makes them happy. There are plenty of deer in the area I hunt to keep everyone happy. We hunters need to pull together, not against one another. Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to express my opinion.</td>
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<td>3539</td>
<td>I think the area has done pretty good with deer. I see more deer now it seems even though that might be because I’m a better hunter now. One thing I am slightly concerned for is that I see very many does but very few bucks. I’d like to see the youth hunt in October done away with personally. I am happy that I see the warden checking more on people. Would be nice to get some more property open to hunting but I suppose everyone does. Not sure if it ever comes up but I wouldn’t mind seeing one buck tag per person regardless of weapon to get the buck population up.</td>
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<td>3540</td>
<td>Your question in regards to being crowed or how busy were the woods, did not ask about bow hunting or gun season. Bow hunting was not nearly as crowed as gun season. And gun season was VERY VERY crowed on opening weekend and slowed down greatly after that. I logged 19 days either bow or gun hunting last year. Some sits were only 2 hours most were about 6 hours and 4 of them were ALL day sits. I have several stands on the FDL/ Sheboygan county line. I am very particular about my sent and wind directions. I did not see very many deer the last several years!</td>
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<td>3541</td>
<td>go back to getting a doe tag every other year .. seen more deer when this was the case was fun and good hunting than on public land maily the kettle moraine forest.. hunted evey year there mostly and hardly see any deer nowadays.. you only see them crossing the roads at nite.. the deer scatter to private lands not being hunted or very little and it goes to say theres too many deer.. what happened to seeing 6 to 10 deer in groups?? during hunting season now if you see a deer its a miracle let alone be able to harvest one.. see more people than I see deer</td>
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<td>3542</td>
<td>Leave the crossbow season alone. The only way my daughter hunts deer is with a crossbow. She does not like firearms and will not hunt with them. If the season gets changed or altered my daughter and I will not hunt at all. I also believe that by not allowing baiting affects the amount of deer seen or harvested. My daughter, wife or I did not harvest a deer for that reason I truly believe. I feel you have the right to ban batting on public land but with a set limit it should be allowed on private. You will see a increased harvest like in the past.</td>
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<td>3543</td>
<td>I would just like to inform you that u have no data on the number of fawns that the farmers put through their hay bines in spring. They take the first crop just when the does r dropping their fawns. Those new machines go so fast u almost have to run to keep up. No match 4 a fawn. My neighbor who is a feed harvester says u don’t even notice when they go through the machine. He thinks they get about 3 a year. That's only one farmer. I have 46 acres with some food plots and I really felt bad when I put a little fawn threw my brush hog last year.</td>
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<td>3544</td>
<td>Bring back earn a buck. We have way too many antlerless deer in my specific block that I own 35 acres in. While I try to do my part in harvesting enough does on my land, a majority of the landowners in my block are old school and uneducated on the importance of harvesting doe’s and refuse to do so. We seen the biggest and most bucks in our area when it used to be earn a buck. Their problem is that they think more doe’s equals more bucks but the effect is actually opposite of that which has definitely been the case the last handful of years.</td>
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I would like to see a 3 or 4 point rule on 1 antler for bucks. I heard some states did this and their buck quality went up, while doe numbers went down. As a hunter, seeing bigger bucks and more of them would make hunting more exciting. If deer numbers get too high, have more doe tags. I talked with hunters from Arkansas and this worked well for them. At first, some guys didn't like it, but the 2nd year, the bucks were bigger and the doe to buck ratio was better. After adjusting to this new rule, the hunters seemed very happy.

Wisconsin needs to consider 1 buck a year any method of take. if a person shoots a buck before the long time traditional 9 day gun hunt with a bow or crossbow in any unit that person should not be able to harvest another buck. LEAVE THE 9 DAY SEASON ALONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ALSO LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES YEARS BACK YOU THE DNR RUINED COUNTIES AND DEER CAMPS BY GIVING OUT WAY TO MANY ANTLERLESS TAGS JUNEAU CO.ADAMS CO.THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion as my passion is the outdoors.

The real problem with the deer herd in Fond du Lac county is you have hot spots on private land where over browsing is a problem, due to the amount of deer on this certain property. The only way to get a crack at these deer is when they travel to a food source, or breeding. Solve this problem and you will be able to manage the deer herd in the county. I live in Oakfield, and know two places within 3 miles of Oakfield, that are just such places. Too many deer in one area, and very little in areas surrounding.

I feel last year deer hunting was the worst I ever had in 42 years of hunting. Number of hunters was down and deer were not seen. I saw deer prior to gun season but saw only 1 deer in 9 full days of hunting. I feel that if this continues I will not deer hunt anymore, I can buy beef much cheaper. The Hurd numbers and hunters are both on the decline. Too much regulation and lack of interest by people. Lower the price of the licenses the Dnr is ruining our families tradition. I am very disappointed!!!!!

I do not think the deer gun season should be extended. I think the holiday season is putting too much pressure on the deer population and extending the crossbow and bow season to Jan.31 is not a good idea. I think there are already too many deer seasons now. They interfere with other hunting pheasant, Duck, Turkey, and other upland bird hunting. I can only hunt public land and I try not to interfere with other hunters. With the seasons running the way they run now it has become more difficult.

With the high ratio of antlerless deer shot on private land and the few shot on public land doesn’t that indicate there is a imbalance with the number of deer available on public land I feel the antlerless deer harvest should be lowered on public land and harvest raised on private. I understand that carrying capacity on private land pushes some deer on public, from looking at the stats it is a three to one ratio public versus private, what is the ratio of hunter on private land versus public? Thanks

We over work the hunting season year after year. Farmer with crop damage can do something about that. DNR land has a certain amount of people that over hunt everything. They also do not stay on the DNR land. Very unfortunate. If you are a land owner next door. Keep the rules simple so everyone can be on the same page. The game we hunt are the first losers in all this. Next it is the hunters and land owners giving up interest and finally the DNR will be out of money. Keep it simple.

I live in FDL county and there is a lot of does running around I mean a lot. If you want to make the gun deer hunters happy you should not open the archery season up for bucks till the gun season let them bow hunters shoot all the does they want then then the gun hunters will have more of a chance to shoot a nice buck the bow hunters are running it for the gun hunters. I guarantee if you do that you will sell a million more gun deer licence.

It seems to me that managing the deer population must be pretty difficult. There are so many large blocks of land privately owned today. I know on many of these large blocks there are only a couple people hunting and they take extra precaution not to move deer. So when pressure starts deer know where to go and be safe. With the price of hunting land today I don’t blame land owners for doing this. There just isn’t pressure to move deer today.
I believe it would be beneficial to extend the archery season through the end of January in this unit due to the fact that most of the ideal late season hunting conditions do not occur until the month of January, and gives bow hunters more of a chance after gun season. By the time firearm season ends, there is little to no time for archery hunters to have any kind of late season hunting with the holidays affecting this time period as well.

I feel the CDAC of Fond du Lac county is doing a good job. In listening to their meeting I felt they covered the major concerns in our county and I agree with their recommendations. Also the DNR is doing a good job with involving the hunters. I do not favor a longer gun season, I would like to see all deer hunting stopped the 5 days before gun, like it used to be. I feel this would improve the beginning of the gun season.

I would like to be able to put out some type of feed again. My wife and me miss watching the deer travel through our back yard. Also I have permission to hunt the field in my back yard also. This would give me a opportunity to do this and wouldn't necessarily need to hunt the public down the road. I also feel we shouldn't haft to choose between public or private land for the opportunity to harvest a antler less deer.

I did not see a single deer while hunting in this unit in 2019, including take my first time hunters safety regulated son with me deer hunting. The deer population needs to grow, the antlerless population needs to be protected. The next generation of hunter loses interest quickly the way it is, if they don’t see any deer, and have zero chance at a harvest, there will be no future generation of hunters.

I am concerned we are destroying our deer herd. Why are we cutting and clear cutting public hunting grounds? Why do we not increase non-resident license fees? If we are going to continue to offer bonus tags, why don't we increase the cost to $20? Why do we offer so many extra tags with original purchase? Have people buy them. This will provide your salary every year.

Recommend longer and earlier gun deer season. Possibly 3 weeks long during the earlier parts of November to allow gun hunters increased opportunity to harvest mature bucks and increased opportunity for more enjoyable hunt. Recommend data be collected to age bucks by harvest weapon type. This data will determine probability of mature buck harvest by weapon type.

I think the population in this area is doing very well. I can drive right down the road from my house and see dozens and dozens of deer in the fields. I believe what you guys are doing is very good. I do believe earn a buck would be a great program for awhile. Then I believe we would have a very healthy herd of bucks in our state. Thanks for all you do!

Crossbow hunting should be limited to the people that can not otherwise get out and hunt during the bow season. For example disabled people should be the only ones that are allowed to have crossbows. No more late season gun hunts or a reflex hunting after the 9 day gun hunt just leave it as late season bow hunting (vertical bow only) and that’s all.

The deer population is declined over the years, if we back off on the anterless permits & let the numbers increase we the hunters that pay license fees would benifit & see more opportunity to shoot something rather then a tail flash once or twice in the 9 day season. We could also cut back on dangers of so many deer drives

I would really like to see the holiday hunt and extended archery season held for increased harvest and recreational opportunity. I would also like to see the October antlerless season returned as a management tool and for additional recreational opportunity. Please increase the number of free antlerless tags too.

I feel that 2019 gun season was very late this year and due to that, the number of bucks that were killed and sightings of bucks were down. The people who think it was due to cross bows are completely off base. The Rut was 90 % over and this was the main reason for the lower numbers. Thank you for your time!

At one time I heard some discussion around extending the length of the 9-day gun season. I am not in favor of an extension if this turns into an option for consideration. Between the Bow, Gun and Muzzleloader seasons, we have plenty of opportunities to harvest deer under the current season structures.
I don't see a thing during gun hunt season, season should start earlier by 2 weeks and go to end of current gun season, tag should be limited to one trophy and one doe or buck, this would give DNR the numbers and better turn out for hunting then it should stop to provide accessability for snowmobile clubs.

Would like to see the crossbow season extended. I would like the crossbow season to follow both bow and gun including muzzle loader because while generally more accurate than a recurve and about as accurate as a compound bow the crossbow takes much more time to load than a recurve or compound.

I would like to see Fond du Lac County removed from a Rifle gun season. Go back to shotgun and then the antlerless quotas would be fine. The amount of quality deer has gone down because of the use of a rifle and I feel it has changed the entire landscape of hunting in my area.

I primarily crossbow hunt public land, and absolutely love it. I hope the season is left alone. I also believe our out of state licensing price be raised. I have not noticed a drop or gain in the population in my area, which I believe is a good thing.

Hunting private can be good in FDL co, public is way over harvested ..zero antleress tags for all public!! People want to see deer... you the DNR want more hunters it's pretty simple put a better product out there.

I'm overall unhappy with the number of deer compared to 15 years ago. We had a great deer population and I'm not sure why so many tags have been given out since. Even after the deer numbers were down the tag numbers were still up.

I have a problem with having the antler less tags being private and public. If the DNR wants to get rid of the deer the antlerless tags should be used for public and private lands. Not a separate tag for each. Like they used to be.

I don't support extending the season until January 31, or a holiday hunt. Why do we keep wanting to extent gun seasons / By extending the seasons and making it harder on deer what kind of effects does this have on pregnant doe ?

have the DNR get rid of the county tags and go back to zone tags also get rid of the private and public tags the hunter can fill in when the register this gets expensive when you live on bordering county's and zones

Xbow season needs to be adjusted, it is just too long. I would lie to see in person registration, and traditional tags brought back for the 9 day gun season, I feel this might help get more accurate kill numbers.

leaves the seasons as they have been for years.dont start fooling with the crossbow season.it is fine just as it is. you guys do a fine job dont screw it up because of special interests or politicians.thank-you.

Quit playing the game of bonus tags, if you want the deer to get taken give away the tags. We are not losing hunters due to interest, we are losing them to the DNR playing games with our wildlife to make money.

Still having issues with to many deer browsing the trees in my plantation. Unable to get them above 3 feet. This issue will need to be addressed, as the browsing is also heavy in the wooded land.

Need to find a way to reduce deer numbers in “havens” near suburban areas be they public or private. These are the areas that seem to cause the most problems with nuisance deer and car/deer incidents.

I opposed the 19 day gun season, unless only one buck permit is issued per person to use for archery OR gun. I have hunted in other states with the 19 day gun season and they are draw only buck tags.

Return to the DNR deer sticker/carcass tag With on site registration areas TOO much illegal taking/poaching of deer Online registration promotes illegal over harvest and its to easy to get away with

Do not extend the normal 9 day gun season to 19 days. Leave the gun season to how it has been set up in years past. Also, we do not need "rest days" for deer the few days leading up to gun season.

Should also take into consideration with fawn mortality farming equipment. I myself run at least 4 through the haybine a year.Just think how many others get killed by haybines from other farmers.
Go back to registering deer in person, and possibly back tags. Too many problems with the registering now. Stay with the traditional 9 day gun season, and eliminate youth hunts, holiday hunts.

I saw just as many bucks as doe this past year if not more buck than doe. To me it seems like doe numbers and deer numbers in general are low for the area I hunt in Fond du Lac County.

Just too many rude people in the northern kettle moraine state forest....2019 is going to be the last time I hunt there during gun season. Used to be a joy to be there.... not anymore.

Although I did not see many deer during the gun deer season, I know they plenty around. The amount of crops still on the landscape was a big contributor to not seeing those deer.

The seasons are long enough anyone who wants a deer has plenty of time to get out. the population is down allot from what they were at a few years ago so let’s not over harvest.

Over the past few years there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of coyotes / wolves. Would like to a closer look at numbers and plans on how to address them.

Go back to a 4 person party permit for the does and make Wisconsin deer hunting great again!! Hasn’t been great for many years now, way to many does being killed!

The practice of allowing hunters to drive deer from public land onto private land where they are shot should be outlawed.

Ever since they went to using rifles in this unit the deer population went down allot poor things dont stand a chance.

I support the present by county system and the work done by the DNR and thank both for the ability to supply input.

The public private choice is great it keeps private land owners from over hunting public land.

Should just keep it like it was for the last year except for holiday hunts do away with them.

Fond du Lac County is being managed well with the current hunting structure. Thanks!

Go back to only buck with a hunters choice permit. Deer population is way down.

To early for youth hunt and muzzle loaders should have to more for deer hunting.

Keep the seasons the same as last year. The new proposal is an abosolute joke

to damn many coyotes recomend bounty on the coyotes to thin them down

Overall satisfied with the structure, would oppose longer gun seasons

Concerns on ag tags issued in area where there are cafo operations

A few more bonus tags and/or 2 antlerless tags with each license!

Also strongly oppose any changes to the 9-day gun deer season

I would like to see minimum antler size/width requirements.

Return Crossbow hunting to the disabled and over 65 only!

Keep the hunting season like you did for 2019.

Need to push youth hunts to end of seasons.

Opposed to extending the 9 day gun season

I feel like the dnr does a great job!

1 deer per youth hunter limit
3612  Shut the deer farms down
3613  Keep up the good work
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 145
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 213
   - I hunt in this unit: 559
   - General interest in this unit: 104

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 539
   - Bow: 244
   - Crossbow: 181
   - Muzzleloader: 127

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.83
   - Maximum: 73

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 102
   - Mostly Private Land: 48
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 125
   - Mostly Public Land: 93
   - Exclusively Public Land: 183
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 8

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 18
   - Not too crowded: 73
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 74
   - Somewhat crowded: 116
   - Very crowded: 162
   - Not applicable: 6

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 187
   - Fewer: 207
   - Same: 130
   - More: 55
   - Many More: 13
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:  
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...  
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:  
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...  
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:  
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...  
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:  
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...  
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?  
VALID 318 NOT VALID 43  
Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  
Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First of all I'd like to start out saying, I scout whitetails 8 months out of the year, I run a good amount of trail cams throughout the county and I hunt about 3 months out of the year very hard. It's hard to have success here if you are looking for a decent buck. But being out there all the time I am able to see what's going on. I hunt all public land, county, state and federal. Historically this area has been one of the worst areas in the state to harvest a mature buck sporting some decent head gear. This is due to lack of nutrition, severe winters, predation and just overall stress. I think we should be the first county in this state to set the bar and pass a 3 pt on one side antler restriction. Not to grow trophy bucks but to protect spikes and forks so they have a chance to go through the cycles of life and maybe they will have a chance to mature more. Seems like non resident hunters and hunters from southern WI come here and harvest the spikes and forks way to often. We do not have a quality herd because of this. People like seeing a nice buck, it brings business to the area, and when one is harvested the business continues onto the taxidermists, maybe the butcher shops. If muskie fisherman can get a 50" size limit why can't we get something to help deer in the whitetail capitol of the world? We should try it, what's it going to hurt? People will have more success and they will be happy. This should be an option and many of us would like to see this. Otherwise we would like to see one buck per hunter a year. We are losing hunters not because they aren't seeing deer, because they aren't seeing any decent bucks. I also would like to mention that my trail cameras do show the wolf population increasing every year. I also pay attention to the winter severity and this winter we are at a very severe number already for stations in Forest county. So there should be no antler less tags issued for public land after any severe winters. I believe it should be lowered for private land as well after severe winters but there are areas near cities and towns where the doe numbers could be maintained. The extended rifle season will hurt our fragile deer herd, and the continuation of crossbows for anyone all archery season is really having an impact on the buck population, I do not agree with either. We need to have a crossbow season and stay with the traditional rifle and muzzleloader season. If people are in the woods with rifles at the tail end of the rut it will be devastating to our buck population, they are like sitting ducks. One way we could make things a lot easier is change the way the seasons begin. This is a suggestion for the whole state. There are years we hear how the season started to late like 2019 so that lowers the harvest of bucks. There is a simple fix, make rifle season open on the same date every year like MI. This is my idea on season structure and I believe it would improve our state and simplify everything; Archery Season - Sep. 15th-Jan. 15th statewide continues Crossbow Season - Nov. 15th-Dec. 15th statewide continues Rifle Season - Nov. 20th-Nov. 30th statewide, weapon of choice Muzzleloader Season - Dec. 1st-Dec. 10th statewide No extended archery hunts, no holiday hunts, no youth hunts, let the counties control their herds as needed. Let's make this the greatest state to hunt whitetails because right now we are falling off the map, losing business and losing hunters.
Forest County (County) has always been mainly impacted by the WSI, bear predation & hunting. In the half century I've hunted in the County the WSI I believe to have had the greatest impact on deer populations and which we can do nothing about except manage accordingly. The bear population in the County has always been high and game managers could easily and should reduce the bear populations to increase the deer population. My greatest concern is the efficiency of the archery/crossbow equipment and the length and timing of the archery/crossbow seasons and associated registration regulations. Because of the efficiency of the equipment, the seasons are far too long and when coupled with archery losses (wounding mortality) the harvest does not accurately depict a complete deer mortality picture. Shorten these seasons. Furthermore consideration must be given to harvest registrations & tagging. We need to go back to a system which requires immediate tagging and in person registration. The seasons are too long for human nature to not be tempted to violate. Paper tags are ridiculous. A one time use clip on tag is the best. Another issue that absolutely should be addressed is the firearm season opening date. Any reasonably rational person that is familiar with the County climate understands that the gun season should start on November 15th no matter the day of the week that it falls on and end on December 1st. Michigan does this and Minnesota opens even earlier. This would still include the Thanksgiving week. Finally deer baiting should be banned state wide permanently and at a minimum all existing and new game farms should be required to double fence and if cwd is found on site the farm should be closed permanently and all animals disposed of at the owners cost. CWD is coming to the County deer herd and if some drastic measures aren't implemented our children will be the last generation to hunt as we all have. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to comment and I thank you all for your hard work in addressing the difficult decision ahead that will protect this great natural resource. Please forward these comments on to all appropriate parties that have the authority to address my concerns.

The deer herd hang and gang around towns and villages, highway right-of-ways (grass in ditches in spring) and lakes where people have bird feeders all winter and spread out somewhat in spring to fawn.. they don’t venture to far out in forest due to predators and bring there fawns close in to human populations (ASAP) for protection where there are few to no predators to raise fawns and teach them the deer trails to follow to survive in the Northwoods.. I know if there is open cropland, populated town or area (plants floral landscape in yards)lake with cabins (birdfeeders etc.) there will be a family group or small-herd of deer on private property, zilch to zero on public forestland.. its sad and at one time it was reversed. 1980’s thru 1995 was AWESOME! pass young bucks til the big buck came in sight, Than 2 T-zones, 94 and 96.. after that slaughter, the predators and “brown is down hunters” who had to shoot a deer and tigh it on the trailer or car to take back south kept up with fawn recruitment and our northern forest deer herd has been suffering ever sense.. there are islands of deer out there in the forest around some natural food sources. Oaks for one but are struggling to hold on. A lot of yearling bucks I call freezer bucks are shot by us to fill freezers because a doe in the Northwoods is priceless right now.. so we have a ratio of 1-1 doe/buck and some areas fewer deer Period.. the trophy hunting is tough up here but I still try to shoot spikes and let the branced antlered yearlings walk over the ridge and hope they all don’t get shot..maybe I’ll get a Rack buck next season because of that practice, between all four seasons I still find one freezer buck and that’s what my hunting season and buck hunting Heritage has evolved too.. still, my children and family all enjoy and can’t wait for fall and autumn hunting season to arrive!! (we look for all wildlife sign all year.. the way of the woodsman) Partridge are suffering as well... to many (Wolf/coyote/bear/cars that kill deer) bears and bobcats, cars kill a lot of fawns every year... and fishers /coon/ skunks kill our ground nesting song birds/woodcock/grouse.. there you have the truth!! Way to many Predators period.. and a loss of hunting participants because of that and other cultural reasons..
**3617** Forest County in my opinion could be divided into two halves. The southern half and the northern half. I see incredible numbers of deer in the "southern" half compared to the heavily wooded, unpopulated "northern" half. I truly believe predation is a large factor in this. In the the last 3 years, I have personally seen more wolves than deer during the 9 day gun deer season. This is an issue. I also understand that they are Federally protected and out of state control. I also believe the lack of logging contributes greatly to the diminished deer herd/sightings. I understand the Headwaters Wilderness falls in this area and that unfortunately cannot be logged, but the surrounding areas have been neglected for decades. Old logging roads are completely unrecognizable. The wind sheer/tornado in the summer of 2000 also reeked havoc in a lot of areas. A lot of the woods in our area is untraversable. This issue is more controllable by us at a state level and truly needs to be addressed. I'm not advocating for all clearcuts to be done, but also selective cuts for they are quite effective for new growth. Hunting is dying in this part of the state. The economy suffers from it. Restaurants, gas stations, motels, etc. It's also terrible for hunter recruitment. My children have already expressed a distain for deer hunting due to the lack of deer numbers. This saddens me knowing what deer hunting in Northern Forest County used to be like. The feeling of "Christmas Morning" on opening day is gone and I fear forever will be in the eyes of our youth. There's still hope and things can change, but something seriously needs to be done about it. We have a chance to fix this and I will always have hope. I love this area too much to stop caring. Please help.

**3618** Every single year there's always a reason that the deer kill is down, and it's never just because the deer plain aren't here like they should be! It's always bad weather, to warm, to cold, it rained, it snowed, hunters got drunk the night before and things were a little foggy in the morning! Come on this has been on a decline for nearly 20 years. Go back to before t-zone and antlerless hunts every year, and there was a steady buck kill most every year, and people saw deer in numbers!!! Now most people you talk to including my entire hunting party, see less than 15 deer in an entire season each. 20 years ago I remember seeing that in a single sit at times. Wake up and smell the coffee. The deer population in Forest, and surrounding counties has been decimated, we need buck only for at least 5 years. Unfortunately we cannot control all of the deer taken by native Americans, and violators! And those are also all unaccounted for in your numbers too. And there's a lot of them! I hope that someday in the next 10 years Forest county can be something like it used to be, what been getting done in the 10-15 years isn't working. Hard to keep hunters into it, especially children, when you can spend countless hours at times and maybe see a deer! This is why tag sales are down, hunters are down, people are going elsewhere to hunt. There are way better places. Gotta pay for the tag, but at least you can see deer, and on public land! I've been doing that myself too! Because if your a trophy Hunter, you might as well almost completely count out Forest county. There's a few, but you might see one every 20 years. Everybody shoots every spike they see..... I hope things get better in this northern region, but it's gotta start soon... Thanks for your time Thanks for your time!

**3619** i have been in forest county my entire life , there is nothing more satisfying than seeing a deer when hunting the big woods , hunting is more about seeing than killing , seeing deer is what will attract are youth to the sport. i spend a lot of time in the woods year around always with deer on my mind. i hunt an area where a large timber company received doe tags that could be bought at the local convienence store. i witnessed drives being made and bucks being shot in December in areas that were not on the map but butted up to those lands , i was told these tags came about because of over browsing , which is the main problem , who makes that decision. a couple weeks ago i walked an area i hunted over all fall of 2019. it is an area that had a "70 year regen cut" basically is a hardwoods that looks like a clear cut , every morning i sat i saw a doe and fawn browse back and forth basically covering all the area i could see. as i walked it a couple weeks ago all the young growth was browsed heavy. my point is if a deer decision maker looked at it they would say there is too many deer we need more tags and the reality is i never seen more than the doe and fawn at one time not to say they were the only 2 deer , but i am saying a doe and fawn eat a lot. gun season amounted to 3 deer seen for the season , predation is high in forest county , i have been there my entire life and will always hunt there , the majority of the people i know see few to no deer , i never could understand how any doe tags could be supported in forest county.
We live between 2 deer farms, One in Forest County and the other in Marinette County, both of which have tested for CWD. We have seen a couple deer in our area that appear to have CWD and are no longer seen. This was last summer, in the middle of summer a does should be filled out nice looking, not with her pelvic bones protruding, and you could could her ribs, that is not normal. These deer farms SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A DOUBLE FENCE, or use some preventative measure so that the wild deer and those enclosed in a pen do not contact one another. What gets me mad, we have to pay for their destruction of their herd, when CWD is present, that I DISAGREE WITH. If you cannot take protective measures, for the safety of the wild deer, why are you in business? And the thing is, we don’t know how this will affect the other animals around here. We have a number of buffalo farms, cow herds, etc. And seeing that one cannot use the land once a herd has been destroyed, because of the lax attitude of the deer farm owners, I think it is we have to pay for their laziness and being cheap on protection the wildlife. They should have never been ALLOWED, AND SINCE THEY ARE HERE, PROTECTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE MANDATED TO PROTECT OUR WILD HERD. Politicians should keep their nose out of the DNR AREA, they don’t have a degrees, just patronage from donors to keep their farms open, and fight the DNR on regulations. I would close them all, save the WILDLIFE.

Im very confused and concerned about this presentation. I dont understand how this is even a recommendation. Im sure everyone involved hunts, but thats why this is puzzling. It is no surprise all deer harvest was down statewide. Why limit the amount of tags available? I saw WAY more deer. In person and cameras. Harvest wasnt down due to lack of deer, it was due to lack of oppurtunity. i.e. timing, distance, weather, etc etc. Not ONE hunter that I have talked to thinks herd numbers are down. All agree they are up. I also dont understand why bowhunters are taking a hit on harvest. If you think numbers are down, dont limit the bowhunters oppurtunities. Limit the gun hunters. Allow bowhunters to have access to tags. I saw at least 30 does during my time out bow hunting. I saw ZERO bucks. I only caught 3 or 4 on the camera at night. This is all done on private land. If you are going to start pulling tags, there is going to be a massive loss of revenue and interest in this activity. You need to come up with different ways of limiting if you find that necessary (which I HIGHLY disagree with) Allow antlerless tags, but only for bow OR gun. Limit more gun tags. Its already hard enough for bow hunters. Regardless of all this, I dont understand how CDAC or the DNR think the deer population is down...its as if no one is out in the woods at all. Making this a buck only zone is an absolutely TERRIBLE idea.

This unit has been low on deer for many years now. They should and have been ‘trying’ to increase the numbers for some time now. Without success. In fact, you failed miserably. And this is coming from someone that agrees with ‘lower’ deer numbers. I’m far from being a hunter that feels they need a ton of deer around, to the detriment of other things. So the fact that I’m not happy with the numbers really says something. If done right this unit would have had no problem getting up to and staying at a ‘maintain’ status seasons ago already. One of the main reasons for your failure is allowing Junior Antlerless Authorizations to be valid. Those deer, and the deer they could have birthed, etc. really add up. So that you are putting more emphasis on a few shooting does each year, while significantly lowering the deer numbers quality for them, and so many more people, every year for way to many years now. And years to come.Stop allowing the JAA completely. Or any other 'special' group of people permits. I’m against them in any situation. But at least until this unit is back up to where it should be for the first time in over a decade. Which would happen much faster without all those extra does shot. And which would then quickly benefit everyone more. Stop screwing around with this unit. It’s gotten worse not better. Buck only is pitiful.
Okay let's just cut to the chase. Without aggressive state mgmt of predators, your efforts will always do poorly. Forest County is finally getting some logging but still, too much old growth, want to grow a deer herd? Get a younger forest..... But again, wolves are killing machines, with no control. I do not want them wiped out, I like wild things in wild country, but if there is no mgmt, whats the point...... For the record, there is not enough noise from all politicians and DNR personnel on this issue. With what you now have, you can not stock pile deer in the north. I have hunted Canada and always northern areas of the state, and the UP...... Sad truth, but its the truth, so either you feed predators, or let the hunters take some. I hunt almost every day, or I am in the woods. I see a lot of deer. You could easily issue 100 tags for public, which will also assist the local economy..... Want to grow a herd, not too hard, young forest, and predator control. Put a kiosk in Laona. I mean the local schools can build them. Get some college interns to man them, and work them for credit and experience. Forest County issue with a deer herd, just like trying to increase grouse is not that hard, its all about Habitat, and predator control. Keith McCaffarey and others had that figured out a long time ago.

I put our land in Managed trust program to open it up for use by more people, not only for hunting, but for other uses as well. Under the private land / public land system, I have been penalized by doing so because in the last few years I have been unable to get an antlerless permit, while people who exclude the public from their land, or make it available only to close friends were able to get them. Meanwhile, in the course of the first 3 days of the season, I had 17 antlerless deer sightings (some of them may have been the same deer seen more than once over the course of those days). Not one deer with antlers. Meanwhile, Private land hunters are harvesting hundreds of deer. My land is less than a mile from the Brule River (as the crow files) in northern forest county. There is not enough traffic up there on those roads to make using car/deer information an accurate metric of the deer population. Why do you favor landowners who restrict who can use their property over those of us who allow the public access to it? Regarding predators, the number of wolves is alarmingly high. Stepped out of cabin at night to relieve myself and had two wolves in front of me attracted to the light from our cabin. What plans are there to eliminate these dangerous creatures so that the woods are safe again?

As a former DNR employee and someone who worked out of the Peshtigo office for several years, I’ve hunted the same public land for over 45 years so I think I have a good perspective on what has or hasn't happened in the area where I hunt. It has become like a desert for deer! I didn’t see a single hair for the last two seasons and am close to giving up deer hunting because of it. I believe the DNR has done a HORRIBLE job of deer management and predator management in this area (Forest Co.) There are too many wolves and bears and there are too many "specialty" hunts (for youth for example). Cross bows are now able to shoot almost as accurately as a rifle so to include them in the bow hunt season is a joke. Another mismanagement situation for DNR. DNR used to manage by science. Not so since Walker got the governorship. The DNR seems to blow in the wind when it comes to making good scientific decisions about wildlife management. It manages by who's got the most political power. The sooner DNR gets back to being an independent agency, the better the deer management situation will be. I'm aware that my response here will fall on deaf ears (usual inside politically correct responses only), but there are MANY ex-DNR staff that feel the same.

I fully support the preliminary recommendation to make Forest County bucks only for the 2020 hunting season. I’ve been gun hunting since 2002 and bow hunting since 2013 on public land in Armstrong Creek and it sure seems like I don’t see more deer year over year, it's always been less than or about the same number of deer, year over year, I see while hunting. My understanding is that the three main causes of deer mortality are hunters, winter severity and predation. Until the Federal government removes protections for wolves there will continue to be too many of them. In addition the, “typical”, winter in the Northern Forest Zone is nothing short of severe. When I come up north to snowmobile or ice fish in the winter I look around at the snow depth and sometimes wonder just how in the world the deer are able to survive winters in the area. For these reasons it is my opinion that Forest County should be bucks only every year. I do agree with Tom’s (DNR Biologist) opinion that the latest possible start to the gun season played a major role in the lackluster harvest numbers this past year, but for the reasons I stated earlier it is my opinion that Forest County be a bucks only unit indefinitely.
I was a Wisconsin resident for my first 50 yrs. and grew up roaming the woods in S. Forest County. Although I presently don’t live in Wisconsin (job requirements), I still return to visit family and to experience deer camp and the deer gun hunt every Nov. I hunt in the Western portion of what use to be game management area 45. In the past we told by DNR deer managers that area 45 was usually an DNR ideal management zone, 15 deer per sq. mi. My family and friends had issues with this deer density because where we hunted, West of the Pestigo River, is heavily forested we probably had a deer density of less than 15 deer per sq. mi. Based upon my observation of deer and deer sign the past several years I think that the deer density in the area's we hunt are about the same, <15 deer per sq mile. However, if one goes West of hwy. 32 in the farm area of Southern Forest County and at night shines the farm fields you will find an entirely different situation, maybe upward of 30-40 deer in a field. How can you manage a county deer population with such extremes in deer population densities? In one area of the county you need antler-less hunts and another you don’t!

There are to many dead zones through out the region. Old mature forest with no regrowth, so not enough cutting. To many predators....not just wolves. Bears eat a lot of helpless fawns every spring! Baiting has currently been illegal due to CWD at an Oneida game farm. This only affects the law abiding citizens. Majority of the hunters are still baiting in some fashion, so the handful of guys that don't struggle to see a squirrel let a lone a deer. Try introducing a new young hunter to the sport in this region....not every child is good a sitting still for hours to not even see a flash of a tail. When lucky they may see a red squirrel. Obviously I have the right to hunt else where, but my tradition has been the Northern Forest & that's where I will stay. The demise was record antlerless tags in 1996 & 1996 following two horrible winters! Every public land, antlerless hunter packed their campers and headed to the Nicolet those couple years to assist the DNR & Mother Nature in wiping out the herd. This area has never recovered since! That goes for deer and small businesses! This area should not see another antlerless deer harvested for many years to come.

As a hunter who has hunted the same tract of land since 1990 and has harvested buck and doe in the area I find it interesting that your doe tag quota is at zero. The number of does that I see is surprisingly large. In the last 5 years over and over I see multiple does day after day and very few bucks. I think granting doe tags in the lottery would be the way to go. If a hunter drew a tag the year before let another hunter get a tag that missed out the prior year. I think the current call in lottery for antlerless tags is flawed. I have followed the rules and phoned only to find zero tags available. I have waited in que to get in line only to have friends call in and get to the front of the line and be able to get a antlerless tag in a few minutes? Go back to a mail in form with paper return tag to even the playing field. The lottery is held on a week day. People work on week days. How can a average guy get a tag if he needs to take off work to do it? I apologize for rambling but the current tag system is flawed. I also believe your doe count for Forest County is flawed at least in the southern portion where I hunt. Thanks for the open forum.

There are a few deer around cabins and around a few of the farms in the County but in the National Forest every year there seems there are fewer deer. Areas where I used to find many scrapes and rubs we can hardly find a track anymore. I really believe wolves are killing a lot more deer then the DNR tells us. We see more and more wolf sign and kills every year and something should be done about the wolf population. I firmly believe what one of your DNR employees told me a few years ago. " After a bad winter there are probably only 10 deer left per sq mile in the National Forest, an average wolf pack has 5 wolves in it and each wolf kills a minimum of 20 deer per year. So do the math, that is why there are not many deer left in Northern Wisconsin" There should not be any antlerless permits in Forest County at all not even the youth permits. I think there is a flaw in the DNR guess of our deer population, last opening weekend was PERFECT weather and hardly a shot was heard so don't blame on the late season. I remember years with terrible weather opening weekend and we shot lots of deer, there just are not many deer in the National Forest right now.
My comment to the DNR is why are you issuing Hunting Permits to Logging Companies for Deer doing CROP DAMAGE. What a bunch of bunk. Deer have been browsing for years in the forest. What about the loggers that go in with their Processors, have you checked out the damage they do with their machinery. That is who should be given a fine. They do more tree damage on 40 acres, than 20 deer on 40 acres. I think that this should stop, the deer don’t spend that much time browsing, as in the winter months they head for the swamps, if they are there, it is when the loggers are in the woods cutting and they come to east on the branches that are laying there. The DNR is not what it once was. SAD. Do what is best for nature and the environment, not what BIG BUSINESS or Legislatures want. You have the degree not them. Thanks for reading. You should only have disabled hunters using the crossbow, forget the rest. They are able to hunt with a gun or regular bow and arrow. Permits on the youth hunt, I think people are taking advantage of this, signing up a year old for a permit, give me a break. It is getting out of hand already.

There just seems to be less shooting every year. I hear way less shooting than a few years ago. See way less deer while on the stand. See less deer sign than I used to see while walking around in the woods in October, November. I know there are things beyond our control that affect the herd population. Be it severe winter cold and snow depths or wolves killing so many deer! All those does that were shot in the 1990's was over kill and now our hunters are seeing the long term effects of those thousands of doe permits that were issued in those years. It is gonna take a long time to get the herd numbers back up if we keep shooting does every year! The big racked bucks that we used to see hanging at other cabins along the roads by my cabin are a thing of the past. Every body shots all these small racked bucks, so that year class is wiped out somewhat that could grow a few more years. I JUST WISH THE HERD WOULD GROW TO WHERE IT WAS A FEW DECADES AGO. Was nice to see deer on a regular basis and even harvest one once in a while with a large rack and body. Thank you.

I’m not sure why you do these. It’s a great idea but you never seem to listen to the committee or the people’s comments. There is rarely a trophy size buck killed in this county and prior to wolves and years of t zones we had lots of deer and a good number of trophy bucks. I don’t think you consider the amount of deer that the Native American tribes kill. I have hunted the same areas for my entire life. I know what it looks like when we have deer around and these past few years have been horrible. I’m trying to get two young kids involved in hunting and it is very hard when they sit there day after day and see nothing. We go to Montana now and they have a ton of deer because they limit the tags they give out. Maybe that is something you should consider but it will never happen because they care to much about the money. A 4 points on one side antler restriction would help with the trophy buck problem also. Hopefully you hear these comments from people and consider some of these things. If something doesn’t change you will continue to lose hunters and license sales.

There remains a significant difference in herd sizes on private versus public lands in Forest County. I own and hunt on private land that is below the DMAP acreage criteria for obtaining antlerless tags so my only option is through bonus tags. I have a significant deer browsing problem and have a growing herd (saw 12 antlerless deer at one time on the opening day last year) but no permits to harvest any (ran out before I could get one). Two does I shot in 2017 and 2018 were determined by a biologist to be 11 and 7 years old, showing that we are stockpiling older and older does that probably does little to grow the population as desired by county CDAC. Any young trees on the property are heavily browsed. If antlerless tags are not available thru CDACs, DMAP program needs to be adjusted to drop acreage limits to allow a private land owner with documented deer problems to have some course of action. Please allow at least a limited number of private land tags though I question if all of the harvesting done in 2019 was done on private land.
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<td>3635</td>
<td>Is there any current information or studies being taken into consideration of the wolf population north of county Hwy. 8, (Forest County), indicating the affects that the wolves also put on the deer herd numbers? I believe the harsh winter and wolf population combined are putting the number of deer in this area at a low level as well. In the past five years I've seen fresh wolf tracks near and around my winter hunting grounds sometimes less than a day old. I've also had the experience of seeing wolves run past my deer blind while hunting. If I happen to see wolf tracks prior to the rifle season, I end up relocating or just not hunting at all. It takes at least a week or so for the deer to come back to the area once their driven away. The deer simply lay low until the pressure is off them. It's discouraging as an outdoorsman to sit for days on end just to see red squirrels. Until the wolf population is put into check, I'll be spending my future rifle season at home with family and friends.</td>
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<td>3636</td>
<td>I am a fanatical Whitetail Hunter with many Pope &amp; Young bucks. Even though I know I'm not going to see any deer, I still try almost every night to get out during the hunt especially during the rut. I have seen more timberwolves and black bears then I have seen whitetail deer. I cannot engage my teenagers to hunt because there are no deer to be seen. This is true for the tourists that come up from the south. They're not coming any longer because there are no deer to be seen. Are bars, our gas stations our grocery stores are lumber yards, our hardware stores are all getting ready to close if not have closed (Connor's Hardware and the grocery store in Laona). What needs to be done is for the DNR to allow more bear hunting permits and to allow us to kill the stinking timberwolves. We are now even starting to have cougars show up. I don't want to get started on the lazy idiot millennials with the crossbows! What wizzbang thought that was a good idea??</td>
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<td>3637</td>
<td>This past weekend I took a slow 40 mile ride on my UTV thru the National Forest South of Armstrong Creek to see how many deer tracks I could see crossing the road 6 days after the Easter snow. Well sadly its very obvious what our problem is. I crossed maybe 25 sets of deer tracks but the big problem is I had to have seen well over 100 sets of wolf tracks crossing the roads. The freshest set of deer tracks I seen had about 5 sets of wolf tracks hot on its trail so I have a bad feeling about that poor deer. I spend a lot of time in the woods and have shot many many deer in the National Forest of Forest County over the past 50 years but I have not seen a buck gun hunting in Forest County for 5 years. Yes there are a few deer around the few farms in the county and around cabins but I strongly disagree with the DNR guess of the total deer population in Forest County. NO DOES PERMITS not even the youth hunters!!</td>
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<td>3638</td>
<td>Wisconsin DNR Because the deer biologists in Northern Wi. have miss managed our deer resources for years. To me this is really sad. I started hunting deer up north in 1962 and it was fun and I enjoyed every minute I was up north but because of your poor management of the herd I must go to other states and hunt the Sheboygan area. As I remember the forest service and the Auto insurance lobbyists have tainted the deer biologists starting in about the 70’s. I would like to recommend that when the Biologists take courses in college they take a course in Agriculture under herd management. It’s not hard to figure out why the deer herd is terrible in northern Wisconsin, thanks to you to many DOE's are killed. Youth hunts, wolves, bears, bobcats and cars. A good Biologist would adjust to the conditions and stop shooting Doe's. Thanks for ruining the northern deer herd and our family tradition. Jim Schomberg</td>
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<td>3639</td>
<td>reduce the wolf population. I have been tracking this adult pair for 3 seasons now, and now has a young one. How many will populate from that? Tribal people using rifles in September and October has just got to stop. I have hunted the same 3 square mile area for 45 years. I have watched the changes and not for the good. as the predators increase in head count the deer population falls and these last 2 years the hunters are also gone now. Logging roads are not taken care of so the access to these areas are limited in places and no access in most places. The walk trails you put in decades ago have no maintenance to them at all so that alone damages all wild life habitat in this area. I understand that i am talking about one area but i spent my life hunting and fishing there. I believe me and my hunting partner could educate farther that charts and graphs. We are the boots on the ground.. Good luck.</td>
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Recommendation of zero antlerless is perfect. Opinion based on personal observations of deer sign on public land in good deer habitat in the Blackwell area (east of Laona/Wabeno). 97 miles walked/scouted in fall 2019. Very little deer sign observed, rubs, scrapes, tracks, droppings, wolf kills (2), and very few physical deer seen. Then 19 miles walked/scouted end of March 2020 including Wolf kills (1). Zero dead deer from winter severity or other. Zero deer sheds recovered. Little to no deer sign. 4 deer jumped in 19 miles of scouting very good deer habitat. Highly concerned with the deer population in this area. National Forest in this area is heavily hunted. Many illegally bait sites observed, recorded, and provided to DNR. The deer herd in this area must be afforded every opportunity to recover. Another bad winter will be another set back. Predation in this area ever increasing. Thank you.

I have lived in Forest County all my life and after watching the presentation from the biologist I have to laugh. Where all these deer are is a mystery to me, yes there are a few around the few farms in the county but in the National Forest the deer are few and far between. I do a lot of snowmobiling around the county and areas where years ago during bad winters like the last couple we used to see deer trails like a cow path. Now there is hardly any tracks at all in these areas, and the only places there are quite a few tracks is close to towns and cabins. Logging jobs used to have lots of deer hanging around but now some winter logging areas there are hardly any deer. I see lots more wolf sign then ever before and between the wolves and the bad winters I think that is the reason there are very few deer in most of the National Forest. I don't think there should be any doe permits at all!!

I think the junior anterless tags should stay valid in order to keep the next generation of hunters growing. With this being said, we are teaching the youth how to violate with it being okay to do so. Your wardens are not doing thier jobs they were hired to do. They do not even bother with illegal baiting. This is your biggest problem. The public land and private land hunters use baiting to keep deer concetrated in their area. The hunters that do it the right way (legal Way) have little chance to see any numbers of deer. With all the anterless tags going to private land last year, it made it pretty frustrating, especially when I am showing my grandaughter how to do it the lawful way. Who cares about CWD, you guys do not enforce anything anyway, look at the gas stations selling corn, apples and carrots. I am tired of it, we will spend our money out west where they care about conservation.

There is a significant and long time decline in the deer population in forest county. I have grown up here, and have spent over 20 years hunting in this area, for deer as well as other wildlife. Wolf management is a MAJOR problem in this county, and many other northern counties. They are doing severe damage to the deer population, and without any management for them this continues to get worse each year. This has to be looked at and considered, or there will not be a deer population left. Not only is this discouraging to sportsman, but a lot of the local business owners who used to rely on deer season to attract visitors to their small town and keep their communities going. There is nowhere near the travel, or excitement about deer hunting in this area, and many people are fearful to go in the woods without protection, to walk around with their dogs, or to do anything recreational.

The number of wolves in the Town of Wabeno area has exploded. We had what appeared to be 4 different wolves on our property last year (game cameras). We found 3 deer carcasses that appeared to be killed by wolves on our private property. Wolves are becoming a safety issue, we no longer allow children to walk trails unsupervised...or let pets run free. My son and I hunted 6 of the 9 day gun season last year and combined saw 1 anterless deer. My main issues of concern going forward are high number of wolves that are becoming a danger to humans and Deer. Late opening dates for gun season need to go away...I believe it should open on the 3rd Saturday of November every year. Baiting should be allowed as it aids deer sightings...there are now many people who are baiting illegally in Forest County...baiting needs to be legalized or vilolaters prosecuted. Lack of logging also a issue!
2019 Public land received 0 antlerless tags, yet it makes up 70 percent of the county. The decline in the number of gun hunters shouldn't be shocking to anyone who has hunted the area for the past 10 years. They should be shocked that it took this long for something like this to happen. I've been an advocate for our gun hunting party (typically 6 guys and 3 trucks) to leave Forest county for the past several years and take our $$$ with us because of the low/no doe permits issued to public land. The deer are there, we've seen them while on bow hunting trips and during gun season around the Hiles area. I have almost become a vehicle vs. deer statistic a couple of times while traveling the roads of Forest county. I agree with trying to grow the herd plan, but I think there's room for more than 0 or 100 or even 300 doe permits that are issued to public land.

As a hunter that is NOT a “hunting land owner” but hunts with friends in several counties on their private land, it is an annual frustration that we have to be so specific in our antlerless tag designations. This is especially true for Bow Hunting. Would an either gender option for any county make that large of an impact? I can't imagine it would. Flexibility versus rigidity, would encourage both compliance and flexibility for people like me who enjoy hunting in different parts of the state. I currently could hunt in Waupaca, Vilas, Oneida, Florence, Buffalo, Oconto, and Forest- all on private land, but never know from year to year where I will be able to link up during my hunting date opportunities. Some years I never had the opportunity to hunt where I thought I would when designating the antlerless tag. It is frustratingly and unnecessarily rigid.

I would like to know the buck to doe ratio in this unit. I would also like to know when a wolf season is to be re-instituted and when dry land trapping will again be allowed in so called wilderness areas. I would like for bear to be taken as part of the deer authorization without the need to garner preference points and likewise wolf. Archery permits should not include shoulder fired weapons, these weapons should be included in the gun season, likewise muzzle loaders. All baiting and feeding of wildlife should be banned and all captive cervid facilities closed and treated with copper ions and polysulfonic acid. All wilderness and experimental forests should be clear cut and forest fires allowed to cleanse the land.

I have spring, summer and fall, beaver trapped in this area for 27 years. The deer herd has not really been great any of those years. Up until and including 2017 it was just OK. Since 2017 the herd has decreased each year. This year is the worst I have ever seen. The migration trails coming back from Kimbal Creek and south had the lowest amount of deer I have ever seen. Allen creek area always had a good amount of deer by hwy 70 and up Gaspardo road to the Brule River. This year with the snow on the ground I have seen 3 deer tracks all with wolves following them. The wolves stay above the snow. The deer sink in. It is already a waste of time hunting here and if something is not done about the wolves very soon they will wipe the deer out. The good thing about that is the wolves will then move out and keep moving south to cause problems.

I have owned 30 acres of land just outside of Crandon for 12 years. When we first started hunting it we were able to take a doe or a buck for about the first three years. Each year hunting gets harder and harder there. We see more wolf and bear sign than anything else. When my son, grandson and I are early bow hunting we hear random rifle shots all around us. We see deer with the back end cut off and dumped in ditches around us when seasons are even open. We feel that most deer are taken up there before the season begins due to poaching. At one point we had four deer dead in a ditch partly butchered and parts of other dead deer scattered down Sipple Road. One of those four was a buck and the top of the head had been cut off and no meat taken. This area needs a higher amount of DNR patrolling to stop this poaching.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

3650 This unit is supposed to be trying to increase the deer herd and how do we do that if we keep shooting does? The members of the cdac committee that are voting to shoot more does are not doing what the hunters want. Their supposed to be representing the hunters. If that's the case and were trying to increase the deer herd why are they voting to shoot more does? I also think that the dnr is waaaay off on their numbers! What do they base this on? They don't even hunt in this area and have no idea what's going on in our county. I have no faith in them whatsoever! As far as im concerned you should bring back the in person deer registration! They have given an easy way to poach with this system. The dnr took away a lot of tradition when they eliminated this. Their agency has been their own undoing of deer hunting!!!

3651 The first thing that needs to be done in all are northern counties is the wolf delisted and a season put back on so numbers can be brought down to a manageable level. Furthermore the rights that the Native American tribes have on the number of deer each tribal member can harvest and the way in which they can fill tags is unsustainable for the deer herd in combination with the current wolf population up here it’s literally destroying what is left of the deer herd up here. I have watched in the last 20 years are deer populations drop completely off the chart and all I ever here the Dnr say is a rough winter has had a serious effect on the herd. Start saying wolves are part of the problem with declining deer numbers. Nobody is fooled up here with the same reasons you give every year. Thank you.

3652 I have owned land in Forest County for 16 years and honestly, if that were not the case, I would not hunt the area due to lack of deer population. I have seen swings in the location and type of predators. Coyotes are back in full force and in the last year, I would say the highest I have seen. The bear population is also high with numbers of larger bear. A few timber wolves roamed the area a few years back, but as the wolves receded, the Coyotes flourished. I saw more coyote tracks last season that ever. Last winter was real bad, and out of the 3 fawns I saw regularly, Now I see one. The deer seem more timid, which I attribute to being chased... That on top of the hard winter does not give me a lot of hope for the population in 2020.

3653 Forest County has a major Wolf problem that needs to be addressed. The Wolf population needs to be managed like every other species. With the wolf population and the severe winters in northern Wisconsin we should NOT harvest does. Northern Wisconsin hunting property prices continue to drop and less hunters every year. We are losing our next generation of hunters because they are not seeing a lot of deer and losing interest. I also feel Northern Wisconsin should only allow one Buck tag per year per hunter. If you use it during the archery season then you can't shoot one during rife or muzzle-loader season. Or do like Michigan where you charge for the double buck tag and the second buck has to have a four point minimum on one side.

3654 I am disappointed in the lack of acknowledging we have a very large problem with the native American harvest numbers. Knowing that some natives are harvesting 30 to 100 deer of all age and sex. FACT. Why can we not have a county of resident preference for doe tags including youth and disabled hunters. I am tired of having people(youth tags) come up from southern units to harvest does because they don't want to harvest them on their private property for "deer management" I would like to harvest a doe now and then but never will be able to due to these factors. Shut down crossbow except for disabled or retired. Close spotlight hunting for natives(yes they do it off res) I personally know because they brag every day.

3655 First off- I am very pleased to be a part of this topic. Thanks for lending an ear. Two points I wish to make here; first: As continuing the hunting tradition in our state and the country as a whole is top priority, I would be in favor of a Junior antlerless harvest across Forest Co. so as to give the next generation of hunters here a better chance of continuing the tradition. Second: Natural predation on deer remains a top concern for the health and future of the deer herd, an opinion shared by many. Relentless reminders of wolves' impact on deer herds and livestock, etc is all most of us can do to contribute to a change that sees a brighter future for the deer population. Again, much appreciated.
Hunting in the Armstrong Creek/Black Creek area in the national forest. I personally witnessed 6 does, 1 yearling buck that was subsequently harvested by another hunter. Time out was all day over the course of 4 days from the Saturday opener until Tuesday night prior to blizzard. An average of 3 deer drives and morning/evening sits occurred the Monday and Tuesday of season were done. I would say my group of 5 has been seeing an increase in does over last 3 years. Also after a long hiatus (10ish years) of low hunting pressure, there has been an increase in hunting pressure by 60% with groups of 10+ showing up again starting last year. Looking forward to Deer Season 2020 overall.

In units that invalidate youth antlerless tags in an effort to rebuild herd numbers we must also consider invalidating other forms of antlerless tags too. Specifically disabled hunters continue to fill their antlerless tags, many traveling into zones with no other antlerless hunting pressure. If units are truly trying to increase the herd numbers these tags being used are counterproductive to our goals and there is little reason ALL hunters can’t support the effort of herd growth, disabled hunters too! At the very least disabled hunter should be required to reside in said zone if being allowed to exercise an antlerless kill in a zone designated for rebuilding of herd numbers.

I own 80 acres of land in Forest Co. I manage a food plot for wildlife. Never saw so few deer in 50 years. Didn’t even buy a gun license last year. Traffic, coyote, bear predators are all about the same in numbers. The only difference I can see is the increase in wolf population. They were supposed to be kept to a state wide population of under 400. That was a joke and their numbers far exceed that. Get rid of the absolutely useless wolves and I suspect the deer numbers will return. Until then I see no reason to waste money on a license or waste time hunting. The deer have a hard enough time surviving up there and you folks only make it worse. Get rid of the wolves!!

For the past two years we have seen wolves with our own eyes while in the woods. We hunt on private land near Crandon. This past year an entire pack of wolves made a deer kill within 100 yards of a hunter in our party and multiple wolves consumed the deer. Our entire party of 5 hunters have just decided to no longer deer hunt at all. The population has obviously decreased as none of the 5 hunters saw any deer over two full days of hunting and then to have a pack of wolves that close has made us all too nervous to reenter the woods in this area. Such a shame as a wonderful tradition has come to an end (as well as the money we spent at the local restaurants, etc.

I have hunted the nic national forest for 45 years in a row. When you talked about predadation I noticed you didn’t mention wolves. When you can’t see any deer, anywhere, and almost no tracks except for wolf tracks why would you hunt more than 3 days? We have had no problem with cold or snow in the past. I can’t understand why you think the population is more than your numbers tell you. You’ve allowed too many antlerless permits for too long, you deny the high population of wolves and you and the forest service have done a terrible job at managing the woods. If you think I’m pissed your right! I’m afraid we’ll never have what we once had again  John

The predator numbers in the Northern forest land are far too great for a healthy deer herd. Years ago the northwoods was known for it's excellent hunting of quality deer which helped support the local economy. That was before the DNR reintroduced wolves and hunters automatically received a bear kill tag with a deer license. Now we need to wait around 11 years to harvest a bear and the northwoods is full of predators, therefore less deer and very few quality bucks. Wisconsin's deer herd in northwoods It is a complete disaster thanks to poor decisions made by educated people who know nothing about what is really happening in the wild.

There is a significantly lower amount of hunters in the woods by me. There needs to be incentive to hunt the north woods instead of the farms down south. The timing of the hunt is also important. Maybe adding more days to the northern areas would help? Allowing us to bait since no real data has linked bait to CWD? The way we are reporting a harvest is BROKEN and does not accurately show how many deer were actually shot. I can guarantee that people are shooting deer and not reporting it. Just changing the number of doe tags in our area will not fix the problems. Better leadership in the WI DNR with fresh ideas is needed!!!!!!!!!!
First I am ticked off with the doe permits from last year! We have 71% public land in Forest county & yet we had no doe permits for public land. People with private land bait & draw the deer from public land! People that sell deer corn, there sales have risen since the baiting ban! Now the wolf population is on the rise & we have yet to see a wolf hunt. We had at least 6 wolves working our area last deer season! Also you let people buy licenses during season & you wonder why sales have dropped off! People wait to buy a license until they get a deer. Without a back tag there is no way of telling if somebody has a license or not!

I hunt in southern Forest county and feel that the antlerless population is sufficient enough to allow a similar harvest quota as in 2019, maybe even slightly higher. I like to have meat in the freezer and I feel a buck only season greatly reduces the chance of that. I had 4 gun hunters on my property last year and only one buck was seen among all the hunters. We passed on it because it was a young buck. I really think hunters will harvest 1.5 year old bucks in order to have venison in the freezer if they can’t harvest antlerless deer. It would be nice to start to see an older age structure in the bucks in Forest county.

Our group have been hunting in the north central area of Forest County for over 60 years We have hunted thru early and late openers and good and bad weather. We hunt up to 8 days of the season. In the last 5 year we continue to see less deer. This includes in our stands and on trail cams. The 30 minute presentation was okay but doesn’t really give a clear picture on predication numbers. Not once does it mention the wolf effect on the herd. Not for 2018 or earlier years. Every year we see more wolves and nobody talks about their effect on the deer population. They have to eat and deer are probably their choice on the menu.

I am concerned that the DNR is considering limiting Crossbow hunting or dramatically reducing the time allowed to hunt with a crossbow. Do they believe a compound bow to any less lethal and deadly? The newer compounds are every bit as accurate and deadly as a crossbow and to single the crossbow out and reduce the time in the field during archery season is unreasonable and if they do this may drive myself and other hunters I know away from the sport. Please pass on my concerns Also, consider going back to allowing a gallon or two of bait to be used for gun/deer season. Our camp didn't shoot a buck the entire season.

I would like to see the adoption of an “every other year approach to antleless tags in this unit. In almost no circumstance should ANY antlerless tags be given out in back to back years. I’d also like to propose a trial year in which no bucks without multiple points are harvested with firearms. I believe the results on overall deer population, deer sitings and deer quality in just one year of this practice would be astounding. For years age studies on harvested bucks have shown the vast majority to be 1.5 year olds. If we could get one year where those all made it through, I think it would really open peoples eyes.

I deer hunt more than most hunters out there and have seen the decline of deer in Forest county. I feel that the predation from wolves, coyotes and bear are destroying the heard. There is also a large amount of deer shot at night by the tribe. I feel that no matter what I say, nothing will change!!! This is a multi million dollar business for the state of Wisconsin that is being wasted by not managing it correctly!!! It's hard to get your kids interested in deer hunting when they sit for days in the cold and see nothing!! Northern Wisconsin used to be a great place to deer hunt but not anymore.

Your recommendations for this unit suck! when you hunt by farm fields there are penty of does (which is usually private) but with no doe tags and the amount of bucks that get shot leaves no bucks to breed all the does! Then you have a small number of bucks to breed all the does and they run themselves in to the ground and die if we have a bad winter! If this goes on for to many years you will have no deer!So lets give out a few doe tags and put a minimum size limit on bucks to six points or greater! Give back the RIGHTS to feed the deer for bad winters and in a few years you will see numbers increase! thanks
The deer herd in Forest Co is very dependent on winter severity and food sources. It is good to see some harvesting of the forest especially in areas with over mature pine plantations which are little benefit to wildlife. Illegal baiting remains a huge problem in the whole north region and seem to contribute to nocturnal deer movement as seen on my trail cams. Predators are often overstated and blamed for lack of hunter success. Keep the youth season as the kill is very minimal and gets kids in the woods. I still miss the registration stations. Deer hunting in the big woods is always a challenge.

At what point does the DNR do what’s right for the deer population? Most people realize just like most everything in life, it is money driven. Where does it end? You just about wiped out the herd in the northern region and your working on the rest of state, The wolf population has exploded to the point you’ve lost control, you give out 5 times the amount of tags to deer ratio, it’s not the whitetails fault people drive with tunnel vision or for crop damage, what threat does CWD pose to humans? ... none. Cleaver way to knock down the herd even more, stop native spearing already it’s 2020 not 1820.

To my mind we simply have to have very strict penalties for violations and blatant recidivism. As I read publications that report violations of deer hunters it becomes very apparent that a great many people have little or no regard for the rules. Stiff fines and possible long incarnation seems to be the only thing that might curb this scoff law mentality. We have to stop this colliding....If we all play by the rules we return to a state where deer hunting is and will always be an honorable event. If you can’t or won’t play by the rules then you must suffer the consequences. Thank You.

I am 77 yrs old and have hunted the same general area since I was 12yrs old and since 1996 I have seen a large decrease in the deer population and have not seen any increases. My wife and I usually spend approximately 10 weeks a year in the Laona area and when we travel during hours of darkness we are lucky if we see any. The lack of deer almost wants me to give up my favorite sport, I am past where I have to harvest one, but sure would be nice to see some. My grandchildren would like to go hunting with me but I won’t take them along because they would lose interest by not seeing any deer.

One of my opinions that I would like to address is forest management in this area. I believe we need to do more clear cuts in the national forest. We need to have new growth for the deer. Old forests do nothing to help the deer for food. I believe we would see a big improvement. I hunted the national forest between Armstrong Creek & Argonne WI. and The only place you see new growth is on private or County land. I still visit the area because I have Family But I quit hunting because you don’t see deer. No Food and wolves and antlerless permits over the years have devastated this area.

On the private land I hunt, deer numbers have been great. We manage the 160 acres we own and have portions logged every 8-10 years, which has definitely proved beneficial to all wildlife. The deer and grouse population on the land is great. We are surrounded by nicolet forest which is old woods so we have the food and cover. Its not uncommon to see 10 deer a day. The only thing that should be considered is maybe a size limit per buck. Since there are no doe permits the young bucks are taking the hit. I know Michigan has a limit on size so maybe Wisconsin could incorporate something.

I am a Michigan resident and buy a out of state tag to hunt with my friends and have done so for 20 years since i move back to Michigan. In that time i have taken 3 deer as i am very picky and get my deer in michigan bow hunting every year. I have noticed that the deer numbers continue to go down due to not and much logging on state land and predators increasing. It is not a very good sitution as our group has gone from 26 guys down to 14 and it is the guys that dont want to buy the out of state ticket to hunt. I will continue because i am the one that started our camp in Michigan.
I don’t understand what is being done to control predators. I know only 25% to 35% of deer deaths result from predators but what is being done to reduce predators in forest county? I look at bear preference points required to hunt them and it takes me at least 9-10 years maybe a permit to hunt them. Would reducing the points required not help to reduce for example bear populations to allow more deer to survive? I think reducing predators would help bring deer populations to numbers you are trying to achieve and not impact concerns there are not enough predators in the county.

Support some antlerless tags for the general hunting public, especially for private lands. When a hunter has only a buck tag in their pocket they will shoot the first buck they see, even if it is a spike. With an antlerless tag in their pocket they may pass up a spike since they will also have a chance at a doe. I hunt for meat, not horns . . . as probably most hunters do. I hear rumors of antler restrictions which I oppose. Could have the state allow purchase of a second buck tag with antler restrictions, something to look into. I support 100% allowing youth to take any deer.

Forest county should be divided into 2 zones. North and South of Hwy 8. There are a lot of deer south of Hw 8. This spring on one evening I counted 130 deer in fields in Freedom and heard similar story SW of Laona. You could issue 200 permits on public and private land both to harvest a couple hundred antlerless deer south of Hwy 8 without adversely affecting the population there. Most of these field areas are surrounded by National Forest so you need to have public land permits because that is where the deer spend their days. Thanks for being members of the committee!

In Forest county, Native Americans can shoot unlimited deer to feed the elders. Could this be looked into so much as to have them at least report the amount of deer taken and shown to the public and making sure the deer are actually taken off of reservation property. Please consider not taking away the youth tags for antlerless deer. This gets kids hooked on hunting and spending time in the woods. Can you consider people harvesting does in the county of residence. For example, people coming to forest county from Milwaukee county and harvesting deer in this unit.

Been hunting in Forest County for 40 years and I have never seen the deer numbers this low. There have been bad winters in the past and we always had bear, yotes, and bobcats but it all changed when the wolves moved in. I know we have to wait until they come off of the endangered list (again) to control them but until we have that no does should be shot for any reason. I have a hunting camp and my gang it just about to the point to either leave the area or stop hunting all together. It is a shame what the wolves have done to us hunters and the economy up north.

I agree with zero antlerless. Even though I saw more deer in 2019 than prior years, it is still nowhere close to where it once was. I believe that part of that has to do with predators, but lack of timber harvesting - especially in regards to Popple clear-cuts, has a tremendous impact. I am also concerned with the effect of CWD, both with a reduction in the herd but also more hunters that will become disillusioned with hunting. Hand in hand with that is the reduction of future hunters as the hunters who quit will no longer mentor new hunters. Thanks.

I spent over 60 hours in the woods during the nine day gun hunt and saw one deer yet I checked my cameras and had hundreds of pictures of deer all night long And only 3 different buck on camera. I have many cameras out year-round and have a lot of doe on camera but not a lot of buck. I do believe there should be doe tags for private land owners only not the people who just come up there to hunt. only for the people who have a residence and or land in this area I did see a lot of doe during shooting hours during early season nothing in the late season.

I have hunted in Forest county off and on for 40 years. I have watched the deer herd drop to almost nothing. I don’t know if it is a management issue, the wolves, or hard winters. I do know that there are less deer now than there have ever been in my lifetime. I don’t bow hunt anymore only because there are so few deer. I gun hunt only because my son likes to go up to the cabin for the deer hunt. If he shoots a deer that's all we take, one. Hopefully, things get better.
I see there is no antlerless hunting this year. I just wonder why it took so long to notice the deer population.

There needs to be antler restrictions for all the northern forest DMU of 3 points greater than an inch per side, let them go, let them mature to become something nicer to harvest, but nobody understands this point of view, NOBODY! If you let the buck grow up to at least 3+ yrs old you will have happier hunters, and you should have one tag, either it be a doe, or a 3 point or bigger on 1 side buck! No exceptions! You people will never understand this management, so I'm just preaching to the wrong people in charge of our natural resources.

I would propose an end to the ban on baiting on public lands. If done in moderation, I believe the risk of further spread of CWD would be minimal. Additionally this would allow for greater success in both the bow and gun seasons. With greater success will come greater interest resulting in greater revenue for the DNR as well as local economies. Although it is currently illegal to bait animals in Forest County, The success of private landowners in the previous year’s hunt suggest that baiting is occurring on those lands regardless.

I bought land in forest county 3 years ago. I hunt with my son and neither of us have ever had a shot at a buck. But we always see doe and many doe. Prior to hunting Wisconsin we lived in and hunted Illinois for a number of years with great success. I realize there’s a difference of populations and strains from Illinois to Wisconsin. So it’s disappointing to not be able to take at least 1 doe on your own private land. I understand the reasoning behind the management program but it’s just my opinion of disappointment as a land owner.

I hunt county land and the amount of hunters has dropped dramatically since going to Anterless only for the most part. I am able to wonder around public land and see very few hunters. There is also little evidence of people harvesting deer. I am seeing more deer though and think the hunting numbers are down due to the lack of opportunity to harvest doe, in past if you had a doe tag there was a chance you could harvest something. Its a challenge to hunt where I hunt but I am happy that there are little or no doe tags issued.

The deer know where they are safe and food is readily available. Private Farmland. That a family or close friend might hunt one time a year. The public land in the KMNU, especially in September and October, is flooded with groups of people Hiking, Biking, Walking Dogs and Riding Horses. All around influxing the wildlife to leave the noisy public land to find calmer and safer private land. With the State Parks being closed right now, I would like to see them be closed again from Sept. 1st until Dec. 11th Thank you

I own hunting land in the northern part of the county, and this is the worst year I have seen in my 36 years of hunting up there. Predators are everywhere and the habitat has not improved. This is the 5th year for my son gun hunting there and he has not seen a deer. This area used to be excellent but will never be the same again. The tradition to go there is great, but the hunting is non-existent. Please work with partner agencies to have predator management and for habitat improvement (logging). Thank you!

I understand that gun season was very late for 2019 season and we did get some significant snow. However while our entire group of 7 guys who were scouting like we always do the week prior to the gun opener, we all noticed a HUGE decline in deer tracks in the couple of inches of snow that was on the ground. All of our normal runways were lacking tracks. Those same areas remained track less all of gun season. No night time movement whatsoever. As we expected between 7 guys we saw 2 does over a 4day period.

The widnr years ago adopted a extermination policy of the deer heard here fueled by the deer czar from texas they hired. along with wolf predation the widnr has reduced the deer herd to miniscule levels. the widnr nor the state of wisconsin realizes the economic impact this has upon the northern counties. I doubt this area will ever see good deer numbers again,unless wolf numbers are decreased. the widnr has done this and the state of wisconsin does not care and has let the widnr get away with this.
OK I THINK THAT SINCE THE STATE STOPPED BAITING I PERSONALLY HAVEN'T SEEN HARDLY ANY DEER AND ZERO BUCKS IN MY STAND WHICH I HAVE HUNTED FOR YEARS. IN A LARGE FOREST THAT HAS HARDLY ANY HUNTING PRESSURE THE DEER HAVE NO INCENTIVE TO MOVE SHORT OF THE RUT. IT’S JUST GETTING A LITTLE FRUSTRATING SETTING UP A BLIND AND SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY AND NOT HAVING A CHANCE TO SHOOT A BUCK [I DON'T SHOOT DOE], NO LEAST SEE ONE. HECK I DON'T EVEN HEAR AS MANY GUN SHOTS I USED TO HEAR IN YEARS PAST. THANK YOU

Forest county should be a deer paradise. But instead it’s more of a nightmare not because of the winters, bugs, wolves, bears, coyotes, bobcats, and cars. It’s because of the four months of relentless hunting. a county as large as forest with 71 percent public land to only harvest a shade above four hundred bucks(on public) is well saddening and maddening at the same time. It’s time for a change we call our selves as hunters, conservationists so sometimes instead of killing we need to not kill.

I don't think the people should be denied baiting because of a deer farm finding a deer with the virus. These deer are all in cages and maintained by the farms. They should have a double fence built. After all they make HUGE amounts of money on these deer where the regular hunter has only a set amount of time to tag a deer. WE STILL HAVE TO WORK AND THAT CUTS INTO OUR TIME IN THE WOODS. I know they say you will see more deer without baiting but I have seen the opposite. Thanks for listening.

Your presentation was very helpful. Our family has has property in Forest county for 70 seventy plus years. The information you provided seems to be accurate to what I have witnessed. I would agree it is not time to issue any anterless harvest permits. Many of the young hunters have been so discouraged about the amount of deer they see hunting, they stopped coming to camp. 2010-2011 seemed to be goods years. I would like to see a similar presentation next year also, keep up the good work.

While this survey did not address the issue of the crossbow season I would like to voice my opinion. I am 69 years old. I have hunted with a compound bow for about 30 years. Last year I was forced to used a crossbow. I love the September through November hunting time. But nothing can beat the December season. Don’t change the crossbow season. You are messing it up for those of us who have given decades to bow hunting. I started gun hunting as soon as I was legally able to. Thank you

I've hunted the county for over 35 years. The last 8-10 have been terrible and 2019 was the worst. Then the baiting ban that isn’t enforced. Legal hunters sit and see nothing while others pile bait and shoot the few deer that are left. I likely will not hunt Forest Co in 2020 and may but buy a deer license at all. First time since I was 14, I’ll be 60 this year. I haven’t bought a small game license since the wolves made it unsafe for my bird dog. Come on folks, we gotta do better.

There were hunters who hunted on public land with no legal access to private land with doe tags in 2019. You should have to own land of 5 acres or more in the county to be considered for a doe tag on private land. In 2019 there was no mechanism to ensure hunters putting in for private land tags could legally fill these tags. Land owners who pay property taxes, support the local economy by buying local, and putting sweat equity into their land should have first shot at these tags.

Predators are really taking a toll and will definitely continue to effect hunter participation in the future. The loss of hunters in the woods during the gun hunt in our area greatly fell off fifteen years ago as predators and severe winters took a major toll on deer numbers. Can the forest even carry more deer? The attractive browse for deer seems to have also declined. in our area, little thought was given to the planting of poplar was executed where mixed forest was cut.
I do not agree with giving all the doe tags to private land holders. That is not fair to hunters on public land. If there were 100 permits, you could have split 60/40. You will absolutely destroy and public hunting with this thinking-every one but landowners will move/hunt in another county! I am tired of not having a chance to harvest any deer. I will probably give it one more year and then do what everyone else does, hunt somewhere there are better chances to harvest a deer!

This county unit like most of the northern forest units needs more bear permits, more timber harvesting and of course wolf kill permits should that become a option. I have never seen over browsing. Doe permits should never be available until the predator problem is solved. I don’t buy the argument that young or first time hunters need some extra incentives to get them interested in hunting. I started hunting deer at age 14 over 60 years ago and still enjoy it immensely.

There are way more does in this unit than bucks and you want to make a buck only harvest. That isn’t going to help the population. If we shoot all the bucks, how are they supposed to reproduce. We haven’t been able to shoot does in forest county for many years and it isn’t changing anything. Let’s try giving out antlerless tags for public land. Maybe hunters quit coming here because we can’t shoot does. The number of hunters is drastically lower than it was 10 years ago.

When we shine the fields at night, the past two years is the most deer I’ve ever seen in my 30 years of shining or hunting. I have seen more road kill in the past two years in areas that I have never seen deer hit. I believe that the deer units are to large because the southern part of our county has more ag land and I would guess more deer. I do hear many my fellow hunters say that there still isn't enough deer but I don’t think they would be please ever with the DNR.

I would rather see 0 bonus tags for adults. I feel if you take the chance of shooting a antler less deer for a youth hunter they may loose interest in hunting which is what we don’t want. We have a lot of younger hunters in our group who all bow hunt, waiting to shoot their first deer with a bow. We have seen way more antler less deer bow hunting then we see bucks. Was very disappointed when you took the antler less opportunity away from the youth a couple years ago.

I have a 1/2 acre food plot, in 2018 there were what I consider 5 does that could be bred consistently on food plot through gun deer season. In 2019 there was 1, so whether the decrease was from winter kill, predators or combination, there was a 80% drop in my area. I normally save my vacation days for November, I hunted now and gun 22 days in November of 2019, I saw a total of 3 different deer. The lack of deer sightings cannot be attributed to the late gun season.

I hunt in unit 39 most of my life and in 2019 have seen wolf, coyote, bear, and even cat/Cougar tracks. In 2019, I have seen Wolf, coyote, and bear sightings in our area and makes me feel that the predators are over harvesting the deer population. There has been limited timber harvesting that will improve habitat for the deer and other animals. I feel that eliminating antlerless tags for several more years is a good idea. Thank you for your continued oversight.

Most areas in the northern part of the county where I hunt support very little deer due to predation. We no longer need antlerless seasons in these areas because of predation from bears and wolves. If we ever want to return this county to where it was, when a hunter could harvest a small amount of does and count on seeing a buck or two though out the season, we need to push to delist and remove the wolf. We lose hunters every year in this area and this is why.
We see more wolves than deer, if you manage that heard, then white tail will bounce back. DNR caves to tree hugging Libs that don’t want a single wolf harmed, wolves need to be managed in our norther units, ie killed. Hunting in Wisconsin has become pathetic due to politics. I travel to other states where management is done in a practical manner and harvesting an animal is actually a possibility. Forget about hunting in Wisconsin northern woods, it’s a joke.

The last few years I have observed more Timber Wolf sign than Deer sign and have stumbled across carcasses and witnessed Wolf drives in swamps. When 10 to 15 years ago you may have cut a bear print or two. I have hunted the same area near the northern border of Vilas and Forest Counties for 21 years and am questioning going hunting this year as our party of 6 average .6 deer per year over the last 10 years with NEVER shooting more than 1 deer in a season.

High numbers of wolves continue to deplete deer numbers. High numbers of coyotes and bears continue to deplete spring fawn numbers. I have 40 acres in Favour, over 80% of the does this season did not have fawns. 5 different bears captured on cameras, over a dozen coyotes, a bobcat, and a pack of 5-6 wolves. Too many predators....all under protection, bad for the deer population. Had pics of both bobcats and coyotes chasing fawns this past year.

We need to get our youth involved in hunting. When our youth sit all day and see zero deer it’s hard to keep them interested. If we could bait we could at least see deer to keep our future hunters interested. Youth doe hunts I strongly encourage as well. I am strongly against bonus tags for public land. There is too much public land up here to hunt. All the people from larger populated areas come here and slaughter our deer herd and leave.

Again I see little change or improvement in the Forest County herd. Given the lack of noticable improvement in the herd I can only think that Wolves are keeping deer numbers firmly in check. It’s beyond time to have a wolf season that will balance the eco system. I’ve seen about equal wolf sign to deer sign when it comes to tracks especially in the snow. This is in the area between deer and otter lake in the Nicolet national Forest

I don’t know why we continue to let deer farms operate when they have had positive CWD results. Even with all the precautions, sooner or later it gets out. Allowing this to continue just increases the risk to the overall population. It is a lot of risk to the general deer population so a few people can pay big money to hunt big deer. It seems like nature is telling us that these farms are un natural and this is not sustainable.

I was pleased to see more logging in the form of clearcuts to provide food and protection for the deer herd. Please keep the logging going. Myself and my 2 teenage sons hunt from a camp established in 1941, it is a great tradition I would love to keep going. I strongly believe that consistent logging will continue to improve the deer numbers and that will also help sustain other animal populations. Stay home and Stay safe.

Get rid of the darn wolves! All of them. They were exterminated many years ago for a dang good reason. Do we have to wait for an innocent child be taken by a wolf before anything is ever done about them? Another benefit to the deer herd would be permitting controlled/select logging in our National Forests! This would also lessen the opportunities for forest fires! It would also increase feeding areas for the deer herd.

I feel that at least part of the reason we have seen less deer in the past few years is that fewer hunters are hunting in the area I hunt. Many hunters have given up, so less deer moving. I also feel that wolves have either killed off many deer or made our hunting harder. Deer moving at night. Hunters kill less deer now (no antlerless tags), but that just makes the wolf packs larger! It’s just a bad cycle.

Way to much tribal night hunting taking place off of tribal lands where deer are being spot lighted and shot. On private folks land and along public roads. A very lot of deer. It’s sickening to see videos on social media platforms bragging about shooting another one. Does, fawns, and many trophy bucks. Poaching is poaching no matter who you are. Need more enforcement and no more wrist slapping.
16 years worth of deer hunting and every year we think it can’t get worse and it does. More beat tags need to be given out and a wolf season opened again. Less deer seasons with less complications trying to figure out regulations. Back to onsite registration I believe would help on the violating. Quit adding more seasons and more ways to take the Sportsmans money because of lost license sales.

Please offer antlerless permits. Weather conditions and the late start to the gun season have showed less of a harvest. I have seen more deer from 2018 to 2019. 2018 I stopped counting at 50 deer all in 1 field. 2019 in the same field, I stopped counting at close to 100. And yet, do to weather conditions...snow... I could not get to my stand as much and did not fill my antlerless tag.

Hunting is getting better in the Northern Forest Units. At least we are seeing deer again. Because of the increase of the Predators(bear and wolves) you need to have NO or Very few anterless tag issued. I am OK with that. I am in favor of youth hunters being issued anterless tags. They are the future to Deer hunting. We need to get them to be successful at deer hunting.

I believe if you want the future of hunt to exist the youth have to be interested and excited, and by taking away there chance to take a doe is discouraging to them. I as a seasoned life long hunter have no problem not shooting a doe in this county. I enjoy mentoring youth and first time hunt hunters almost more than hunting myself. Please dont take this opportunity from our youth.

My brother and I have hunted forest co over 40 years and we hunt every day of the gun season. We hunt from light to dark and I have not seen a deer in the last 7 years. We see no other hunters but see plenty of predators. No logging in the area does not create a lot of food for the deer. 4 of us hunt the indian camp lake are and in the past 7 years I think we have gotten 3 deer.

We have way too many Wolves in the state of Wisconsin thanks to the bright idea of bureaucrats and The DNR, i’m not sure if anyone locals or visitors really believe introducing these animals to the wild was a good idea. we find dead deer caucuses throughout the forest land which is disheartening. More voter input should be allowed on these decisions. concerned Tax payer!!!!

I haven’t seen a deer on my land for 7 months no tracks nothing! I have cameras in the woods all the time. Wolf’s are a very big problem, they have taken over and without any control it will only get worse. I don’t want to see them all gone but they need to be controlled. Until then your deer hunting will continue to decline. And so will the revenue that hunting brings in.

I’ve hunted forest county for the majority of my hunting career. It’s sad the quality of hunting has deteriorated from when I started to now. I often see wolves along the hwy 8 region. I hunt here for the love of the north woods. Unfortunately, to harvest animals I’ve had to go elsewhere in the last 5 years. Best of luck getting the north woods back to where it belongs.

During the gun hunt of 2018 we hunted the entire gun season the the 2019 hunt was shortened by weather (snow).... both yrs if we heard a dozen shots that were with a mile or to of us we were lucky... There is very little hunter pressure so the chances of seeing a buck are not very good... We have seen groups of does of 4, 5, 6 but no bucks their nocturnal...

If the goal is to increase the population we should be doing all possible to make that happen. Therefore a zero anterless quota is appropriate. There should even be consideration given to restrictions on antler size for bucks. This would create greater interest in hunting in future years as well as balance the deer population in a more natural ratio.
You need to start controlling the predators that are killing the deer! The Wolf population is getting out of control. Wolves are a burden on both the wildlife population and the northern economy. I spend a lot of money on a one week chance to get a deer. Every county around Forest has public bonus doe tags...not Forest! Might be time for another sport.

I didn't know that over-browsing of forests is a concern for Deer. Much of the national forest in northern Wisconsin is overgrown and dying. If this is in any way factored into any type of harvest numbers/quota setting, my opinion is that this one is not relevant in any way in the Northern Forest. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

I've observed evidence of significant amounts of poaching in and around the area of Forest County where I and family members hunt compared to other areas in which I've hunted. We've reported some of these observations on more than one occasion with no apparent follow up by authorities. Are poaching loses included in predator data or considered at all?

Accessibility for senior hunters is terrible in northern state and federal properties No atv utv access during gun Deer season The gating and burning all the old logging roads and trails that are atv utv usable is sending a message KEEP OUT I have seen the decline of hunters, as we continue to age the accessibility has to be made more user friendly

While I understand that weather may have contributed to a lower gun season kill in 2019, our overall hunting experience has been decaying over many years. I'm glad you have these meetings and the data presented is very interesting to see. I hope to see the number of deer rebound to the point where my kids would like to take it up as a sport again.

It seems the effect of predation may be under valued. The wolves are getting bolder and more in numbers all the time. Even if they don't catch the deer, the deer are constantly having to stay on the run and being stressed out. The deer move into town just for safety now. The wolves in turn are coming closer to populations and are becoming dangerous.

I believe the deer population won't increase till either a federal judge reinstates wolf hunting and allow the state to have a season or that us congress gives the state the options. I know the DNR gets blame, but the numbers won't increase with out thus ability. Also logging needs to increase especially in the hard woods of the federal forests.

If we’re trying to increase the deer herd why does the dnr still wanting to shoot more does? I don’t believe anything they say on how many deer there are because they have no way to monitor it. Bring back physical deer registration and backtags.the current way allows for shooting multiple deer! They’ve taken to much tradition away from hunting!!

I think inaccuracy in wolf counting played a bigger role in decline of deer numbers. I hunt all over the county and have seen notable increase in wolf sign in areas they were not in years prior. I also have never found as many predator killed deer as I have this year. I also have increased numbers of pictures on game cameras.

The wolf population is extremely high!!! I realize that the decision to place them back on the endangered list came from a huge she in washington, but what is the DNR actually trying to do about this topic? And how can you honestly tell the people that the wolf numbers have remained the same for the last 5-6yrs? Come on guys.

I think the deer herd is slowly growing but there are too many predators. We need to allow more bear hunters and open up wolf hunting. If I remember correctly wolves killed more deer than hunters in forest county. I think we are in the bottom 5 counties for deer per square mile. I would like to see those numbers go up.

I have been deer hunting in the same area for over 50 years I have seen the population of deer change a few times over the years. I gun hunt 8 out of the 9 day season I am in the woods from morning light until dark, last year I saw 7 deer the whole season. I saw more turkeys than deer. And one wolf..
I believe having 0 anterless tags will push people away from hunting. I personally do not ever have an anterless tag so it will not affect me but I know other hunters who almost exclusively shoot anterless deer. I believe this will benefit the deer population though which may increase hunter activity in future years.

I like the idea of opening the season the Saturday nearest November 15th because it would include some of the rut. I would be very against closing the season before the gun hunting season as it would stop hunters from bow hunting during the very important rut. The time of the year all hunters live for. Thank you.

Winter severity needs to be low (pray to mother nature) - Increase timber sales north of Highway 8 - Predator control, Wolves delisted, bear permit's increased, local hound hunter's still doing their part on cat's and coyotes (Thank you dog guy's) Support the County CDAC decision's on zero antlerless quota.

The problem with this unit and the system the DNR has implemented for registering deer has allowed people to take deer illegally and opened the door for violating. I know of people who have taken 3-4 deer and did not register one. I have hunted this area for over 40 years and have yet to run into a warden.

It's seemingly impossible to get a doe tag through the virtual line - online purchase system. With seeing so few buck and so many doe, I'd like to see some arrangements available to a land owner to be able to get a doe tag through the simple fact of land ownership as apposed to the online/virtual line.

I have hunted the area that I am in for 40 years. I have watched the deer herd go from being what was probably an overpopulation to almost nothing. I won't make personal comments but it is completely obvious that your personal have no clue as to how to manage anything. Keep up the great work!!!!!!

I have been hunting forest and vilas counties for more than 34 years and because of the abundance of public land to me it is an enjoyable experience. It would be nice to see the deer herd be stable and abundant enough to offer antlerless permits in future years, especially for youthful hunters.

Until the predator problem is solved, deer hunting will never return to normal levels. When you have more trail cam pics of wolves/bear than deer, the outlook is pretty grim. Something has to be done to deal with predation or the population will never return. The deer don't stand a chance.

The deer population does not have a chance to grow when there is to many predators. I also think we allowing to many deer seasons to happen with also giving out to many antlerless tags. If we kill all the does there is nothing to repopulate for the next year and sooner gets less and less deer.

We own 200 acres of land we bought 15 years ago and will be living there soon. We would like the deer herd, grouse, and all animals to increase dramatically. We do not see much for wildlife and were in the woods every day were there. Logged about seven years ago hoping new forest would help. Nope.

I bow hunted just about every weekend October until gun. In the ten plus years that I have hunted in Forrest County I have never seen so many deer in the fields. Both in the morning and evening when it was dark but also during the middle of the day. I am talking 30 and 40 at a time.

If you extend the 9 day gun deer season it will be the biggest mistake you have ever made. It will brake tradition and you'll loose a lot of people that still hunt only for that reason.....once people are gone, they won't come back and you not going to be able to unwind the damage done.

After hunting most of my life in wisconsin and many states in the west the deer hunting was ok sum time great but after the wolf was put in the states all the hunting got worse or just got bad I don't go out west because of this [wolfs] now its wisconsin time no DEER left.

Wolves and bear populations are way to high in northern Forest and west side of northern Florence counties, for the deer herd to bounce back, the population of both needs to be lowered considerably. We also need more logging to provide more food sources for all wildlife in the area.
The overall deer numbers I believe have increased within the last 2 to 3 years. Antlerless harvest limitations have been effective. I do believe predation has an impact in this unit, from bears and wolves. And I also believe poaching has a huge impact, both tribal and non-tribal.

I still feel that folks are baiting deer before the season and throughout the winter with the goal of providing them food. I believe this practice creates an artificial dependence by the deer herd. However, I recognize that enforcement is very difficult for such a large area.

Over the past decade or more I have seen our local deer here reduced thru many different avenues including predation, over hunting, tribal hunting, car kills, violating, etc. I would like to see a complete ban of antlerless tags until our deer population significantly increases.

If Forest County becomes a 0 antlerless quota area, I do not support the issuance of nuisance antlerless tags and/or timber damage antlerless tags. If any antlerless tags are awarded, it should be to the youth hunters regardless if the property they hunt is public or private.

Since I started hunting every year has shown less and less deer. From certain acts like few antlerless tags and no baiting, me and my group started seeing some improvement of the local deer population that peaked in 2018. The 2019 season felt like a huge step backwards again.

Deer population in the Northern forest is very low compared to many Southern counties. I do not see a problem with deer baiting during hunting season. I would like to see the gun season in the Northern forest be similar to Michigan and start the season on November 15th.

I still believe there are too many large wolf packs in the northern section of this county. Over the past 15 years there are less and less hunters in the northern forest. Tourism in this area has taken a beating do to the lack of deer. Hunters are going elsewhere.

I do believe that Forest Cty should be divided North/South when it comes to evaluating our deer herd. The demographics prove this. It is a long county and private/public land varies greatly north to south as does cropland making very different deer habitat.

I would like to be able to hunt for antler or antlerless deer with a bow. Bring that back. How many deer does one person need to take a year? I hear about multiple deer taken by one hunter all the time. Make crossbow a separate season like muzzleloader.

Our buck to doe ratio is way off. I am seeing 20 to 25 does per buck I hunted gun and muzzle loader season last year and never saw a buck but saw an average of 15 to 20 deer during each season. In my opinion the buck to doe ratio needs to be addressed.

A longer season, starting on November 15th each year to benefit the rut, weather, and success would be a great benefit to the hunter, economy, and the success of the hunters. More logging would benefit all wildlife and the economy with better habitat.

Forest county and all of northern forest should go to a 1 buck per year harvest. With the increase in archery harvest and a return of alot of hunters to the northwoods it isn't sustainable to have multiple bucks per year harvested by a single person.

I believe the deer population is too low, the reason we are not seeing deer. No doe permits should be let out until populations increase. One exception for youth hunts. An effort should be made to help keep the youths interested in deer hunting.

I would like to see the bear quota increased. They take too many fawns. There are too many wolves! A hunt needs to be opened for wolf hunting! It takes 1 deer per wolf a week to feed them. Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.
After many years seeing the decline in the deer population in Forest County, it is good to start seeing a rebound. I think we have a ways to go though to get the deer herd back up. That is why I support a zero harvest on antlerless deer. Thanks

I strongly urge to keep the 0 antler-less permits for Forest County. The number of deer on public land is just not there, and we need to get the numbers up if we are going to have a decent chance to harvest a deer and attract tourists.

As a property owner I feel that I should have a priority in the lottery selection, instead I have not received any permits since this has been implemented and hunters from other areas always seem to get the request that they apply for.

I didn’t see any deer while on my deer stand for three days. I walked the area and saw very few tracks. Need to do whatever is possible to increase deer population. That should include increasing food sources and predator reduction.

In past years, I've seen a number of people harvest an antlerless deer without a doe tag. It would be nice to see a heavier warden presence during the 9-day gun season....we rarely see wardens (where we hunt anyway (Blackwell))

My biggest concern is that the 5 youth that bow hunt in our hunting camp have opportunity to shoot a antlerless deer during the archery season. I am also concerned with high wolf population in the Forest County area as well.

Don't extend deer season Wolves are a major problem especially north of crandon and need to be destroyed. Saw many of them while scouting and hunting.

Logging activity in N. Forest county aka Nicollet NF needs to increase in order to provide enough forage for a larger deer population that can out pace predation. Good for surrounding communities and for herd growth.

Your CDAC presentations should include predator POPULATION counts for wolf and coyote. Not just estimates of mortality by predation Based on local reports may be higher than your "fawn" observation numbers suggest.

We are seeing healthy numbers of deer on our property and want the ability to take a few does if needed for deer management and for youth hunts. These are primary reasons for wanting to maintain a small doe harvest.

Limited agricultural areas and large wooded tracts in Forest County (mostly federal and state land) are obviously very different. There appears to be a recent increase in logging, which should help the population.

I believe if anyone is able to harvest antlerless deer, it should be the youth. The youth hunters are the future of the sport. To keep them interested please allow them the option of taking an antlerless deer.

After sitting for 7 days hunting and never seeing a deer, very disappointed. In past years at least someone in our camp had at least had a chance of taking a buck per day. Now we have 7 guys that never seen a deer.

Hello, thanks for presentation, well spoken. My only other comment is it’s very concerning to come across wolf sign. Also a FYI, a young moose was photographed near and around Ross Lake in Florence county, 3/2020.

There should be at least 200 antlerless tags for the gun season in forest county, there are so many antlerless deer roaming around our property that we see multiple times a day without any baiting or feeding.

I would support youth being able to take an antlerless deer if we went back to taging deer at the time of kill. I feel this way because it may deter some adults from illegally harvesting an antlerless deer.

In the past 5 years, I've seen an increase in the number of Black Bear in the area I hunt. Recommend to increase the number of bear tags offered for Forest Co to help maintain a nominal bear population.

get real numbers on predators. get serious about controlling cwd on game farms. eliminate paying for cwd positive captive deer.make game farm owners pay for clean up & monitoring of affected property
Consider antler restrictions for protection of age classes. Only should able to shoot six point or higher for a couple years. This will boost future buck opportunity and quality in future years.

I would like to see a reduced cost for senior citizen hunters like their is for fishing. They are on a fixed income and if you'd like more hunters, a reduced rate would go a long way in my opinion.

I would like to see bear tags increased in Forest County. I saw more bear last deer season than I saw deer. There are too many bear in my area and waiting 11 years for a tag is ridiculous.

Along with the other factors mentioned for the low deer population, I imagine the fact that we saw a pack of five wolves in the area we hunt (Stillhouse Road north of Hwy 8) was a factor.

Tribe members being allowed to bait and hunt at night out of their trucks Seeing more and more wolves while hunting and a lot less deer on trail cams past 5 years showing a decline in deer

Too many WOLVES!! Nothing more needs to be said. Each year I see more and more wolves and fewer and fewer to NO deer at all. The hunting tradition and north woods deer camp is dying away.

I have seen a difference in deer numbers in Forest County since you started buck only. I am hoping that the program is continued for a coup more years to bring the heard back.

Deer herd is (None) No sign of deer or signs of deer at all. Walked for miles checking deer sign and nothing. Will not hunt deer this year for first time in 50 years.

Between years of harsh winters, too many antlerless permits and very high numbers of wolves killing all the deer there’s hardly any deer left in northern Forest county.

This unit doesn't seem to be making any progress as far as slightly increasing or maintaining it's herd numbers. Hunters are getting frustrated and just hanging it up.

I agree with zero antlerless tags this season except for the youth hunt. I support allowing our youth hunters harvest an antlerless animal during the 2 day youth hunt.

get rid of the wolf. allow public food plots. hear or see wolf way to often when in the forest. you are loosing the youth interest in outdoors because of fear of wolf.

Charge more for out of state hunting no special season go back to baiting like Michigan did 9 day Gun season 7day muzzle season kill all the Wolf’s No Youth hunting

We are trying to bring the deer herd up but your trying to kill all the doe off won’t help. Bring back personal registration back that will bring the poaching down

Compared to the late 80s and early 90s the buck kill is down about 260% .The deer herd will never be the same. The wolf's are exterminating the deer herd...

300 tags were for "ALL" of northern forest not just for forest county and it was for private land only and it also was for central forest, that was a joke!

I saw 1 deer gun hunting last year and 0 bow hunting. I will save my money in 2020 on a gun tag will try 1 more bow season. but will try Langlade county.

The DNR should be thoroughly embarrassed to have the worst hunting in the last 20 years in the largest national forest in Wisconsin. It is a real shame

The number of wolves in forest county have a big influence on the deer numbers. I saw 2 deer the entire deer gun season but saw a pack of 5 wolves

KILL ALL WOLVES !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I FOUND 23 WOLF KILLS JAN. TO APRIL 2020
0 quota is perfect, the herd is hurting up here. There should be no youth doe tags either. Give the herd at least one more year to rebound.

Keep antlerless tags to 0 until deer population increases. Most nights you can hear wolves chasing and killing deer, along with some coyote.

I see hundreds of does daily in the two fields but 0 doe permits proposed. Doesn’t seem right. I see tons of does each day on the road.

Does the extreme snowfall in northern portion of county affect the results of the committee? Over 110 inches the last 2 (or 3?) yrs.

I support zero antlerless tags for the 2020 season in Forest county. But I would prefer to allow antlerless tags for the youth hunt.

Our dear numbers on public land are very disappointing, and you see baiting all over our area like they never put a ban on baiting.

Just not very many deer in this area to many antlerless deer tags given over years past no chance to rebound after tough winters.

That DNR allows any doe harvest has outraged me. There has never been a deer population in Wabeno area to warrant a doe harvest.

Got a tough job, and you can’t please everyone. Remember the traditional deer camp folks, we want a reasonable chance to get a deer.

Until predator numbers are managed appropriately, deer numbers in the public areas of Forest County will never recuperate.

To many wolves. Had 3 circle me in my ground blind at 30 yards one morning. Open a season on them so the deer can regenerate.

Gotta get the deer number up. Way to low for to many years now. Don’t give out any unnecessary tags like junior tags, etc.

To damn many wolves. They followed me back to my cabin twice. I don’t believe there has to be as many wolves that there is.

I saw 20-30 hunters on opening weekend of gun deer and many more cars. I walked for 4-6 hours on Sunday and cut 1 track.

Too many Wolves.

If you want increase the herd you need to reduce the predators, the deer are depleting faster than you know.

Please keep the Archery / Crossbow and gun seasons as they were in 2019. Do not extend the 9 day gun season.

Predators need to be considered in this unit. Over the 33 years I’ve seen the balance change dramatically.

I feel Forest County CDAC is right on, Buck only don’t harvest Does until the herd can handle it, Good job!

To many predators on the deer population, bear, wolves, tribal harvest and constant pressure on the deer.

Drastic reduction of sightings in 2019 season compared to 2017. Very concerning. Hope there is a solution.

2019 fall hunting observations Observed fewer fawns with does. Both while hunting and on game cameras.

My concern is that I have personally seen people shoot antlerless deer without a tag during the season.

Units 38 & 39 Total lack of deer! Still to many wolf/coyote/bear! Lack of deer = lack of hunters!

Should not have to go online and wait to try and get an antlerless tag. Working folk have no chance!!
The only thing I would like to say is the wolf population in northern Forest is out of control!

Split the unit into 3 separate zones. West of 139 North of 8, south of 8, and East of 139...

There are more deer in Forest County than you are giving credit for in your management plan.

We do notice an increase in the wolf population along with a definite decrease in deer.

You give very little info about wolves and the impact they have on deer populations.

You will not have a forest for future generations unless you lower the population.

Harvest wolf’s, it is completely out of control. Please bring back the wolf hunt.

We do not want a hunting season without doe tags. (we have an abundance of doe)

Too many wolves in our area. More wolf tracks than deer tracks the last 4 years.

Juniors age should be limited to age of 16 and under for antlerless deer harvest.

Remove deer farms in and around units to combat spread of CDC. Allow baiting.

There are plenty of deer and no antlerless permits... makes no sense...

Suggest buck only for Forest County. 0 for antlerless quota. Thank you.

Stop all Baiting statewide!! Decrease wolf population. Increase bear tags.

Doe harvest should be a least as high as 2019 level or slightly higher.

Please... put the antlerless deer back on the hunting list..................

I thought the video was very informative. Thank you much for your time.

There is a over population problem with the timber wolves in this unit.

I no longer hunt due to the baiting ban in our counties. 2 years now.

If there is to be no baiting how about some enforcement of the rule.

Wish to see no doe permits. Wish to see baiting back again.

I am concerned about the low deer population and much more!

Property owners should have priority in drawing for tags.

0 antlerless quota for Forest County is a good call.

Open a wolf season and make it easier to hunt coyotes.

What we mostly saw last hunting season were turkeys.

Let’s do what we can to get the population back up!

Thank you for listening to feedback from hunters.

More antlers less tags for private land owners.

Continue with no does and more Predator tags.

I support first year youth taking antlerless.

We need to control the wolf population!!!!!

Stop introducing predators into Wisconsin.

Wolves and predators need to be controlled.

I am heavily against a 0 antlerless county!
NEED TO GET THE PREDATOR NUMBER DOWN
To many wolf. They eat a lot of fawn.
Ban baiting state wide
too many wolves !!!
Too many wolves
More permits
Good work
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Grant, Southern Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

591 forms were submitted for this unit.

### Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 296
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 114
   - I hunt in this unit: 560
   - General interest in this unit: 107

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 539
   - Bow: 328
   - Crossbow: 177
   - Muzzleloader: 160

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.22
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 420
   - Mostly Private Land: 86
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 23
   - Mostly Public Land: 10
   - Exclusively Public Land: 15
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 6

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 13
   - Not too crowded: 42
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 23
   - Somewhat crowded: 23
   - Very crowded: 16
   - Not applicable: 17

### Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 82
   - Fewer: 176
   - Same: 222
   - More: 62
   - Many More: 36
   - Unsure: 13

### Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Grant, Southern Farmland
8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 255, Oppose 300, Unsure 36

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 272, Oppose 269, Unsure 50

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 70, Oppose 489, Unsure 32

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID, NOT VALID, Unsure 36

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? (Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for Grant, Southern Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
The Wisconsin DNR and CDAC recommendations have raised a lot of speculations about the deer population in the county and what should be done during the 2020 deer season. After carefully viewing the video given I had noticed that a few factors to certain subjects were not put in to the research or at least not stated, some being difficult or impossible to add into research and obtain data for. More specifically for the 2019 deer season. The largest factor that was left out (granted very difficult to put into data) was the weather during the 9-day gun deer hunt. The temperature was warm for an opening weekend compared to the weeks prior to it. During bow season i had seen plenty of deer while sitting in a stand and plenty of rut activity following up to opening weekend. But opening weekend had fallen on a warm spell and the deer movement was very much less than usual. That is something that cannot be controlled whether it is the rut or not. When it is warm, the deer movement drops. Comparing it to previous years can help with that as well. 2016 and 2018 had good numbers of deer harvest in recent years. Both years had good weather opening weekend. 2016 had the large snow storm the night before and 2018 had snow and cold weather opening weekend as well. I recall the 2016 season because opening morning following the snow storm i could recall seeing the most deer ever seen in one single hunt in my 14 years of hunting (accompanying my dad when i was too young to hunt and hunting independently). Although the numbers weren’t nearly as drastic for 2018 as 2016, they were still above the numbers i had seen personally in 2017 and 2019 opening day. A change in the tags given out and change in the length in deer season cannot change how many deer a hunter will see when the weather for an extended period of time is not favorable for deer hunting. Another factor that cannot be written down for data is the increase in popularity of buck management among hunters. With the increase in technology, the strive to shoot bigger bucks and create better genetics for deer herds has driven hunters to be more selective about the deer they shoot. Some of hunter's philosophies may not always be the right answer for buck management but may help clear up some of the reasoning for less deer harvests overall. One piece of data that stood out to me was the permits issued to the number of harvest in Grant County since 2016. 2016 was the last year that 2 extra antlerless tags were given out for one license purchased. The success rate had dropped on private land from 12.6% to 8.8% in 2017. The number of issued tags had increased yet the number of harvest had stayed the same roughly around 3,500. While the following 2 years had roughly stayed the same in success rate as the previous years. I believe the reason for this is in part of hunters being more selective with their harvests for the sake of deer quality (bigger bucks). Going from this the change in success rate was correlated to more tags being issued while people still harvesting the same amount of deer roughly every year (no real drastic change in harvest +/- 500+). I feel as if though ethical hunters will always try to maintain the quota they set for themselves and not attempt to kill more deer than what they need to sustain themselves. Although i feel as if giving 3 bonus antlerless tags per year is not always a bad thing for my family needs about 4-5 deer to last us an entire year, i think that hunters will not fill all four (including buck) tags. My next thought is on the idea of extending the gun season and creating up to a 5-day grace period between bow season and opening weekend. I strongly oppose this idea for the sake it will have a direct impact on the archery hunters and I think create other problems for hunters who are not accustomed to hunting past opening weekend like many do in this state. Usually opening weekend lands either on the 2nd week of the peak of the rut or a week after the rut during the post rut. Bow hunters may have the privilege of having a longer season, but the level of difficulty for archers outweighs that of gun hunters. So why would giving a grace period longer than what it is now be right for bow hunters? They are the ones that really have the true passion for deer hunting and by doing this i feel as if though it would be stripping them of that passion. The muzzleload is a similar concept. There is an added level of difficult that only people who are passionate about conservation and hunting are willing to accept. All in all I feel as if though there should not be an extension to the 9-day gun season at any time as well as the method of earn-a-buck or a grace period linger than the 1-day period it is now. I think that it would be violating the values and traditions that had made the Wisconsin deer season what it is now, practically a holiday across the state. Although the increase in doe tags would not be a bad thing to try and keep the buck to doe ratio as close to one as possible, these other things are senseless and have a negative impact on not only the deer heard but also the hunters across the state. I feel as though the way it has been for years now is what ignited the passion in so many people in the state and people from out of state and made hunting in Wisconsin so desirable. Please take what i
Hello, I am writing in to offer a few opinions and input on ideas or adjustments that I feel could help hunting overall in my county and WI as a whole. I reside in grant county have lived and hunted here my whole life as well as being an avid hunter here i also farm several hundred acres of crop ground and pasture so i get to see alot of what goes on out in the fields and woods. So a farmer i know there were alot of crops left in the field last season and that probably has far more to do with low deer kill than anything more places to hide, farmers harvesting crops not hunting excetera. The main topic i wanted to touch on is the differing deer seasons, from holiday hunts, to the youth hunt, and i have read about the thought of extending the gun deer season. To me not one of those things should even be necessary, in my opinion there should be one gun deer season and it lasts 4-9 days at most somehow the DNR has managed to make the gun season meaningless so nobody hunts it and if they do they dont care when they go, opening day doesnt carry the meaning it once did and you know as well as i do the majority of harvest comes from that one day if you really care about deer harvest put everyone in the field at once. Opening day is boring i dont hear half the amount of shots or see half the deer i did a few years ago because noone is out there to bump them and if they are hunting strictly for the venison they have 10 different worthless doe seasons or youth seasons they can go try to shoot a doe in so theres no pressure on anyone to go opening weekend. So extending the gun deer season any longer than it is would be absurd and ruin the sport altogether your adding 10 more meaningless, useless days. Crop damage- I don't see a large amount of damage from deer in my fields while some may see it as deer damage, corn being knocked down and getting damaged i feel in large part is due to the growing raccoon population since fur prices have dropped and trapping is no longer profitable it is not hard to see a dozen coon in one night out in the field and anyone who has spent enough time watching deer know they dont need to knock corn down to eat it so i really dont see a need for AG tags maybe more of a need for fur buyers. Just a couple observations I could go on forever as i am passionate about hunting, bottom line to me is you add seasons, add more ways and times to hunt the deer you just spread everyone out and it all ends up watered down and is boring. I can remember15 years ago when i was in my needs opening weekend was like a holiday everyone did it, i didnt need my own youth hunt everyone went and hunted together and we wore our back tags to town and looked in each others trucks. If you want to grow the hunting population quit ruining traditions with extra seasons and things. 4-9 days of gun and mid sept through december bow is idea in my opinion. If you took the time to read this all. Thank you for your time have a good day.
It is basic ecology that maintaining a population requires control of the number of females of the target species. Since the 13-14 regulation changes, the Grant Co deer population has steadily increased. Regarding the chart used to determine quotas to maintain/decrease populations, the quota (6,500) to maintain where the current Grant Co population sits post-harvest (~27,000, which is ~4,000 more than the goal pop size) is nearly double what the annual antlerless harvest for the previous 9 years has been. This explains the noted population growth, as the number of females continues to increase and the quota is never met. With 40,000 authorizations issued in the 2019 season, there were roughly 13,000 licenses sold. Limiting to 2 tags per license puts issued authorizations back to 26,000 just like 2016 season. While harvest numbers were similar between 2016 and 2019, this strains those who do manage to fill their tags and yet want to keep hunting. While only 1/5 of the bonus tags were bought in 2019, the potential for more hunters filling their tags issued with 2 authorizations will likely cause the number of bonus tags purchased to skyrocket and potentially approach or surpass the 2,500 that have been suggested for private land. As discussed in the previous CDAC meeting, if the assumption that issuing three authorizations will instill fear of over-harvesting in hunters, then more resources, literature, and a direct statement with the purchase of a license that population is being maintained with the use of these tags needs to be communicated. The positive trend in deer population size in Grant Co continues to grow with current regulations. This is why the Holiday Hunt with extended bow season needs to be considered. Adding this will increase the odds of approaching the quota. If, in the event the quota was surpassed and there was a noticeable decline in the county's deer population, the herd would still be saved due to the quota being established with the goal of maintaining and not decreasing the population and that it is still ~4,000 above the goal population size. The hunt could then be removed from future seasons if this was the case. I am unsure what the imposition of adding more days to the hunting season is for landowners as discussed in the previous CDAC meeting. They have the right and power to hunt or let anyone hunt their land during any hunting season. Any restriction of harvest opposes the goal of the county to maintain the population. To help maintain population more successfully than the previous seasons the following should be considered: - add the HH and extended bow season - keep the issued authorizations at 3 per license with more literature encouraging the hunter to not be fearful of over-harvesting - increase the amount of bonus authorizations available if only 2 are issued per license

Overall, I agree with proposed season structure and harvest authorization recommendations. I do, however, feel that much of the data and observations are pointing to a need for higher antlerless harvest. Simply giving out more antlerless tags or making more bonus tags available is not the fix. The option of an antlerless only season for all seasons seems too extreme in this part of the state. I think a happy medium does need to be implemented. Going back to the data, it clearly shows that “earn-a-buck” was an extremely effective management tool for antlerless harvest. I know this type of season structure was met with some opposition at the time, including myself. But the more I educate myself and think about what needs to be done for a sustainable resource into the future, the more apparent it becomes that earn-a-buck should be reinstated. I hunt many different properties in northern Grant County and all of them are severely overpopulated with antlerless deer. I do my part and shoot does but it doesn’t help when other people don’t because he majority people shoot one maybe 2 deer a season and if given a choice it will likely be a buck. The herd seems unbalanced, especially in northern Grant County. I think the only effective tool for a more balanced herd, closer to carrying capacity is reinstating earn-a-buck. Not only do I think earn-a-buck needs to come back because it is the most effective herd management tool for herd structure, I also think it is one of the best ways we can try to buy more time with CWD. CWD isn’t going away and is a great concern of mine, especially for the next generation’s sake. If this trend continues, I do not see a bright future for the resource, not only in Grant County but statewide. I know some of my response gets anecdotal, but I try to base my opinions and thoughts in science and research and not just try to push a biased, opinionated and politically based personal agenda. I truly hope my thoughts reach out to many people and they take an unbiased look at things and consider what is the best for the long term sustainability of our resource.
I agree with the goal to maintain the herd and I feel that issuing 2 antlerless tags is much more appropriate than the last few years where 3 per license were issued. Grant county is very diverse county from north to south and deer density definitely varies. 2019 proved to be an interesting fall with lots of moisture and crops still standing during gun season which definitely took its toll on harvest figures I believe. I agree with not having a holiday hunt or extended archery season as I feel hunter participation would be low and overall harvest would be extremely low. Based on current season structure there is more than enough opportunities to harvest a deer and adding more days only leads to highly pressured herds and lower harvest numbers. Also when setting these antlerless quotas I sometimes struggle with seeing who actually will put an effort forward to harvest antlerless deer. The dynamic of hunting has definitely changed over the course of time and a large shift has been made toward the QDM effort. I say this as much of the hunting population now looks to only harvest large mature bucks and doe harvest is sometimes an after thought. I will only kill what I know myself and my family will eat which brings me to my final point. We need more options for deer donations in the county. I believe only a few lockers in in the northern part of the county participate? Not sure this helps overall antlerless harvest but would definitely help spur people to harvest more if they knew viable options were available to share the resource (venison) with those who truly need it. Thanks!

There will always be pockets of deer that have more than others due to the landowner's personal initiatives. On top of that, people are only going to kill what they want - furthermore intensifying the pockets of large deer numbers. Deer are survivors and know where to go when they get pressured. Deer activity in daylight hours diminishes 10 fold when people who don't smart, or push deer, are in the woods. Increasing the number of tags per person isn't going to increase the number of deer killed. Hunting tactics have changed drastically over the past 15 years (and I'm only 28) to where people set up a blind, plant a food plot, and expect to kill a big buck and doesn't shoot does. Here's my recommendations: 1) If hunters have the option go shoot a doe during the holiday hunt, or antlerless only season that follows muzzleloader season, they put off shooting does because "they have a lot of time." Then time runs out and no deer are killed. Force hunters to fill their quotas by shortening the extra deer seasons, or getting rid of them completely for firearms seasons. 2) Push back the rifle season opener to the weekend after Thanksgiving into December. Incredibly taboo for WI, I get it, but you accomplish two things. The first being that hunters can hunt both weekends without likely being tied to family obligations so more opportunity within the 9 days of season. Secondly, everything a deer does, outside of the two week window in November, revolves around it's stomach. Deer get on heavy feeding patterns after the rut allowing better chances to increase killings.

My opinions are based on hunting private land and the population was influenced by some illegal harvesting of deer the week before gun season around the area I hunt. Herd health looks to be good, we and the neighbors try to let them grow to have good adult does and obviously try to harvest really nice bucks. But also let the younger kids shoot a little one to get them engaged in the sport. I also believe that it doesn't matter if you hunt with a bow or crossbow during archery season. I am saving up for a crossbow. You still have to beat there nose and ears. That's the challenge. I just shot my 1st buck (9pt) last year with a bow. 23 yrs later. Also note I haven’t shot a buck in probably 5 to 6 yrs. I take off work for all 9 days of gun season, 2019 seemed like after the opening weekend movement went down significantly for the rest of the season, and I did not tag a deer. I kept pursuing through muzzleloader for a weekend and was able to shoot another 9pt. Deer hunting in general in really enjoyable to me. I like the early youth hunt to get the younger generations out there. My 11 yr daughter will usually go seat with me a couple days and like to check the trail cams. We are planning on getting her into hunter safety and see how or if she would like the actual hunting aspect.
I would just like the DNR to take in to consideration the amount of deer that were found dead due to EHD. We found them all over our farm. We called you guys when we found some that were still alive but suffering. The response was for us to shoot them. We were told that if there were other cases within 10 miles they would not even come to examine. This tells me that there were several in grant county. After talking with neighbors, and having them say they found several dead, it’s no wonder why number of harvests are down. We had a hard time seeing deer during 2019 bow and gun season. You say not focus on one year, but how can you not when something like this happens. I oppose giving out extra tags when you guys have no clue on how many deer died from this. None of this is mentioned in your graphs or any of the video. You are only concerned about the steady incline in the population that is clearly false. I have hunted every year for the last 25 years. I spend weeks in the woods in the fall and I’m here to tell you the numbers are DOWN! I have talked with several people in Crawford county that had the same issues with EHD. Please take it in to consideration before you go extending seasons because the kill numbers are down. Thank you

1. Return to the use of backtags. Some people that hunt private land don't buy a tag unless they get a "nice" buck. These people obviously don't report any of the deer they shoot which lowers the overall number of deer reported harvested and skews the final numbers. I'm sure the number of purchased licenses would rise dramatically if people had to wear a backtag again. It is also easier to report trespassers if you have a backtag number to report.  

2. Return to the practice of physically registering your deer. I’ve heard way to many stories of people forgetting to register via phone or email. These deer go uncounted. People didn’t “forget” when they had to register in person and have a metal registration tag attached to their harvest before they could butcher.  

3. Try a 3 day gun deer season. Everyone will be in the woods at once which should get more deer up and moving. People will be more likely to shoot what they see instead of waiting for "the big one". Increased urgency with only 3 days to hunt as opposed to 9 could lead to higher harvest numbers. If one 3 day weekend isn’t enough have two 3 day weekends. One could run the Friday after Thanksgiving through Sunday. Two-three weeks later you could have another 3 day gun hunt in December.

It appears that it would be necessary to increase the deer harvest in order to meet the population goal. Therefore it makes no sense to reduce the number of antlerless tags issued with each license. Even with 3 per license last year, the goal was not met, so keep it at 3. (I used all of mine.) I recommend that Grant County be split into two sections for deciding about a Holiday Hunt. Hwy 18 is a logical dividing line between north and south, which are two substantially different habitat zones. Hold a Holiday Hunt in the northern portion of the county, north of Hwy 18. Also, for a late season, in addition to allowing archery and crossbow, also allow a second muzzleloader hunt. The present muzzleloader hunt is useless as a means of helping to achieve population objectives, because the deer are much too traumatized from the 9-day season that just ended. They are very nocturnal and difficult to encounter in daylight. In the past 28 seasons, I've gotten 42 deer in Grant County, but ZERO while hunting in numerous muzzleloader seasons. If we're serious about achieving the population goal, then it makes sense to allow and encourage muzzleloader hunters to help out.

I favor keeping the antlerless harvest authorization at 3. A large part of the decision to decrease antlerless authorizations to 2 had to do with the decreased hunter success rate compared to other years (this notion did not make it into the minutes). The committee seemed to miss the key point here, which Eddie pointed out later on: the success rate will always go down if more authorizations are given because not everyone will use their extra tag- the important piece to look at is the total deer harvested. Kathy's point about folks needing extra food this year was spot on, too. We should not try to play pop psychology that hunters are shooting fewer deer because they have more tags. That logic doesn't work out. We are not meeting our harvest goals, so we need to encourage every opportunity to take what they want and need. I also believe we should have a holiday hunt and extend archery season. Herd numbers are rising, (2019 gun harvest was down due to weather and late timing, and this past winter was very mild) and CWD is entering the county. We need to keep the herd healthy.
It seems to me for hunting on our private property for almost 30 years that the population is the same if not less than 20 years ago but still a high population. I feel the more private owners are there the more educated the area is becoming. Goverment control is the biggest fear for most in the County and the DNR is goverment, I feel if the land owners and farmers had more control, the deer population would be controlled better. The collars and the cameras the DNR are trying to study with seem to be foolish, DNR should be asking the people that live out here and hunt out here and spend their days out here about any information. I feel most hunters and farmers can tell you which deer are where, how many fawns they had and how much crop damage there is was for the deer and turkey on their crops. The people out here that are paying the taxes on their livly hood are the ones that know more about the land and the wildlife here than any biologist or DNR affiliated group. Im not stating this as hateful more just thinking the DNR is and has been using the wrong approach to the study.

Two years ago we saw a high number of deer on our properties. To the point of knowing we needed to harvest some does. We were unable to harvest very many does that year because of time commitments. Last year for some reason our deer numbers were way down. It was mostly the does that were missing. We talked to several neighbors and this was also the case with them. In all about 2,000 acres were hunted and the same issue was throughout these acres. It was not do to over harvest the year before. Possible blue tongue but it was not well noted in our area and I would expect to see less bucks and that was not the case. This is the reason why I marked less deer tags and less season. 2 years ago I would have agreed the numbers were way to high. Now this is only 2,000 acres of southern grant county and other areas may not have seen the decline. I sure hope other hunters from the county explain what they saw last season incase is was more of a county issue so we do not over harvest this year thinking the deer are still there. Thanks for asking the hunters opinion.

Numbers were skewed for the 2019 season deer harvest since it was too wet for crops to be harvested on time so the deer had more places to hide and didn’t have to forage for food on top of it being a very mild winter. And placing quota on harvesting doe is obscured. In order for hunters to be able to enjoy the sport of hunting any game there has to be game available that they want to take. As for deer, every hunter dreams of getting a big buck and the only way for there to be bucks is to have the doe to produce more bucks. The farm I hunt I was told back in the early 80s there were deer running all over the hills and everyone always tagged out, these days is not the case due to the structures set in place that has diminished the success rates of hunters. Which is no wonder why so many have given up hunting and when that’s given up on the tradition is no longer being passed on to the younger generations. Look at the whole picture not just the projected guesstimates and skewed numbers with a closed mind that that’s all there is.

My #1 objective in hunting is to see and interact with wildlife. In the last 5-7 years I have seen a steady decline of numbers of animals. I hear it from all hunters. The harvest is a bonus but not a necessity. I also have a game recovery k9. Ever since crossbows became legal to anyone, I have seen a drastic increase in wounded animals and non-recovery as people do not respect the animals enough. Deer harvests are down due to lack of hunters and lack of deer. No other reason. Increasing kill quotas for this year due to 2019 drops does not make sense. There are multiple variables to look at when looking at harvest numbers. Weather, # of hunters, experience of hunters to name a few. The last few years has been rough on anyone in the woods. I hope this message lands home and gets taken into consideration as I am a young adult and hope to continue to hunt in the future. At the kill rates suggested, I do not see a feasible reason to sit in the woods and not see animals.
I've been deer hunting since I was 12 years old and have seen the 3 day deer season and having to send in for a doe permit. It was enjoyable to take and register your deer so you could see everyone else who had one to register and listen to their stories. If the DNR wants to know the real deer kill numbers go back to registering them at a station. I know some hunting parties that haven't registered a deer since electronic registering started and the more people in the woods at the same time the more deer will be shot. extending the season will NOT help.

Taking muzzleloader season away from us will not help it's taking away from the way we used to hunt. There will be several people who won't purchase license if muzzleloader season is taken away. Having an earn a buck hunt will reduce the sales of license as alot of us older hunters won't buy a license. If I see a big buck right away I want to be able to shoot it.

The Grant County CDAC again missed the mark on what is required to sufficiently manage the ever-increasing population of deer in the county. Having an antlerless hunt around the holidays will certainly not burden the landowners (see your minutes)... c'mon really? It provides families a chance to put some extra venison in the freezer and have fun together while reducing the real burden which is crop damage, CWD threat and vehicle collisions. Reducing the number of free farmland tags from 3 to 2 won't cause people to worry about overharvest (again, see your own words in the minutes)...it just shifts the burden for paying for tags to the hunter (in the form of $12 bonus tags). I recommend you read the comments from your CDAC staffers (you know, the professional game managers) and start heeding their advice. Increase the farmland tags to three (or higher) and institute a Holiday Hunt!

With last year's low numbers of registered deer I really don't want much changed. First off it was a terrible year due to to much standing corn if which was out if every ones hands. Our group agreed to harvesting a few more doe this fall to make up the slack of last year's hunt. I'm also not convinced every deer is being registered by many like in the old days. Yes it's nice to just go online and do this but also I feel it would keep numbers more accurate by going to register stations. I'm also not fond of all these extra doe seasons after the 9 day. At that point let the bow hunting get back to business without having the gun hunters running around and a bow hunter having to wear orange. It's a waste of time. Don't see many out hunting after the 9 day and muzzle loader season anyhow. The straight 9 days used to make guys get out more n stay at it without those extra seasons.

Why has there been no offerings to have a longer bow season and push gun season out to the week of thanksgiving? Most people don’t have to take a FRIDAY off before gun for traveling purposes, setting up camp, etc. Why don’t we discuss the option of going back to shotgun only? Parts of the state are too flat and with 600,000 people in the woods all at one time is very dangerous. Why haven’t we discussed breaking up the gun season like an Iowa frame work to help reduce the amount of people in the woods at once. Later in season = better conditions for gun hunters, better overall hunting and safer hunting with reducing the amount of hunters in the woods at one time. Would allow successful hunting for bow and cross-gun hunters as well as keeping in mind the gun hunters of wisconsin and their rich tradition. Why does the state offer an abundance of tags by excess of 2,000?

Doe tags on public are way too high. Not many should be handed out. The percentage of people hunting on public vs amount of land available is the reason why. Public land Gets alot of deer shot on it consistently and number of deer are low on public. Private i view differently but if you have 40 or even 80 acres with a family of 4 that bow and gun hunt. That is 2 doe tags for each license 4 a piece. 16 doe tags and 4 buck tags. So 20 Deer tags???? No family is going to shoot that many. If you hand out 3 doe tags even worse 28 deer tags. Now imagine 5 or 6 people hunting on 80 acres even 120 which is common. Getting deer shot on these small parcels and public land is not a problem. These large tracts of private land with very little hunter access is most of your problems with higher deer numbers. 90% of the hunters have 2 or 3 times more tags then they can use.
The deer on Public land seem to be less populated, and over hunted. This has a tendency to cause public land hunters to cross private land fences more often and trespass and poaching problems arise more often. Out of state hunters come to Wisconsin to fill tags. They are not worried about quality of deer. Restrict the out of state hunters by raising the out of state license fees which will decrease public land pressure, which makes for a more enjoyable public land hunt, and decrease deer over harvest on that public land. Hunter safety and conservation is my motto. Please bring back the registration stations. The percentages of unregistered deer may be influencing your findings and graphs. Stations open up hunters to other hunters which makes for more opportunities for hunters sharing information and enthusiasm about the hunt.

I would like to see the holiday hunt for doe only and extend the archery hunt. Holiday hunt is the perfect time to get kids involved in hunting as they are off from school, gives more opportunities to harvest deer. The deer numbers I feel are getting out of control and CWD and EHD are becoming more common. We need to get the deer numbers down to have a healthy herd and enough food for the deer. I am a member of the CDAC committee from a different county but I spend the majority of my hunting in this county and the deer herd in this county is getting to big in my opinion. If you listen to the biologist and the forester I am sure they would agree with my statement. It is hard to have a quality deer herd and a huge deer herd and right now I believe we have too many doe to every buck.

Just leave deer hunting and the seasons alone. I know it was proposed to extend the gun deer season to 19 days I think that is a bad idea. I would be 100% in support in moving the muzzle loader season in front of the normal gun season. I would also make the Muzzle loader tag separate from the normal gun deer tag. I don't know what price to put on this additional tag but to be afforded the opportunity to hunt deer prior to the normal gun deer season should come at a price. Depending on the dates you could be hunting during the rut with a muzzle loader. I believe this would increase the interest in the muzzle loader season and would raise more money for conservation through the extra tag fees. I know I would not hesitate to buy an extra tag for that season. Thanks for your time.

Why is the Nelson Dewy State Park still open for deer hunting? One year to thin them out a little was fine. Close the park again. Areas where I hunt and other people have seen the deer heard go down every year since it was left open for hunting. And another thing, allow baiting, in Grant County Sothern Farm land the food plots is what is causing the CDW. Baiting may have a few deer using it but a food plot has "many deer at once" using them. The people that has the money to maintain a food plot has the advantage again. All they have to do is feed the deer and set and kill one! And cause the spread of CDW with the many deer on the plot. But I can't put out a salt block or whatever just to get a shot at one deer! Something is wrong!!

The challenge Grant County Faces is there are two diverse deer habitats within the county. The Northern Hill Country (N of Hwy 18) seems to have an abundance of deer and the "flat" farmlands in the south have less of a whitetail population. Given the county system we are being challenged to manage two areas as one. This is no small task. Is there any way we can do that better? It is possible to have Grant County Zone "A" and then a Zone "B". While this may seem like a step back - towards the old Zone System - I think it is best for the deer and our county. I would like to close by Thanking all of the CDAC Volunteers. I listened to the call and know this is a 365 Day effort. Best to all and stay healthy.

Keep it about the same. Stop extending and creating new seasons. Make hard dates so people go out and harvest. Extending seasons puts in the mind of the hunter that they have all the time in the world to harvest deer. Then the weather gets bad. People get busy with holidays and other life events and don’t go back out. Grant County is very fortunate to have a whitetail abundance. That is why deer hunting remains strong in that county. Don’t go and change a bunch of things. It frustrates hunters and also confuses them. Make it simple and keep in mind keeping a strong deer herd and people of Wisconsin will continue the tradition that all hunters look for to every year.
Limit deer harvest to one antlerless and one buck for whatever weapon the hunter is using (i.e. bow, gun, muzzleloader). Previous management, particularly several years of earn-a-buck have led to poorly distributed deer populations and poor distributions of age classes (i.e. too many hunters were killing fawns and young does for the buck tag that would have produced fawns the proceeding year). We essentially had too many older does and bucks in ratio to younger deer. Now that EHD has passed thru and the older deer are either dead or non-producing, the deer numbers are very low and concentrated throughout much of the region, especially the northeast from Boscobel to Muscoda.

I live in McHenry County Illinois but own a hundred acres up in Grant County between Cassville and b-town it is very enjoyable for me and my young boys to go up there and see deer coming from McHenry County where they CWD shot every deer throughout the winter it is not fun hunting down here and hard to keep the boys interest but when we go up there they see deer they enjoy it and my 11 year old killed his first deer last year with a crossbow this is what I would like to see continued by opening more seasons more deer harvest more antlerless tags only it's just going to decrease the amount of deer and the chances of my boys and me and my father seeing deer and enjoying hunts.

go back to "earn a buck". That is our personal policy for allowing anyone to hunt on our land. We have too many doe and they produce multiple fawns every year because they are so well fed on our crops. We are tired of feeding the DNR's deer and then having the DNR do nothing to control the population. Deer are the under the control of the DNR until you hit one with your car and then it's YOUR problem..... if someone hit one of my cows on the road, I would have to pay for the damage to the vehicle... does the DNR pay my deductible when I hit one of their over populated deer? there are way more deer out there because of the mild winters and abundance of food...

I personally only saw 4 deer during the gun 2019 gun season and my son did not see one at all. I think the population of deer is about right. There are less hunters in the woods and fields so the deer are not being pushed. The weather had a big factor in the amount of deer moving, because the hunters were not moving. The younger generation don't hunt like they use to and the older generation are getting to old. Less farmers means less hunters. We need to get the kids out from behind the computer games and in to the woods. How do we do that? We do that by supporting youth programs such as Boy Scouts, FFA and 4-H. Teach the kids about hunting and the environment.

In regards to extending the gun deer season I believe it would be wiser for the management of the deer herd and especially the quality of the buck population to have the season start the weekend before Thanksgiving as usual and put the extension on the end. That will keep rifle season from being during the rut which would devastate the buck population. It would still be good hunting during during post rut/2nd rut. Eliminate the holiday hunt/ doe only hunts and youth hunt which falls during pre rut typically. Youth can hunt with during the regular/extended gun season. Keep archery and crossbow season the same start-finish with no stop before the gun opener.

I think that the issue of having a separate crossbow season should be let go. With the problems had in harvesting enough deer to meet herd number and deer health objectives theres should be no discussion that would limit any kind of harvest ability. The so-called buck harvest advantage is I my opinion the VERY reason the crossbow season is just fine.It is the old bucks travelling during the rut that is spreading CWD! In my thinking with the decreased hunter numbers and problem getting youth to huntwe should NOT restrict any means of legal harvest! The hunter objectives of haresting only trophy bucks is extremely harmful to the health of the ecosystem!

I believe that Grant County Deer numbers are excellent if not a little on the high side. I haven’t personally heard of any landowners who were opposed to the holiday hunt, on the contrary I know several who took advantage of it as additional quality time in the field with family and friends. I am concerned with the increased prevalence of CWD in the Grant County deer herd. The DNR should have been more aggressive in controlling the spread early on and not caved in to pressure from the legislature that wasn’t science-based. Illinois was more aggressive at the time the disease was found there and doesn’t have near the infection rate that we do.
We have purchased many dollars worth of trees for our yard and pastures only to have the deer kill or ruin them. I have asked many times for help with this with absolutely no help. We have tried motion lights, we have spent many dollars spraying repellent on our trees. We have fired shots in the air and many other things but the deer are continuing to come and destroy property. We are hunters and only hunt our land. Have to see the deer during season in order to thin them out. But when you don't see them during season there isn't much we can do. Just so tired of having the deer eating up our trees that we pay good money to plant.

I would love to see Grant County extend the bow/crossbow season to the end of January. I feel this would allow for a better success rate with the holidays out of the way and also may pull some more people back in to hunting. Also, I feel it would be good to change the gun season structure to (3) 4 day seasons starting on the Thursday the week prior to Thanksgiving through that Sunday, again the week of thanksgiving, and the week after. I normally take vacation from work the whole gun season and I have noticed far fewer people out hunting on the week days which may also be a reason in the downward trend in sales and harvest.

It may be necessary to implement Earn a Buck again to force hunters to harvest does. I am opposed to adding extra seasons and days. While it seems adding more seasons and days would be better for the hunters, it is in fact just the opposite. More days results it putting off hunting because you can always go another day. Most people go a couple days and then they are done. A better solution is to shorten the gun season to force hunters to harvest a deer when they get the chance. It is spread out over so many days the intensity of the hunt is very weak and hunters have the mentality of "I will shoot one later" and never do.

I was wonder if we can separate the small game hunting from the archery and crossbow because if we were to hunt at the same time it would be too dangerous to the archery and crossbow hunters withe small games. I experience last year. Too many small game hunters shooting around and no deers for archery and crossbow as soon they started to shoot rifle for small games then the deers all stop moving. It's like a war zone at Grant County when I went hunting for deers last year. Maybe have the small games hunt a month after opening season...that way its safe for the archery and crossbow hunters.

I think you should consider a controlled feeding program for deer. I know the concern is CWD but I really don't think that is a big concern.......deer eat standing corn and another deer will also eat from the same ear of corn.......saliva, etc. is transferred just the same as any feeding program. A controlled feed and nutritional program will not only benefit the deer herd but also hunters, in all seasons will see and harvest more deer. Also, young hunters, which is the future of our sport, will also see and harvest more deer and it will not be so boring to them when they have deer active.

I am a landowner and a dairy farmer. Depending on the weather and farm workloads, there are seasons where I am not able to harvest a deer on my own farm within the limits of the 9 day season. I would like to propose a rule that allows a landowner to legally harvest and fill a gun tag anytime during the fall. If I happen to have a break in farm work, I would like to be able to hunt in the window available. No one else hunts on my land, it wouldn't bother anyone else. Plus, as I get older, hunting in warmer weather is appreciated! Thanks for your consideration.

Reinstate earn-a-buck with in person registration (helps prevent cheating). Free deer license and bonus antlerless tags for landowners that make 50 percent of more of their livelihood from farming. Make All depro tags antlerless. Support restrictions on crossbow harvest from Spring Hearings so now and archery success rate realign to where they were before crossbows were allowed for all. Keep disabled and 65 yr and older provision. Implement a law that prohibits "shining" from marked roadways. Must be on land that you are spotlighting. This law works in all the counties in effect.
Grant County still has excessive deer numbers. Based on the 2019 data, increasing the antlerless or bonus permits will not significantly increase AL harvest. Supply of deer and permits already appears greater than hunter demand. This is unfortunate as harvest, especially on yearling bucks, needs to increase to meet the "maintain" objective and slow down or stabilize the rate of CWD infection in the DMU. CWD positives have been increasing and something needs to be done before it is out of control and reaches infection rates similar to Iowa and western Dane Counties.

I am all for the current deer hunting regulations. I am largely in support of a holiday hunt. I am very against the possibility of an extended gun season. I also believe that the current system of registering deer is very flawed. I feel you should have to take deer in and register them. I feel people are really playing the system and not registering deer. I feel there is a lot more people killing multiple deer and just registering them if they have to. I have heard of people doing this and if i had solid evidence i would turn them in at once.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input. I think our deer season in Grant county is pretty darn good. Last season is the fewest deer I've seen here since 2005. Of course, I'd like to see more deer, but with ag and CWD concerns, I think we're in a pretty good place. And just fyi, our entire statewide structure is good. Leave the archery and gun seasons as they are. And archery includes both bow and crossbow. Please just call it archery season and end the bickering....science agrees. Thanks again, Avid hunter since 1968.

It would be nice to have a staffed CWD sampling sites that is easily accessible within the county. Even if only staffed part time etc. Paid bonus tags did not sell, sell out. I think additional tags with license is better to enable the 20% who shoot 80% of the deer an additional opportunity. Maybe make them free but need to be requested so people that the people who will shoot deer get them. I do the Patrons every year to send additional money to the DNR. What is the point of having to send another 12 bucks to get an additional tag?

It is irrelevant to discuss the concept of increasing or maintaining the number of BONUS tags when they were vastly under-purchased in the past. We didn't meet the antlerless goal with giving away 3 free tags last year, why would we think we can meet goals by giving away fewer this year, and selling more? This unit needs the Holiday Hunt. Not an extension to the 9-day season, a NEW separate season that gives hunters a chance to regroup and get excited again to go out and use the tags they were already issued to use.

Pretty sure you could get the population back under control and stop the CWD spread if you would get back to state wide or even zone wide. This county specific, public or private preference is terrible! Turning away a lot of hunters, I know I have land in both Grant and Crawford county that I love to hunt but now have to choose between the tow or buy more tags that won't get filled. Seems like you guys are more out to earn a dollar then control the herd. Or get hunter numbers back up.

The county continues to be well above it's goal. Every tool available should be used to control the population. If a landowner does not want someone hunting the holiday hunt they can just not let people hunt their land. Although some parts of the county may not have high deer numbers, other parts are very high. Driving is much more danger with these high numbers of deer. In practicing sustainable forestry it is a real challenge getting regeneration. Deer are damaging my ag crops.

Archery Season 1Oct - 31Jan No more holiday or youth hunts. Rifle Season Keep it the same 9 day hunt it has always been. Extending it will only lower the deer kill and discourage more hunters with the lack of deer movement due to the fact there will not be the sudden influx of hunters in the woods pushing them. It is of my opinion and others in my area that rifle season is usually over with by noon on the second day. Muzzle Loader Day after Rifle Season - 31Jan
Hunting in the county has been very good over the past couple of years. With that being said, I would ask the council to consider recommending the holiday hunt during their final recommendation. This is a great opportunity to allow those who wish to continue hunting or want to harvest more deer to do so. Please consider giving the holiday hunt a try this coming fall. Thanks for the opportunity to comment and thank you for your dedication to deer hunting in Wisconsin.

One option for deer management never mentioned is opening gun deer season earlier. Bow & crossbow hunters have MORE than adequate amount of time to harvest. A suggestion would be an every other year for gun hunters to have first chance. Similar to what bear hunting options are(were). Bow & crossbows have evolved to where a bull elk can be killed at 60 yards!!! The antiquated rules need to be reviewed. Gun hunters are getting leftover much spookier deer. Thank you!

Things seem about right. Trend on graphs of young red oak trees is concerning; need a push across the state not just Grant county for action on this. CWD is of course the other big one, but the science is going to take a long time (learn to prevent or cure or otherwise manage). Lastly need more young hunters. Access in Grant County may be a limiting factor there. I would like to see an antlerless holiday hunt but not extension for any deer archery. Thanks!

Doe population high, weather, private land that will not shoot doe’s, need to bring back batting and feeding to help lower the doe population and get them does from larger private land. I have about 3000 anchorage that will not shoot doe’s. We need help to get them out of those large plots of land, the feeding band makes no sense, works great for other places, has no effect on CWD, no difference from a food plot from deer density and interaction, just think about it.

Grant County continues to have higher than desirable deer numbers, but it’s obvious from the 2019 results that increasing the number of antler less and bonus permits will not significantly increase the harvest. The supply of deer and permits is already higher than hunter demand. We need to encourage greater harvest, especially yearling bucks, to either stabilize or reduce the spread of CWD in the DMU before it reaches levels in Iowa and western Dane DMU’s

I’ve support more aggressive measure to control the deer population with collectively with other resources i.e. forest/wildlife. I feel that without fairly aggressive antlerless harvest, the population quickly gets out of hand. For this reason, I support earn-a-buck season structures as a means to effectively manage the population. I also support the holiday hunt. In particular, this is a great way to provide opportunities for young hunters.

Why not have the extra antlerless hunt in October? This was done some years ago and was a very pleasant hunt. It seems like the hunting rules and procedures have been getting very complicated over the last few years compared to changing little in prior decades. Last comment: the heavily bureaucratic process to get a license, especially requiring formal hunter “safety “ courses, is an impediment that will (is?) kill hunting in the future.

Keep seasons simple, keep tags available. I think the use of the holiday antlerless would help a lot b/c many people don’t want to risk pushing bucks out of the area shooting does but the does DO need to be harvested. So, the holiday hunt affords a dedicated time for us who own land here to organize a hunt w/ a few people so we can take does w/out the practical concerns of pushing bucks out of the area and or in harms way (other hunters).

With covid and all the other stuff going on we should consider limiting the number of out of state tags. Maybe not entirely but limit number per zone per county or in total of the state to keep the numbers up for year. the impact of loss of business for the state is probably a lot but if it preserves our deer heard for the next 10 years or give it a better chance and producing good numbers; then it may be worth it every ten years anyway.

Do not lengthen the gun deer season. I had more access to private land when we had a three day gun season. Going to 9 day season reduced my access, and lengthening the gun season will reduce my access into the future. Also be very clear that crossbows are a superior weapon over a vertical bow. These season should not be the same length. Crossbow buck harvest are higher than vertical bows, which is not addressing the doe harvest goals.
It doesn't make sense that the CDAC did not vote to hold the holiday hunt and extended archery season AGAIN this year. Year after year the CDAC has failed to "maintain" the deer herd numbers at 2017 levels per their own objective, and yet they also fail to implement all options at their disposal to meet their own goal. This smells like small town politics. I fully support holding the holiday hunt and the extended archery season.

I heard there was a rumor of the possibility of extending the gun deer season state wide in WI, I firmly oppose that initiative. Instead I would look back at the length of hunting seasons from back in the 80s and 90s and 2000s compared to the total deer harvest and consider shortening the season to not only motivate hunters to get out there, but to also increase deer harvest numbers and overall deer herd size in Grant county.

I believe that holding both the antlerless or holiday hunt is very nice for families and younger hunters who can be mentored for a longer period of time to get excited about hunting. We need to improve their numbers and that gives them an additional chance to be successful! I have two teenagers that are very busy during the regular season with basketball and other sports activities that can only partake in the holiday hunt.

In the area where I hunt there was significantly less deer seen during hunting due to the EHD outbreak that occurred. our neighbors reported seeing upwards of 20+ deer dead due in each of their properties. I noticed dead deer as well. this year should be focused on growing the population back to where it was in 2018, which seemed to be a very good population density for the area, and good buck:doe ratio.

with the shelter-in-place that we are experiencing this year, what does this mean to the total number of deer out there? Is the number of vehicle/deer crashes going to be lower? I like seeing deer here on the farm, but also realize the damage they can cause. They seem to love our field corn, and they don't walk by my sweet corn either! just the same, I like to watch them play and bucks fight.

My feeling is that there are to many deer in most wide life areas,therefore in order to lower the female population & the diseases, hunters need to takeout as many female deer as possible. This will create a better buck to doe ratio, allow for healthier deer, allow our area to support some record class bucks ,which will motivate more young people to hunt, which will create more revenue for out state.

Shining deer should be made illegal in Wisconsin. With the use of trail camera there is no reason to shine deer. People that own homes in rural areas are getting their homes shined every night. And since atv use is legal on most roads and crossbows are legal it just makes it that much easier for people to poach. Missouri did away with shining I think Wisconsin should be next. It pure wildlife harassment.

Would like to see the gun season shortened to a 3 day hunt with 1 buck tag and three doe tags provided for each license. Would not recommend increasing the current gun season to any longer than 9 days. Keep the bow/cross bow season and muzzle loader season as is. Feel shortening the season will increase the number of hunters in the woods therefore increasing deer movement within shooting hours.

To whom it may concern. I own land in Iowa and Wisconsin. I have hunted WI for 24 years and Iowa for 8. I have harvested more respectable bucks and numerous does in Iowa over Wisconsin. I am a graduate of QDMA level 2 deer steward class, I wanted to mention that because I'm not just another guy blowing smoke. Most people are not educated in deer but deer is all I think about.

I hunt in the N/W corner of the county 1/2 mile from Iowa county. The numbers are a little low still. We do a lot of shining during the archery season. We really don't see as many deer as we did in the late 90's and early 2000's. I feel the DNR's numbers are inflated. Deer registrations are low because a lot of people don't register their deer. It was a mistake to go to self registrations.

I agree with most of the recommendations but find the logic of reducing the antlerless tags from 3 to 2 while increasing the target goal doesn't pass the 'common sense ' test!!!! There are a lot of reasons why people don't fill all their tags - a lot of it has to do with weather and the availability of their hunting buddies (who sometimes have to work) to join in. Leave it at 3...........
My concern is having such a long muzzleloader/gun season together. The deer become nocturnal and are hard to hunt after a couple of days of rifle hunting. I think more deer could be harvested if the seasons were split. Maybe make the muzzleloader season around the holiday season. This would allow both increase deer number harvests and a hunt around the holidays.

Like seeing the drop in free antlerless tags per license. Also support strongly NOT having a holiday hunt as it adds extended pressure on the deer herd as well as imposes on landowners with the constant pressure of granting hunting permission. Extending the archery season until late January is just a bad idea all around so would not support that option.

I hunt around the fennimore area and I am concerned about folks illegally shooting deer out of season all year round. Until the DNR does something to stop them the idea to propose more deer to be harvested is insane. I seen 9 deer all of the bow/gun 2019 season.

It is impossible to maintain the deer herd at current levels if you do not give us opportunities to harvest antlerless deer. The holiday hunt and extended seasons are great times to sit in a blind with a kid and give them an opportunity to harvest an antlerless deer. By not having these seasons we limit our opportunities to enjoy the hunting tradition.

Crops still standing through the gun deer season in 2019 surely contributed to a lower deer kill. And to fewer deer being seen. At the end of the 2018 four day antlerless season I saw 46 deer at once! That was on private land in northeastern Grant County and deer were feeding on various corn and soybean fields within my sight from an elevated stand.

Cut down the number of permits and let the population grow. the last few years we have been seeing fewer deer. I think cwd is taking more deer than we think. If we don’t let the population grow now in a few years it will be too late. When I drive around I don’t see the numbers like we used to. Either in the fields or dead along the roads.

Wisconsin needs to have a longer archery/crossbow season until the end of January. Make the 9 day gun hunt into shotgun/muzzleloader only. Get rid of the muzzleloader season and then have an holiday hunt that is rifle and open it to antler/antlerless. Or Wisconsin needs to bring back earn a buck to help lower antlerless numbers.

Consider adopting a minimum 4 points on one side rule like many other states. Need to keep deer numbers up otherwise people will lose interest in hunting, especially if they are first time hunters and aren’t seeing any deer. People don’t desire to hunt in a state where deer numbers are low compared to surrounding states. Thanks

I would like a landowner to have the preference to harvest a gun deer anytime in the fall. As a full time farmer having free time and good hunting weather at the same time is rare. I’d like to put some of the venison my farm feeds in the freezer, but often am unable because of time constraints. Thank you for your consideration.

Sure you have heard it before, my neighbor owns 1300 acres has about 1/4 crp plus farm bill payouts. Will not let anyone hunt on his land. You can issue tags till the cows come home but still us taxpayers that pay his bills have access to those acres, deer numbers will only increase. Thank you for your listening.

We have to many deer. We should go to a owe a doe program. If you harvest a buck, you must then harvest, X amount of does by the end of the season. This would entail personal registration and a computer program to keep track of entries. I’m sure a program can be easily implemented through GOWild.

CWD continues to play a heavy role in hunter interest and safety. The most simple and affordable testing available seems imperative to understand disease prevalence and guide control measures, as well as to educate the public and hunters specifically regarding CWD effects on both deer and human health.

The deer heard size is controlled by private land owners. There has to be a balance that people understand with the buck to doe ratio and education is one of the keys. You could have a 30 day gun season and without private property owners helping achieve the quota it’s not going to work.
I would strongly recommend that there not be any restrictions on when a crossbow can be used during the archery season. This weapon option has allowed me to introduce hunting to my children who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity or interest to realistically participate.

It seems to me that there is an overwhelming number of hunters that refuse to harvest does and put an inordinate value in harvesting only a trophy buck. The amount of does and fawns that can be seen right after the season and especially in the spring is mind boggling.

I seriously think that your kill numbers are more than what is being electronically registered. Maybe you factor a certain percentage for that in your calculations, but people aren’t registering all of their deer since the registration locations aren’t open.

I saw far fewer deer in 2019 than I saw in both 2017 & 2018. That seemed to be the same thoughts from the neighboring hunters and landowners in the area I hunt. There had to be a die off from EHD or something else that drastically lowered the deer numbers.

do away with county pacific tags I live in a area that I have three counties with in walking distance and the same with public and private if I want to hunt them all I have to purchase additional tags for each area and end up eating the tags I don’t use.

I really appreciate what you are doing in processing all of the material, the hours spent and research that goes into all of this. I found the video to be extremely helpful and hope that similar evaluations can be made in the future. Grateful hunter.

I have seen little deer on my particular acreage. I am new to the area and am dealing with local dogs running the area. I am in full support of healthy numbers to what ever means necessary. I do not have a full concept of the area at this time.

A group of 5 of us came up from iowa 20 tqgs never seen a deer to even get a shot at 100 bucks for tags another couple hundred on hotels fuel and food. Wnt ever waste my time again in Wisconsin you dnt have the deer tr hat you think you do

I live in between fennimore and boscobel. I can take a five mile ride and see 150 deer. I recently viewed 24 deer in 1 field. I really feel that this zone needs a holiday hunt. Let the people that want to harvest does the opportunity.

I would recommend opening the gun season earlier than scheduled. Last year was too late and the rut was over and deer were not moving. Open the gun season this year on Saturday, November 14th and run it for two weeks. Thank you.

I think it needs to be taken into consideration that having private land to hunt can be difficult if not impossible anymore unless you are the landowner. This can affect the number of licenses purchased and overall deer numbers.

i would like to say when I buy a deer lic. I"m ask if I'm going to hunt D N R land or am i going to hunt private land..so then i can only hunt one of them. This doesn't make any sense to me. If i am going to hunt Grant Co. WHY??

A regular 9 day earn a buck with 3 doe tags with registration in person to validate doe harvest. 9 day only season produces more hunting pressure to provide more harvest and brings back the tradition, camaraderie, interest.

If a slight reduction in deer numbers is desireable, having an antlerless holiday hunt is my thought. Kids,teachers and many family members are off for the holidays. What better time to add a few deer to the kill number?

WE do not have the deer numbers in southern Grant county, compared to the northern half. You could go through a tank of gas driving around in the evening, to see 6 deer. Split the county up, then allocate the numbers.

I would support a framework where only one buck could be harvested per hunter per year, regardless of how many licenses they bought. This would increase the overall buck hunt quality. It would also increase doe kill.
Just drive around in Grant county an hour before dark. There are deer everywhere! Kill more Does. Quit dragging seasons on forever. Get back to a 3-5 day season when everyone used to hunt hard and then be done.

Having muzzle loading season after rifle season seems silly at best. It should be moved to early October before the rut. It worked in Kansas very well. And would increase the overall amount of people hunting.

I wish we could bring back the opportunity to harvest bucks during the holiday hunt. My son and I used to enjoy hunting during the holiday season when that was still an option, but don't anymore. Thank you

No extended archery season or holiday hunt. If Grant county has a holiday hunt I will be revoking access to all hunting on my properties for the entire season because don't like the constant pressure.

We do not shoot doe during the 9 day regular season. Shooting spooks deer into neighboring habitat that are then shot. We would like to see the antlerless only 3 day gun season as it was in 2019.

Keep with not having a holiday hunt. It puts a lot of pressure on landowners to keep opening up their property to hunting. If I get asked anymore I will be closing my property to all hunting.

Keep up the good work. You are doing a good job managing the herd. It's important that the herd stay healthy and hunting is appealing to young/new hunters as they are the future!

I would like to see an early season hunt for senior citizens. Cold weather is a challenge for older people. I think many older people would participate and Ann income o the state DNR and tourism.

The short gun seasons make it difficult to effectively harvest deer. The holiday hunt would provide myself and others more opportunity to help maintain a healthy deer population.

I would like to see all deer seasons close by the 1st of the year. I am also a predator hunter and it is hard to gain permission from landowners before deer season is closed.

I would like to be able to feed small amounts of food; apples, acorns max 5 gallon quantity. Spreading it over an area versus a feeder. Not for hunting or baiting purposes.

I would like to see the muzzle loading season come before the rifle season. After the rifle season is over there is slim chance of harvesting a deer with a muzzle loader.

I would like to see an early hunt in October in addition to the regular hunt. I would rather have an early hunt, instead of a late hunt in December, because of weather.

As a college student, it is very difficult to have time to hunt with the current gun seasons. An additional holiday gun season would make it much more accessible.

I think you should quit scaring everyone about cwd and other diseases what deer has that why people don't like to hunt i love to hunt and I outdoors

I hunted in this unit for six full days and never seen a single deer. Going to stop buying a license every year the deer population seems to be less and less.

Because of the large amount of cropland in this area, when there is a lot of standing corn during hunting season, like last year, hunters will see less deer.

Season needs to remain the same time and structure. Adjust antlerless tags or go back to earn a buck for same structure of one buck per method Gun/Archery.

Stop using private and public land tags. Some people hunt both and it complicates it when all you have to do is cross an imaginary boundary in the woods.
Was not able to bow hunt 2019 due to deployment. Saw far fewer deer during the 2019 gun season with no mature bucks. This was very unusual in my areas.

Not seeing the numbers I have in past years would love to see more deer. Too many tags are being issued. The deer need a chance to recover in numbers.

I believe the drop in deer hunting success (gun season) on our farm was due to the fact that we had standing corn for the first time in 20 years.

Please leave gun season as is. I think to the public land deer density is very low and parole should only be allowed one antlerless on public.

I would very much like to see a holiday hunt and extended archery only this year. I also like the two buck tags one firearm and one archery.

So you didn’t reach the goal of antlerless deer harvested, but don’t support an antlerless holiday hunt? I must be missing something here.

I highly value the science the DNR conducts to make decisions on habitat and wildlife management decisions above my own interests.

We saw many more bucks this year on trail cams on the property. I shot my best ever, on opening morning, a beautiful 10 pointer!

Deer just got back in the area and I’m actually starting to see some bucks that would score over 120, still nothing giant.

I think we should have a 19 gun season get rid of the 4 day hunt and keep the holiday hunt and include Grant County in it.

In my opinion I would like to see everything as far as seasons remain the same. If any change remove the holiday hunt.

Deer populations on public land has always been way lower in the past years in this unit than on private lands. We do not want an extended gun hunt in Grant County, but would approve of extended bow and mussel load seasons.

I wish you could split the extra tags between counties. I hunt Grant and Sauk. It forces hunter to one place.

If you want to meet the doe quota a holiday hunt would help me and many others would appreciate it greatly.

With the amount of deer that get hit on the highway where I reside I think the numbers are about correct.

Earn a buck for archery and gun seasons would be a more effective program to align deer populations.

No holiday hunt, it adds to much additional pressure to herd and makes them stay nocturnal.

Do not change the way it is now with the hunting seasons! You will ruin it for everyone!

Deer numbers in my hunting were very low lucky to even see one deer all day hunting.

Cdac doing a good job, I like this format for establishing the regulations.

Bring back earn a buck as a herd control option in the fight against CWD.

Stick to traditional seasons. No extended archery and no holiday hunt.

Just don’t let the gun season start any earlier than normal. Thanks!!

Too many deer are injuring people in vehicles and damaging our forests!

I am not in favor of any bonus hunts for deer. Regular seasons only.

Keep moving towards traditional seasons, no holiday hunt!
EHD decimated our area by Woodman. Dozens of dead deer

Leave bow, crossbow, and rifle seasons as is.

The deer hunting season needs to a bit longer.

Shorten crossbow season. Leave gun the same

Please do not extend the 9 day season.

Stay with tradition season structures

Please keep current season structure

I support earn a buck in this unit

Please no extended gun seasons.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Green Lake, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

314 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 145
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 59
   - I hunt in this unit: 288
   - General interest in this unit: 40

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 274
   - Bow: 171
   - Crossbow: 115
   - Muzzleloader: 118

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.78
   - Maximum: 85

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 213
   - Mostly Private Land: 29
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 15
   - Mostly Public Land: 2
   - Exclusively Public Land: 24
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 8
   - Not too crowded: 29
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 18
   - Somewhat crowded: 6
   - Very crowded: 2
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 55
   - Fewer: 93
   - Same: 127
   - More: 26
   - Many More: 9
   - Unsure: 4

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:

Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
124      | 175    | 15     

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:

Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
170      | 129    | 15     

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:

Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
39       | 259    | 16     

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?

Support | Oppose | Unsure
---------|--------|--------
VALID NOT VALID | 15     |

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>2.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First, I would like to thank all the CDAC members for their service. I believe the antlerless quota, antlerless harvest authorizations, and bonus authorizations are at reasonable, sustainable levels. I encourage the CDAC members to support the holiday hunt. The holiday hunt is critical to meeting (or at least getting closer) our management goals and quotas, and not holding one would be a huge mistake. The data shows there is little to no impact to snowmobiles during the holiday hunt time period as a substantial snow pack enough to open trails is highly unlikely. The holiday hunt is necessary, makes sense, and is really fun to participate in. I also encourage the CDAC members to support the extended archery and crossbow season. We certainly have the deer numbers, both buck and doe to support it, not to mention the odds of success are not exactly in your favor so late in the season. Why limit opportunity to farmers who are busy harvesting in the fall but have more time to bow hunt when things quite down in January? Please remember the holiday hunt and extend archery and crossbow seasons are important tools for getting closer to quotas. These seasons decrease the detrimental deer browse to our native trees that is making it easier for the buckthorn and other invasive plants to take over. Consider the current COVID epidemic and realize that a disease like CWD could easily spread through an overpopulated whitetail herd right here in Green Lake County. Consider the waste of good venison and financial loss due to all the deer collisions in Green Lake county and give hunters one more opportunity to harvest the deer. Consider the decrease in agricultural damage to standing crops and baleage due to holding these additional seasons. Consider the opportunity for hunters to enjoy more time in the outdoors with a longer season. Use these limited and carefully measured additional seasons to reduce the deer population while increasing hunter success and satisfaction, not to mention the positive effect of the hunts on our local economy.

I attended a CDAC meeting and felt it was a waste of time. All the board discussed was how over populated was the deer herd. I’m sorry, I do not see this at all in Green Lake county where this meeting was held. I put in close to over 200 hours a year in the field either hunting or scouting for Whitetail deer. I know that the population census is way off what the DNR estimates. The population is much less. I own land and also hunt public in my county as well as adjoining counties. I do not see any over browse other than on dogwood which is the staple food source in many marshes in the winter. Harvest is down, that would support the theory of a lower population. Car deer crashes are not factored effectively as well. How many get hit and not reported? Drivers are not very responsible these days. Insurance companies I’m sure know this, but cry deer. I drive every morning 25 miles on state road 73. The ditches are full of carcasses. I do not see that many deer on the roads when I’m driving in the morning and evenings. Not like it used to be back in the 70’s & 80’s. In the 70’s we would drive in the winter and find picked corn fields and see sometimes a 100 deer feeding in Green Lake county. I haven’t seen this phenomenon in many years. Another scenario is opening day of gun season during this time frame, it was nothing to see or count 100 deer on opening weekend. Now on the same property, we’re lucky to see 5 opening weekend. It’s been this way for many years. Last season I didn’t see any opening day. The neighbors had the same situation. I realize there is hotspots but to say that a county is over populated is wrong. Deer are going to go where they feel safe and have a food source. Is the department concluding than deer are getting smarter and hunting is less effective? Is the hunter competing with insurance companies in funding the DNR? Thank you.
I appreciate this process, and want to thank the CDAC's for the efforts. The biologist video and accurate minutes (including how the individual members voted on proposals) from the preliminary meeting are most helpful to me. I see improvement in the supplied information each year as this process matures. I fully endorse the 2020 season framework as spot on, especially in regard to including a holiday hunt. We need the extended seasons to fill the extra antler-less tags. I also endorse staying away from the January extension and letting others have access to the landscape. A partnership agreement, even unwritten, is better for all users long term. I like what some of the other counties are doing to hammer out ways to coexist during these times. The T zone season and a gun deer holiday hunt are efficient ways to fill tags when necessary. 2019 was a good example for our group. We did not fill many of our buck tags (only 2 of 7), and used the extra seasons to fill doe tags. My son shot a doe during the T zone, and then had a couple buddies (who didn't have deer) come and fill two more tags during the holiday hunt. They also missed a couple shots that would have accounted for more had their aim been better. In other words, we really like those extra seasons when the goal is to fill more doe tags. Additionally, we don't let others on our land during the regular season, but welcome the extra guns during these later hunts. I cannot tell you how appreciative the other hunters (and their parents for that matter) were for the opportunity to harvest a deer. For one person, it was her first harvest. Lastly, we do our own butchering, and were able to submit 2 heads for CWD sampling. Thank goodness both came back negative.

I have hunted 33 years and will most likely quit hunting soon. I am 45 but no longer enjoy all the attempts leadership try's to make sure city hunters get to see large number of deer and harvest oversized bucks. I believe the deer herd figures to be correct and the herd to be reduced. I am not a fan of earn a buck but this is the only way to reduce the herd. I really dislike when heading to the woods having to google what season is today and what to hunt with. I do not understand why we continue to lengthen seasons and all the bs that goes with it etc... Some lands never get pressured and the deer do not move to areas where hunters are hunting for meat etc. I would like to see bow season open 3rd Sat in Sept close Sunday before gun season, 9 day gun season, bow hunt reopen until Dec 31st. I believe you will harvest the same# possible even more because hunters are not as selective with a shorter window (although this will not happen because to much money is generated by these seasons / money takes over and the deer herd quality takes back seat) the only way to control the herd is look for a solution that best fits the herd without taking all the money pressure from other source. I grow up on a farm where deer hunting was a tradition that has been taken over by how much $$$$ can be made. Thank you Joel Dugenske

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. From my perspective, I would like to see the holiday hunt removed from the hunting calendar. I am a bow hunter, gun hunter and snowmobiler. There are more than ample opportunities to harvest deer over the course of 3.5 months (more if the bow season is extended. We have approximately 13 weeks of bow hunting and a little more than 3 weeks of some type of gun hunting (gun, muzzleloader and a 4 day antlerless hunt in December). Is it really necessary to add an additional 9 days of gun hunting during the holidays? Adding this season takes away potential opportunities to snowmobile for those who enjoy that activity due to trail closures during any gun season. We don't always have snow at this time, but the holidays are a time when families have time to spend together and enjoy a shared interest. I know the same can be said for the hunters, but remember, they have the entire Thanksgiving holiday to themselves and covers the most popular hunting season where the number of people enjoying it is at its greatest. Please reconsider holding the holiday hunt in Green Lake county. If the proposed quota can't be met with 110+ days of hunting, shame on us hunters. 9 days can't be the difference.
Im an out of state hunter with private land. I personally believe Wisconsin dnr is by far one of the best in the country. I make every attempt to be a good steward of the land by planting trees recommend by the county Forester making sure the deer population that roams my property and the neighbors has all the necessary food sources to stay healthy. I place out nesting houses for ducks in the fall and spring. I do 0 work in my home state and put all my efforts in to Wisconsin. My gripe is there is such a high cost to hunt compared to a Wisconsin resident. My other gripe as pertains to this dmu is the antlerless only hunt. I've only hunted a few seasons now and have been successful in every one with multiple deer in each season. I always aim to take an antlerless first to accomplish the deer reduction goals of the dmu. So often my antlerless are taken early season. Then I'm forced in late season to take only antlerless when id much rather be looking for antlered. If antlerless only seasons are decided upon I'd hope to have the bow season extended.

I really wish that DNR would adopt Quality deer management program because it accomplishes lowering the number of doe and increasing the number of mature buck. I will never understand why you allow people to kill everything and anything when hunters are seeing less and less deer every year. this is the lowest number of deer I have ever seen in my 48 years of hunting and I hunt a lot bow and gun. I really wish that DNR would look at how many deer people are seeing while hunting. Then maybe they would realize that the number of deer that they think are in an area aren't even close to what they project. I know several hunters that are ready to quit hunting due to the low number of deer that they see while hunting. I hope at some point you guys start to use science which is based in the quality deer management system. Handing out doe permits and extending seasons is not helping. Hunters want to see animals when they are in the woods. They don't want to just stare at an empty landscape.

In my opinion, there are too many tags out in the woods, with a limited number of hunters. The DNR could give 100 tags to someone, but it is not going to have a huge impact on the population of deer in an area. Landowners are only going to harvest a certain number of deer off the land and leave the rest for another time. For funding purposes (economics), the DNR would be better off to go back to a more limited number of tags and selling initial licenses to more people and then having the funds to provide more services to lakes, streams, wetlands, woods, etc. Now the deer antlerless tags are just going unfilled and shredded. We as sportsmen and stewards of the land need to encourage more individuals to come into the woods and fisheries, not limit how many need to be in the woods by giving a father, grandfather, mother or someone else so many they don't need to teach a younger generation the benefits of hunting.

I have concerns regarding the proposed crossbow restriction to only October and the 19 day gun season. As an older hunter I am uncomfortable standing on a platform along with the inability to draw a bow. I qualified for crossbow before the law was changed. It is unfair to penalize crossbow hunters. 19 days to gun hunt is too long. I also gun hunt but it is for family traditions. Adding days to the hunt will have no baring on those traditions. I know the idea of earn a buck has been floated. I would not be opposed to shooting one buck per year which could be taken by either gun or bow, but earn a buck puts a lot of pressure on hunters. I have shot my biggest bucks early and feel pressured to shoot a doe. They are still with young fawns. There is plenty of time to shoot doe later when to fawns have been pushed out. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Dodge county you are trying to increase the number, Fondulac county you are trying to maintain yet in Green Lake county you are trying to decrease. Areas that are on the eastern and southern portion of Green Lake county numbers are down due to the amount of Does being taken. Maybe if there is overabundance in some parts of Green Lake county you need to reduce in those areas by mapping those particular areas. Numbers are way down in the south east portion of Green Lake county, maybe use Hwy 44 as a boundary for where antlerless deer can be taken in future years, (south and east of 44, no does or limit to party permit again). Our hunting group has hunted same area along Grand River for over 30 years has seen a big decline over the last 5 years. It is getting so bad that many of the hunters are losing interest in going out. These bonus tags have hurt this area dramatically.
Don’t really care what you do for private, but to allow ONE HUNTER using myself for example I bow hunt and gun hunt I have the ability to shoot 8 DEER! 6 of which are antlerless which I would never do but some guys will. How long do you think there will be deer on the landscape of PUBLIC land, I can tell from sitting in the woods and walking in the woods it stinks and why would some young people want to spend time and money to hunt deer when they can hunt all week and not see a DEER this system is broke and public land at least in Green Lake county is a joke, I am 51 years old and been hunting since I was 12 and every year it seems to get worse this is part of why guys are done hunting, I may be next soon for me it’s not so much about killing them as much as I would just like to see some, I think 1 buck 1 doe on public would be great plenty, instead of wiping them out.

Green Lake county is like many rural counties in that human populations keep growing and like it or not, small areas in the county are becoming “suburbanized”. For example the southwest township of Brooklyn near Sugar Loaf. I see herds of deer in the area that just keep growing. Multiple groups/ herds of deer typically ranging from 8 to 12+ deer. Current hunting regulations and management practices have not been able to adequately reduce the deer population leading to severe damage to trees, bushes and other plants in these suburbanized areas. The only tree that is regenerating is buckthorn. I respectfully ask the committee and the DNR (statewide) to come up with solutions/ regulations for property owners to in some manner activity reduce the deer population in these suburbanized settings. Thank you for your consideration.

I have lived and hunted green lake county for over 30 years. The quality and quantity of the deer population has fallen significantly even with us and surrounding private land owners all trying to practice QDM. Car deer hits have increased because of the greater amount of drivers on our roads. Hopefully with the drop in traffic from covid we will have a couple of years of increased deer. I have sent in 4 deer who have died next to my house of unknown cause in the last 6 months fawns and adults and have never heard why they died either. So disease or cars have been the greatest impact in our county on our deer population so reducing the hunting pressure and harvest will help our deer heard. We have had a moderate coyote impact with 2 deer I have seen succumb to the local coyote population in the last 5 years personally.

I’m torn as a deer hunter and snowmobiler. I believe the hunting season is long enough, it doesn’t have to go into Dec or Jan. It’s hard to have trails going through private land when people are still trying to bow hunt. (The last thing they want is sled on their land while out hunting!) I own land that the trail goes through and would not want that, but if given the chance to snowmobile, I’d rather be doing that, seeing as the season is so short as it is and if we have snow between Christmas & New years, my family love to get out and ride, but can’t because the trails can’t open until rifle season is over...and by that time, my kids have had enough hunting with the youth hunt, bow season, rifle season, muzzle loader season and T-zone. The last thing we want is another week of chasing doe. Thank you

I was in the white river marsh area turkey hunting this past weekend and was really disappointed to see countless acres of mature hardwoods in there prime clear cut and the grounds left an absolute mess to the point if you tried to walk outside of the few clam bunk tracks it was prime to bust an ankle and has virtually left the area unusable to the public, I’ve been exclusively hunting public lands throughout the state the last several years and the high volume of clear cut public lands in numerous county’s has left me unable to harvest any deer or turkey and will be hard pressed to see in my lifetime usable lands again in these areas.

The best years of hunting that I’ve ever had and the biggest bucks I’ve ever seen were during the years we had earn a buck because for some reason in this state we choose to shoot young buck instead of shooting doe to fill the freezer and it’s exhausting. I would love to see earn a buck brought back we need to make people shoot doe because the select few like me that are shooting a lot of doe is not helping. We need the bucks to have to travel during the rut to spread their genetics and we need horn restrictions like other states have to let the bucks go so they can grow. We need to learn how to manage our deer herd.
I am a bow hunter. I hate bow hunting in blaze orange and am sick of losing my season to all these crazy seasons. Crossbows should be lumped in with firearms and Youth hunters should have to shoot an antlerless deer if they want a special season. I would restrict crossbows to under 16 and over 65. Too many people told me they could not get a doctor to sign disability even though it hurt to shoot their bow and other ones that didn't deserve it got a doctor to sign for their crossbow permit. Ag tags and hunting past early January makes it too hard to tell does from antler dropped bucks.

Holiday hunt is to late in the season. Not only does it affect the snowmobile riding but also some bucks have already dropped their horns. Have one bow season for any type of bow, long bow, crossbow, recurve or compound. Whatever you feel most comfortable shooting during the bow season. we do not tell someone they can’t shoot a 30 06 because it is to powerful. Allow baiting on all private land. Don’t tell people how they can and cannot hunt. Bring back a check point system where hunters must register deer. The system in place now does not give an accurate count of deer killed.

I am a farmer in danger of being put out of business from excessive deer damage to my crops...since the earn a buck system was ended, we have seen an explosion of the deer herd, most hunters now are waiting for a trophy buck and think the larger herd gives them more buck to chose from. Some people are scared to eat venison because of cwd, so they are not meat hunters anymore. Talk to any farmer in my area and they can tell you stories about huge herds everywhere. Something needs to change! (I farm in the Big Green Lake area)

Please leave the 9 day deer season alone, keep the muzzle loader season, do NOT restrict / limit the amount of time in the woods for those of us that have no choice but to use a crossbow, I prefer bow season over gun seasons. Please remove the Holiday hunt, we refuse to go out and shoot bred does. Last year from the middle of October until the end of bow season in January, I NEVER saw a deer to harvest. I believe it was due to all of the corn that couldn't be harvested last season, they had no need to leave feeding grounds.

Even though we are considered in the "farmland" unit, one would be amazed at the number of deer seen during the season. As a teenager hunting our land, we used to see 30 - 40 deer a day. Now days, lucky to see 5 - 10 deer. A few years back they slaughtered the does and to this day, they have not recovered, in my opinion. That may predator or mortality, but the numbers are not there. They keep issuing the extra bonus tags, but should instead go back to the old "party tag" system to rebuild the herd. Thank you

You can't possibly shoot too many does in G.L. county. The CDAC is providing plenty of opportunity. I hope that hunters will take an extra doe this year and KEEP CWD OUT OF THE COUNTY! So my message is to the hunters out there.........shoot a doe, and get all of your deer tested. let's keep CWD out for as long as we can. There are a ton of deer, and most of the does I have shot have been more than 4 years old. Lots of deer making it through to the next year, so we can shoot more! Do your part!!
I hunt public land. I believe that the hunter numbers are high per acre on opening weekend. Would deer numbers support that? What is the public land success per hunter. The deer numbers appear to be on private. Land owners refuse to take doe. I have hunt this area for 40 years. Our public areas are pushed for pheasant hunting. The edges of public lands are hunted hard. Deer movement is occurs late in the evening to private farm land. My concern is public lands are getting more and more pressure.

If you believe the population warrants a decrease, and if measures such as antlerless hunts are even considered, why on earth would you even suggest restricting crossbow hunting or not allowing an archery season extension to Jan 31? Sometimes proposals and assessments by the DNR seem at odds with each other. Also, every antlerless only hunts restrict archery hunting during the same time period. Legal archery buck harvest should be allowed. Wardens can tell how deer were taken.

why does the DNR always interfer with the regular archery season? Now talking about a 16 or 19 day gun season then a 5 day quiet period. It hardly would pay to go archery hunting. Before this you passed crossbows for everyone. Archery hunting was never supposed to be easy. facts and registration counts do not lie. put crossbows back in the hands of the handicapped only. But then the crossbow business wouldn't Pay off legislation any more.

I firmly believe that the youth hunt needs to be eliminated. It interferes with us die hard bow hunters. The same holds true with the other "special" hunts. Who goes bow hunting wearing blaze orange? I much prefer the solitude of bow hunting versus all the gun hunts. That coupled with all the extra duck/goose hunts now does nothing but make the deer skittish and will ultimately reduce the harvest on both public and private lands.

Hunters on private land land are only going to shoot so many deer, unless Ag tags are allowed, many hunters I know pass up a lot of bucks, and I mean a lot, private land owners will dictate # of deer killed, most private land is about how big, for most it is not about putting meat on the table, size of antlers is, they must control the doe numbers to keep the herd in balance, a lot of land owners do not, so many variables.

One thing I would like to see is getting rid of the zones. Buck is pretty much state wide. But for a doe I have to buy a tag for each zone I potentially might hunt just so I can harvest one. I get sales are lower than they have been in recent years, in my findings this is in partial to the zones being implemented. I, and a few of my hunting buddies would be able to shoot more deer if this wasn’t a factor any longer.

I like the idea of offering additional bonus permits for antlerless deer, but I, and my entire hunting party, are not in favor of the antlerless only season. During the year or 2 where it was earn-a-buck, I had to pass up a nice buck because I hadn’t yet shot a doe, and it was very frustrating. My son just started hunting a few years ago and would not have enjoyed his hunts as much if they were limited to doe only.

The Deer numbers have doubled the last three years in a row. There is now a herd of 14 to 30 Deer that comes through 2 or 3 time a month in back of our property. 3 years ago we were lucky to see 5. I think permits should be increased. We have had 6 close calls with the truck in the last 6 mo.’s (Deer running out in front of the truck) I would lean towards a longer youth hunt to encourage more youth to the sport.

Since the license/tags have changed to where it is not displayed on the hunters back and not having to go somewhere to tag your deer I feel this poses an issue. With not displaying your license on your back you are not aware who is even legally hunting. By tagging your deer online, a lot of individuals I believe don’t even register their deer which is causing an inaccurate number to deer shot during the season.

The Grand River Marsh hunting area is split between Green Lake County and Marquette County and separate deer management zones. When applying for antlerless permits on public land, why does DNR not allow one or 2 from each zone as long as the total is 3 or less. Both zones allow the same 3 permits. I would recommend hunters be allowed to get 2 from one and two from the other. Thanks for your consideration.
Just the right amount of deer where I hunt, but a few miles away are bad hotspots with loads of deer. Private land. Big bucks only. I drive 11 miles to work, it's nothing to see 20+ deer a one way trip. You can give out unlimited tags, but if people don't want to shoot a doe what good is it? My family does crop damage tags so the herd is thinner near us. Two miles away there are too many to be healthy.

In one of the question segments, you referenced concerns due to over population causing damage or over browsing. I feel that today's hunters are doing more food plots with supplemental food because of the invasive buckthorn. My woods is full of the stuff, so I don't feel deer get much, if any natural browse. I would like to see greater efforts by the state to help landowners get rid of this.

Why don't you start the muzzle loader season earlier say nov 1 this could be used to provide more opportunities for non bow hunters and help control herd size. Having it start after the gun hunt doesn't really provide for a quality hunt. The deer are so spooked and most hunters are hunted out few of us want to even go out. It could be a 15 day hunt and finish up well before gun season opens.

Some areas are way overpopulated due to landowners taking too few or no deer. In my particular hunting area it has been difficult to increase herd size due to the taking of too many antlerless deer. For example, on a good day I may see 15 deer. On a good day at some of my friends farms you may see 50 deer as they kill only large bucks and virtually no doe. Not sure how to solve this problem.

Make additional tags available for free if hunters want them. Why penalize those hunters that want to help achieve the goal? Is it a tax write off to donate a harvested deer in Wisconsin? If not, making it so and advertising this may make it worth the extra effort for some hunters. How about "earn a license"? Shoot 3 antlerless deer and get a discount on next years hunting license.

Instead of earn-a-buck could we add EARN-EXTRA-BUCK. If a hunter harvests 3 antlerless animals, taken to a registration station to confirm then they would receive an additional buck tag. Somehow we need to encourage more hunters to harvest due to get the population down. somehow have to confirm kill or people will say they are harvesting antlerless animals and not really doing it.

Implementing an "antlerless only" season for all out of state licenses. This way, tourists can still hunt in Wisconsin, but cannot harvest an antlered deer during the 2020 season. This will hopefully still generate local economic support, and improve the overall balance of the herds, without hindering landowners to harvest antlered deer.

Setting the framework will be challenging due to the fact that some properties hold more deer than others. I hunt in a very highly populated deer area and see anywhere from 15 to 30 deer everytime I sit i just choose not to shoot every deer. With that being said some parts of the county are lower and deer browse is an issue also.

Stop handing out agricultural deer tags and letting farmers shoot them in January, February. Bucks drop antlers and everything gets shot. And stop handing out all the free tags. Then people think they need to fill every tag you guys hand out. Mean while we dont see deer cuz the neighbors blast them all. Makes hunting no fun.

I would like to see more testing for CWD in Green Lake county since it is now I an adjacent county. Also is there any work being done to improve the testing time for CWD? It would great to have a harvested deer be tested and get results back immediately which would help you determine to have the deer processed or not.

We are drowning in antlerless deer where I hunt and the deer density is way too high. Our group harvests over 20 antlerless deer each year and we can't make a dent in the population. The CDACs and the department need to work together to create new tools to encourage others to harvest more antlerless deer.

It has taken a long time for the herd to come back after the multiple year earn a buck followed by the massive winter kill of 2007/ 2008 followed by near 100% coyote fawn mortality in 2009 and 2010. The age distribution of the herd is still not stabilized. Hunting pressure continues to increase every year.
Remove the holiday hunt due to the fact that it is limiting an already short snowmobile season. I'd personally would rather be riding than in the woods. The hunting season is already 2 and half month and if you can't get a deer during that time then what is another few days of gun hunt or a month of bow.

I think Extending the Gun Season would be a great thing for hunters. They would have a better chance at a Buck and it would also promote tourism in the area for a longer period of time. I am opposed to the Holiday hunt and it does impact other recreation during the same period like Snowmobiling.

Lack of physical DNR presence was noted. People violating illegal permanent stands don’t feel people register deer they shoot so numbers are skewed car hits people don’t pay attention and insurance companies are to involved. Reported issues to Whiteriver station saw no results.

I missed the input for April 16‐18 to vote on other high profile topics for the state & wanted share that I think extending the gun season will be detrimental to the states buck population. I also feel increasing the out of state price tag for an deer season is beneficial.

Our hunting party harvested less deer in 2019 than in 2018 because the only tool we had to bring deer in was baiting. Now we can't bait and we're seeing less deer. We don't have the land to food plot. In my opinion I would like to see baiting be legal in Green lake county.

I know it's not in the "tool box," but i would like to see only one buck tag issued per hunter per season for any weapon. Meaning that a hunter who hunts both archery and gun seasons could only harvest one buck per year, regardless of the weapon he harvests it with.

I don't completely oppose the holiday hunt. Selfishly, I believe it should be held at some point but not during that particular time frame. Between Christmas and New Years was always the last days I really had a chance to get out and punch that buck tag with a bow.

If THERE IS ANY KIND OF ANTLER LESS ONLY HUNT OR EARN A BUCK HUNT MY 400 PLUS ACRES WILL BE SHUT OFF TO DEER HUNTING AND MY FAMILY MEMBER AND FRIENDS WILL NOT PURCHASE LICENSES! AS FOR THE NORTHERN COUNTIES THE WOLF POPULATION MUST BE CONTROLLED!

Like to see a 16 day hunt ! I have not seen the deer like I used to when I started hunting my land years ago. I used to see 200 to 300 hundred deer Opening day! My family now hunts and have never see the deer like we used to when I was younger.

We are seeing a lot of deer this spring which leads us to believe that we had a healthy winter season. For CWD purposes I do believe more does have to be taken. Thank you for all the testing stations and work you’re doing! Please keep it up.

I believe the numbers of deer people were seeing last year from roads and high ground are skewed due to the major flooding in the wet lands. A lot of state acreage wasn't able to support deer due to the high water.

I really feel there's no need for a holiday hunt. 2 antlerless tags for archery and 2 for gun is plenty. I would like to see no holiday hunt and leave the late archery season the same dates or extended a week.

We saw the lowest number of deer in 2019, which has continued to drop in the last five years according to our records that we keep each year. We plant fields for deer and still see our numbers going down.

Please stop the Holiday hunt. It is dangerous especially in semi suburban areas. Families visiting for Holidays...kids playing outside enjoying snow... etc. We DO NOT need that season! Thank You!

Stop the Anterless only hunts.i have hunted my same land for 35 years and the last 10 years has been horrible . Not seeing many deer. Looking at just selling land and hunting southern Illinois.

There are far too many anterless kill tags allowed on the public land in this county. The QDM on private lands do not kill as many does. Decrease the amount of anterless tags on public.
Antlerless holiday hunt is a total joke. Bow hunters can’t shoot bucks and snowmobile trails can’t open. Not to mention who actually goes out during the holiday hunt. Hardly no one!

A big problem with deer harvest numbers down for our area was late harvest of corn. Deer numbers are still very high (by personal observation) in January and February, 2020.

There is talk about that they want to impose a Oct 1- Oct 31 Crossbow season. They should keep the framework for the season the way it is presently. Thank you,

I understand the logic in lowering numbers, certainly do not want to go to the “earn a buck years. Last year we took one buck, prior year two does.

Crossbow season should be limited to a week sometime prior to gun season (concurrent with vertical bows) and allowed for the late season hunts.

Heard very little shooting opening day for last 3 years. Seem to be less every year. From like 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. virtually no shooting at all

I would like to see the deer population go up. I see few deer and I do not shoot yearlings. Hunting is more enjoyable when I see more deer.

I hunt the Princeton area and only seen 5 deer the 6 days I hunted during the gun season, would have bow hunted but was working out of town.

Please get a Warden for Green Lake County. The complete disregard for duck/deer regulations by certain hunters is appalling. Thank you!

Thanks for the work and sending this out. I’m so thankful that all family members got to see a deer. Not everyone needs to kill one.

The number of deer I am seeing in the fields each evening this spring has increased from last year (2019).

leave well enough alone most people do not hunt past the first two days because they do not see any deer

We need a tool to entice hunters to shoot more does. Maybe an additional buck tag for harvesting two does?

I’ve always thought Earn-A-Buck was a good management tool and would hope that someday it will return.

People are not registering all the deer they shoot and that contributes to lower numbers harvested.

Hunted 9 days during the gun season, never saw 1 deer! Way over harvested in Green Lake County

I truly believe there are more deer being killed than are being called in and registered.

Please bring back restrictions on crossbow hunting. 60 years old or disabled restrictions.

Lower amount of anger less tags no holiday hunt and leave crossbow archery season as is

get rid of all the x-tra hunts and get back to true deer hunting not harvesting.

I am opposed to extending the gun deer hunt beyond the traditional 9 days.

You should restrict the crossbow season and get rid of the youth hunt.

Earlier gun season every year and 16 days long this will work

Please get crossbows out of the regular archery season.

I’m very opposed to any type of deer hunting extension

Open baiting up if want more deer harvested.

reinstate backtags to identify trespassers

Far to many crop tags issued in my area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4142</td>
<td>Do NOT ever have earn a buck again!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4143</td>
<td>Didn't see deer one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10939</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4144</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 253
   - Bow: 175
   - Crossbow: 100
   - Muzzleloader: 77

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 21.74
   - Maximum: 67

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 197
   - Mostly Private Land: 49
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 18
   - Mostly Public Land: 3
   - Exclusively Public Land: 4
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 9
   - Not too crowded: 22
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 15
   - Somewhat crowded: 12
   - Very crowded: 10
   - Not applicable: 6

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 43
   - Fewer: 77
   - Same: 124
   - More: 38
   - Many More: 14
   - Unsure: 8

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 193
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 51
   - I hunt in this unit: 273
   - General interest in this unit: 53

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

The Antlerless Quota is recommended...
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
  - Support: 112
  - Oppose: 176
  - Unsure: 16

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
  - Support: 148
  - Oppose: 132
  - Unsure: 23

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
  - Support: 23
  - Oppose: 265
  - Unsure: 16

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

- Should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
  - Support: VALID
  - Oppose: NOT VALID
  - Unsure: Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I started hunting at the age of 12, which was a perfect age to start hunting, I was not given a special youth hunt and wasn't allowed to use a cross bow, I put in the time and was elated to harvest a spike as my first deer. The rules were straight and narrow and gave everyone the same chance to harvest a deer. One deer with a bow and one deer with a gun, either sex. You tagged your deer and registered your deer. I felt that I could hang with the men and that hard work paid off. Hunting today is too easy with youth rifle hunts in October, crossbow hunting open to anyone and extra gun hunts and extended seasons. I just don't think hunting is suppose to be easy and almost guaranteed to harvest a deer. No lessons are learned when you are basically being put into a no lose situation. I can personally admit that growing up with no advantages has made me a better hunter and a better person overall! Now owning property of our own, we have been able to trophy hunt and enjoy many memories. We have put in so much time and effort to wildlife and deer management, but over the last 10 years it has steadily gone down hill in which the deer numbers have been cut more than half on our property as multiple gun hunters surrounding our property shooting multiple deer every year has taken its toll. Also, the deer numbers have decreased with the amount of guys using crossbows around us, which is much easier to harvest deer by far and also takes the challenge of drawing your bow back and shooting a closer ranges out of the picture. I believe the crossbow restrictions that were in place before the changes was the correct policy, (people with disabilities and over the age of 62) so that those people that could not participate with bow hunting still could. In my opinion, people with no disabilities or people under the age of 60 should not be using crossbows. All in all, the deer numbers are down in our area, and the amount of mature deer are too. We would see multiple bucks, 4 1/2 years old or older during the year for years, but the last couple of years, you are lucky to see 1 or maybe 2 now a days,which makes it for some long sits for someone who puts so much into the sport and the land. Opening gun used to feel like Christmas morning, now its just a headache with all the shots around us, knowing that many people around us are shooting deer after deer as they have tag after tag. I totally disagree with extending the gun season to a longer season as well. The 9 day gun season is tradition and is the right length. This is the perfect example of, if its not broken, don't fix it!! I love hunting just as much as anybody, but sitting for 9 days straight, dark to dark, is work in itself in the cold, and also its already enough time to be away from our families. Things seemed to be going well and smoothly before all the special seasons and before the cwd scare. I would recommend going back to using back tags, tagging and registering deer, no crossbows,(unless disabled or over age 62), bow hunting 1 tag either sex, 9 day gun tag either sex, muzzleloader season following for any unused gun tag, and then open bow back until the last day of the year. Rules and seasons should be straight and narrow and get back to making Wisconsin the deer hunting tradition it used to be again. Thank You!
I've been hunting the same private land for 24 years and have seen a considerable amount of deer sightings DROP significantly. It's rare to even see one these days let alone harvest a deer for the purpose of meat... I also visit public land in green county and it's a very minimal amount of land and gets crowded quickly. I believe that the crossbows got many more people into hunting but it's for the sole purpose of killing horns/ NOT THE MEAT.. This alone ruined the sport of deer hunting in my opinion. The biggest difference I see isn't the crossbows or the many people hunting a small peice of public land----it's the simple fact that there is basically 0 private land available to hunt that has the deer on it.. These landowners focus all their attention on keeping the deer on their property(baiting) so they DO NOT leave. Either ALL should b able to bait deer or nobody at all... If some can and some can't well this results in the ones that can't see 0 deer because they do not leave the neighbors land. HOW IS THE GUY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE SUPPOSE TO HARVEST A DEER OUT OF THE NEIGHBORS HERD OF 50... IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT... AND THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS GETTING PERMISSION THESE DAYS TO HUNT PRIVATE.. 1-2 GUYS ON 300+ ACRES IS THE NEW NORMAL.. The way I see it these days is when u buy the land u also buy the deer literally. Their is minimal oppurtunity for the average Joe to hunt and actually see it pay.. 0 RULES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLIED OVER THE YEARS DOES NOTHING TO HELP THE AVERAGE JOE GET SOME MEAT. IT'S HELPING THE HORN HUNTERS EGO TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEER R theirs. Simply put--- treat the meat hunters and put some restractons on the horn hunters.. They have ruined deer hunting as we now it/ and I believe the dnrs proposals r dying nothing but helping the horn craze.. I could keep ranting but whats the point I guess...

Chronic Wasting Disease: I believe your data on this subject to be almost totally meaningless and therefore the data used in determining deer management regarding this disease to be nonsensical. If you truly want good data on this it is imperative that provisions be made at local levels to incentivize the hunter to have his carcass tested. Just look at your harvest to testing ratio’s, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure this one out. Hunters are not going to drive all the way to Timbuktu for testing. Antlerless Tag: If you truly are trying to “manage” the heard for each given area/county; why then does the hunter have to state whether the antlerless tag will be used on Private or Public land. What’s the difference whether it was harvested on one side of the fence vs. the other side of the fence as long as it is harvested in the same area/county?! Your method discourages the ability to achieve your projected goal outcome. Public Land hunting New Glarus Woods: Since the North side is excluded for hunting due to non-hunter safety use, why then is the South side not closed to non-hunters during the 9 day season for safety reasons? Makes no sense, allowing non hunters hiking through an area unprotected with improper attire when they have full access and use on the other side of the park. Metro Area: I realize this particular topic does not apply to Green County, but this sight tells us to only respond to “one” area. The rules have become so complicated in the Metro Area that hunters have quit hunting it altogether. There again if you truly intend on deer management, why make it so complicated to where you will get little if no participation from the hunter in assisting to deer management in that area?

Would really like to see air rifles added to tools that are allowed to be used for harvesting deer. Big bores air rifles are more powerful than crossbows and bows but are safer than a firearm as the dangerous range of an air rifle is in the hundreds of yard's versus the miles a bullet can travel from a firearm. Very good tools for hunting in shotgun only zones or closer to urban areas where a bullet from firearm travels too far. Maybe big bores air rifles could be included in the archery/ crossbow season or even a specific air rifle season for deer. Also by the way I know this relates to the deer season but smaller caliber air rifles from .177 Cal to .25 Cal are probably the perfect means to harvest Turkeys as well as gives people who don't hunt with either shotgun or by bow or crossbow another means to harvest turkey. Air rifles are very appealing to new hunters and those with little or no ( gun ) experience. No recoil and with no loud report like a firearm would give more hunters such as handicapped individuals who may be scared of heavy recoil or people who have aversions to firearms or the noise involved in firing one may like the option of an air rifle for means of hunting. For deer hunting a big bores air rifle . 35 Cal or above are effectively used for harvesting deer in quite a few different states now. Please get with the times WIS DNR and give us air gun hunters the opportunity to harvest deer and other game with our own tools!
Having participated in the WI CWD eradication and sampling in the past and recently participated in the MN CWD mandatory testing program, I have to say that the MN program was a much smoother operation. As big a pain as it was to have mandatory CWD testing where I hunt in MN, it was also convenient due to so many locations available for testing. I don't know if this was a collaboration with the WI DNR or an independent process but I hope you are working with and learning from each other. I would bring every deer my group shot in for testing in WI if it was as organized and as well staffed as the MN program. Also, I find it somewhat irresponsible that the zone I am in was part of the eradication/earn-a-buck program and now there is only one CWD sampling station in the entire county and it is by appointment only. There is also only one carcass disposal location listed. With prions able to transmit the disease many years later, it should be easier to properly dispose of a carcass. Luckily, the processor near us in New Glarus provided a dumpster and accepted donations of deer hides as payment for its use. I spend a great deal for an out of state license and I appreciate the conveniences of online licenses and registration. However, the CDC still states "If your animal tests positive for CWD, do not eat meat from that animal." Yet, we are not provided convenient testing facilities.

We have and will continue to support NOT allowing a Holiday Hunt in Green County. Living in a wooded area of 60 acres which we own 20 acres of. It is nightmare of traffic and every day policing of our property during these multiple seasons. We cannot host Thanksgiving at our home because we cannot let the children outside because of the risk of a stray bullet or arrow. You know when the kids are here they are going to find a way to get out to the woods. Christmas finally has become our time to bring the family together and enjoy our woods like we should be able to. We do not support an elongated 19 day gun season either. As it is now we cannot cut wood, walk the woods, we have to bring the horses in close to the barn in other words we are basically excluded from utilizing our property to the fullest even though we pay a high property tax. One last item...do your numbers take into account those deer that are not registered after the kill? We see less and less deer in this area every year. We know that one or two hunters sit in this area take as many as they can. Their comment is "The car insurance companies love me". Is that the kind of reputation you want?

The amount of bonus/antlerless tags the DNR gives out is ridiculous. Each year the hunting gets worse. The doe population is getting lower and lower. This past hunting season was the first season in a long time with a deer population that was finally starting to somewhat rebound. But with the way the dnr is handing out bonus tags and extra doe tags I dont see the population maintaining a healthy amount of deer. Crossbows are another issue, the crossbow use should only be allowed to be used by people under the age of 16 or 55+ or someone who has a physical or mental dissability. Or have a short crossbow season. People are treating crossbows like rifles and think they can shoot 70+ yards with them and wound deer and hurt deer populations. Each person should be limited to 1 buck and doe tag per person. Gub deer hunting is shrinking each year because of the small deer populations, it is a waste of time to people in certain areas. The DNR needs to listen to hunters comments. Wolf protection is also causing large populations of wolves and is killing deer populations in northern counties. Please listen to our comments and make some changes.

Baiting is illegal in Green County. Then why are Blains and Walmart in Monroe allowed to sell deer attractant/bait? That is encouraging an illegal behavior in this county. No one is going to buy deer bait in Monroe for use in another county. Selling of clearly marked products used for deer baiting should NOT be allowed in a county where the practice is illegal and subject to fines. Regarding the Holiday Hunt. Please do not bring back the Holiday Hunt in Green County. My wife wants the family here at Christmas but won't if there is hunting going on. We live in an area surrounded by woods which we own a large part of. But since there are no clearly marked boundaries and hunters are always in the woods adjacent to ours she feels it would be too risky to have everyone over. They are going to want to walk and explore not stay in the house. Please give us this holiday time.
Since a person does not have to physically register their deer harvest at an actual deer registration site in person anymore, a large amount of deer are getting killed and not registered which makes a totally flawed estimated deer herd number the DNR is trying to project. To get a more accurate number of the number of deer actually harvested, a physical on-site registration process needs to be used otherwise the DNR will always be working with flawed numbers to determine herd size and will never be able to accurately determine the deer herd size. Also, I find when I have spoken to one of the DNR specialists, I found him to be very biased and close-minded and didn't want to listen to other person's thoughts and opinions and he thought his opinions were the only ones that were correct and important. The DNR specialist needs to be more open to other opinions besides his.

I feel that the committee did the right thing and suggested no holiday hunt as I don't feel there is as many deer as the DNR said and that I saw hardly any roadkill in my area of the county north of Monroe compared to a few years ago, it's not like traffic was reduced. Also, as far as hunter opportunities how long do you need it starts mid-September and runs till the end of December which is a ton of opportunities for anyone with a few different gun seasons already in there. Seems like the state feels like they always have to cater to the few that are always asking for more. As a landowner, we have plenty of other recreational activities that family enjoys over the holidays and feel that it's nice to enjoy our property without concern of someone getting shot. Thanks again Green County CDAC for being a county that thinks of its citizens and has gotten rid of the holiday hunt.

The over-crowding on public hunting lands that I experienced were from non-hunters. Every single time I archery hunted which was on multiple occasions while hunting in the Brooklyn Wildlife Area, I had joggers, people walking their dogs, field trips with grade school kids, elderly taking walks, etc walk under me. I believe that it is important to share the public lands but the area has become a public playground and does not allow equal and/or fair opportunity for hunters to take advantage of those lands. I am certain to believe that the money used to purchase and maintain those lands were mostly from license sales and not from the general public who are taking advantage of something while taking away from others. It would be greatly appreciated if this could be addressed.

The population estimate for 2020 is 10,400 deer or 74.3 deer per sq. mile of deer habitat. The past winter found deer gathered in large number where there were standing corn and soybeans in the fields. I feel that the deer population estimate is grossly overstated! There are areas in the County where the population may even exceed the 74.3 per square mile of habitat, but the average per mile of habitat is definitely not 74.3 deer per square mile of habitat on the average. DNR needs to put more effort into opening up the areas of high deer density within the County. The landowners are prohibiting access to many of these high population areas for various reasons. These reasons need to be explored on an individual basis and solutions for access developed.

green county does not have the woods cover in most areas to support all the proposed seasons. I have woods on my land, and there is not even half the deer here there was 20 yrs ago, not even close, but u go down the rd about a good mile, and they r actually over run with them. Big woods, water not much hunting pressure, where I live, the landowners don't even hunt their kids, grandkids, nephews, friends, all come to hunt, and their mentality, is if it's brown its down, so for us landowners we would like the DNR sell those bonus tags instead of giving them to everyone, that might slow the slaughter down...

Why can't we just go back to the traditional season format. 9 day Gun and regular Archery season followed by Muzzloader season. The quality of deer hunting has been going backwards for about the last 5 years. Pretty soon we will be just like Rock County if we do not stop all the special seasons Youth-Holiday-Land owner combined with the use of crossbows are all wrecking deer hunting. Deer do not stand a chance to get over the age of 2.5 if you combine all the seasons on top of Auto and predator kills. If we don't stop now we will eliminate our most beloved hunting tradition in no time. Thank you for the time.
Increasing the number of antlerless permits is meaningless if people don't hunt antlerless deer. Your own data bears that out. Increasing the length of the season is counterproductive in that it will result in far more bucks than normal being taken with minimal increases in antlerless deer taken. (Not to mention it poses a danger to bow & crossbow hunters who strive for concealment) Having firearm seasons arbitrarily intermingled with bow season makes it difficult to keep track of appropriate attire (Blaze versus camo) and poses a very real threat to bow and crossbow hunters.

Everything looks pretty good and fair. The only reason I’m against the holiday hunt is because I’ve seen it in the other counties last year and ours before and just seems like less and less hunters go out. Seems like a waste for the slim few who do it, but that’s just my opinion. Also the only thing I’m against and this probably is nothing to do with what I just answered is the 19 day deer season. I mean the turkey population has record highs it seems like and we have a 1-7 season structure and a one bird limit. Does sound pretty crazy that we would consider 19 days for deer.

The deer population in the area of Green county I hunt has drastically declined over the past 10 years, starting with the herd reductions due to CWD. I don’t believe it has increased to the point where more antlerless should be harvested. Last gun deer season we had 5 hunters hunting a 250 acre farm bordering the pecatonica river and combined we saw 2 deer the entire opening weekend. I mentored a new 14 year old during bow hunting season and while seeing deer during the archery season it wasn’t to the extreme but was enough to keep the young man interested.

I truly believe that the way to really make a difference in deer taken is to do two things with our current season! First, the start date for the muzzleloader season should be before the gun season for reason of difficulty of one shot one kill scenario. Secondly, opening weekend for gun season should be "one" if not "two" weeks prior to Thanksgiving contrary to current of just the weekend before! Our trail camera data has definitely shown lack of deer movement preceding our current season start date for three years in a row!

Why do we always have to ask about the holiday hunt. Looks like over the years most people don't like it but will assume it's like this whole world anymore always have to ask for more. Problem being when you bow down to please a few you are actually turning more people against you on the other end. Please lets continue being a traditional hunt with no extended seasons and as a hunter I feel I am given plenty of opportunities to harvest any deer from bow and gun season and think 99.9% if being honest would have to agree.

My family has enjoyed hunting in Green County for generations. I now have the privilege that many of my children are hunting with me. I think that leaving the number of antlerless tags alone is a great idea. However, I would like to see the antlerless-only portion extended with the holiday hunt. Also when it comes to an antlerless-only season it would destroy the number of hunters that will even be out there so please do not do that with any units or the units that have buck hunting will get overrun.

It is my firm belief that deer kill numbers are down in Green/Rock Counties because of the high amount of precipitation that we have received. The high amount of precipitation has caused a late harvest of corn across much of the area. This has given much more shelter to the deer during the gun seasons. I believe the seasons should stay the same in Green County. If Mother Nature allows for an earlier harvest than the past two years, I believe kill numbers will go back up with the same season structure.

There used to be a greater difference in seeing deer when the county was split in two sections A and B. The density of deer varies greatly from say the Dayton area and the New Glarus area. It is normal to see a few (1 or 2) during a good day of hunting in the East in comparison to the herds of 15 to 20 further to the west. I am sure that some of the hunting styles of today have a big influence in deer movement. The number of hunters moving deer around are fewer and fewer every year or so it seems.
I have been happy with the management of deer in Green County the last few years. During the years when you had the earn a buck program where you had to shoot a doe before getting a buck tag was very disappointing. I was ready to stop hunting in Wisconsin. I have seen a much better hunting experience the last few years. I have increased the amount of time I am hunting in Monroe area now, I am enjoying myself and having a great hunting experience. keep up the good work.

let's stop all the extra seasons and go back to the basic seasons of the past that worked terrifically for Green County! This common sense approach seems to obvious! Let's not outsmart ourselves and ruin deer hunting for Generations or worse permanently. 1 deer either sex for gun and one deer either sex for archery. Any leftover tag use for Muzzle loader. Simple, Effective and Fair for hunters as well as our deer herd. Thanks for the platform!

Brian Williams

DON'T change the crossbow season. Don't mess with a highly effective way that helps feed my family. It's hard enough to get time off to hunt and the use of a crossbow allows me to better my odds of bringing meat home. If I really want to challenge myself I'll use my vertical bow. It's all about the easiest most effective way to fill the freezer. My family and I depend on my freezer being full of venison each year and crossbows help make that possible.

As I keep hearing talk about shortening the crossbow season, it makes no sense to me when we have hunter numbers dwindling, deer numbers increasing, it just doesn't make sense to limit any hunting season at this point. Personally I think greedy bowhunters that are worried that the neighbor might shoot "their" buck with a crossbow have taken this a little bit too far, and it's a bit sad that anyone is even entertaining the idea.

I feel season for both gun and bow/cross bow should be thru end of January 2021. I also feel strongly about eating off the land, if we are going to truly process a deer then us type hunters should be able to hunt throughout the fall/winter, both gun and bow/crossbow. I see too many deer and see the harvest goal was pretty low in my opinion. If we are going to eat it let us hunt, special licence maybe?

Because of the late harvest last year do to the weird weather the deer around us stayed in the crops and sheltered until well after hunting was over everyday. Did not harvest any deer this year because they were out after hunt every single day. Would be nice to have a longer season and holiday hunt so we can have a chance to harvest some in the southern area of Green county.

Too many seasons, Too many Tags, Too much change every year. Go back to bow hunting only, no crossbow. 9 day gun season, and muzzleloader after that. 1 tag bow, 1 tag gun/muzzleloader. Instead of youth hunt go to kids under 16 can use bow or crossbow during bow season but have to use compound bow after they turn 16, Bring back the deer numbers!

The deer herds of Green County have taken a serious drop over the last several years, I personally know of people that hunted very hard last year and didn't see any deer at all. I saw very few deer where I hunt, used to be able to go out and consistently see deer year after year, no chance of that in Green county anymore.

I have seen about the same deer numbers the last 2 or 3 years still not as many by any means as years ago. I don't feel there is any need for more hunting seasons so a big NO to holiday hunts and extended bow seasons. I love to hunt but have always been able to fill what tags I have wanted during or usual seasons.

I would recommend to open the deer gun season with muzzleloader before the regular deer gun season and also to start the regular season a week earlier than the Saturday before Thanksgiving!! Trail camera observations have shown higher activity prior to the regular start and would make success more achievable!!

I hunt just outside of Argyle. Deer numbers have exploded last few years. Doing fair amount of damage to our corn. Hunters don't seem motivated to shoot does anymore. Earn a buck was best way to get them to shoot does but I'm afraid with tagless registration now, more will be willing to cheat to get buck tag.
4019 The DNR needs to work with the landowners in areas of the County with extremely high deer concentrations. In most areas with high concentration the landowners will not allow hunting for various reasons and the DNR should make an effort to open these areas up to hunting by addressing the landowners reasons.

4020 With the number of properties in this area owned by people who do not live here and do not allow hunting on their property, and the number of people who only want to shoot one big buck, the number of deer in this area has skyrocketed. Deer damage to crops and vehicles has grown to unacceptable levels.

4021 I support traditional seasons, I feel with extra seasons people will actually harvest less antlers deer. People seem to focus on a big buck during the 9 day with the intentions of harvesting a doe in the later season, but when those seasons arrive hunters are less likely to get in the woods.

4022 More public access / public land would be great. I think there are plenty of opps to get more public land / public opportunity. I do NOT think the general firearm season SHOULD be extended. That would put the general firearm season into bow season and would create all kinds of chaos.

4023 DNR always comes out with high numbers actually higher every year and with all these tags kill really never goes up makes you wonder how accurate their numbers are which I assume are pretty highly inflated as we don't see more deer in our area and kudos to no holiday hunt.

4024 I prefer how the deer zones were a few years ago. Zone 76 covered parts of three counties. I hunted in more than Green Co. and the former zones were a totally better system. The new system may generate more revenue for the DNR, but was no improvement for land owners or hunters.

4025 No crossbows during the archery season except for disabled people and/or people over 60. I know many avid bow hunters in my area who feel the same way. If the deer population is too high support doe harvest and give 2 out to free tags with a license purchase.

4026 Antlerless only deer hunting for the season will only turn more hunter away! Deer hunting is nothing like it used to be with everyone hunting. Why would you turn more hunters into non hunters with a RIDICULOUS rule of antlerless only for the entire year?

4027 Stop the doe only seasons. One buck one doe for each season and option to buy more doe. Also the reason gun numbers are down is because all the gun hunters are using a cross bow and hunting during archery. Limit the cross bow season! Its common sense.

4028 There has been so many deer on Highway H stretching from Blanchardville all the way to Postville. More than I have seen in the 4 years I have lived there. They have destroyed many trees on my property and I just believe a lot more this year.

4029 While I have not hunted this area in the past, I have lived near it for many years. Anecdotally, it seemed like there were far fewer deer. However, it was a wet year, with alot of standing crops. Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in.

4030 Seems like the number of road strikes was pretty high this year through the winter and spring - with the warmer weather around thanksgiving I wonder if deer have more browse available and don't need to come out as much?

4031 Non resident land owners, who pay property tax in Wisconsin, should be given some discount on the non resident hunting and fishing license fees. Let's say a fee half way between the resident and non resident fees.

4032 I would like to see the county post bright colored signage where car/deer accidents typically happen throughout the county. Try and raise driver awareness to be looking for deer when driving through these areas.

4033 I’m very strongly opposed to extending the gun season beyond the traditional 9 day hunt. This would be a huge mistake! I’m also not supportive of limiting bow hunting dates as I’ve heard is on the table.

4034 I didn’t see any particular effort to gain participation in the youth hunt. I would like to see more youth involvement - I’m not sure what that would look like in the herd management discussion but........
I hunt for food unfortunately the majority of hunters hunt for horns. We do not shoot anything brown but do kill does, which many hunters do not. Any thought to bring earn a buck back?

I believe that the archery season should NOT be closed at all before the gun season opens. Once the archery season opens then keep it open until the end of the season in January.

I hate the crossbow season to many big bucks being harvested that would not if it was regular archery season. unfair advantage especially with all the crossbow tech. each year!

Why is green county one of the few county’s in southwest Wisconsin without the holiday hunt? Who are these CDAC members looking out for, their own interest or the public?

I do not believe the deer season should be extended. The current designated time appears to be more than enough since few hunters are seen after opening week-end.

I believe with the antlerless holiday hunt, it would control a bit more of the deer population. Quite a few deer in this area esp on cty H east of Blanchardville

I feel it would be a benefit to have an opportunity to rifle hunt bucks during the holiday hunt or have a late season when you can harvest a buck with a rifle.

There are less hunters in my township and large “herds” of deer still easily visible. Crop damage tree damage and garden damage continues to increase.

We would like to enjoy our land over the holidays without having to worry about gun hunters on neighboring properties chasing and shooting at deer.

I oppose proposed extended gun season. I also oppose proposed elimination of hunting with archery equipment during gun season.

Bring back earn a buck. I think it is the best tool for keeping a healthy population while still being fair to hunters.

I am very concerned about CWD and Lymes disease and the effect on humans.

Crossbows need to be limited back to an age or disability again.

Please try to manage the predator populations.

be able to shoot bucks during holiday hunt

Have the holiday hunt for bucks also

Bring back earn a buck.
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

514 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 200
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 101
   - I hunt in this unit: 484
   - General interest in this unit: 78

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 450
   - Bow: 290
   - Crossbow: 155
   - Muzzleloader: 134

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 21.12
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 367
   - Mostly Private Land: 60
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 24
   - Mostly Public Land: 8
   - Exclusively Public Land: 22
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 15
   - Not too crowded: 31
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 30
   - Somewhat crowded: 18
   - Very crowded: 17
   - Not applicable: 3

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 75
   - Fewer: 158
   - Same: 199
   - More: 52
   - Many More: 14
   - Unsure: 16

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 292, Oppose 183, Unsure 39
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 295, Oppose 163, Unsure 54
- If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 59, Oppose 426, Unsure 29

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Support VALID, Oppose NOT VALID, Unsure 8

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Deer numbers appear to be up again. I'm seeing more and wider deer trails on my land than I've seen in 15 years, to the point that I'm getting some soil erosion, and we haven't been successful in reducing numbers. I generally support the Council's recommendations for 2020, although I would like to see more public land bonus available. Your 2020 recommendation of 3000 private land authorizations is over 5X the number sold last year, while your 2020 recommendation of 650 is only a bit over 2X the number sold in 2019. Yes you covered the spread, but why the disparity? If for some reason public land bonus demand would pick up, wouldn't you want to be sure to have the authorizations available to take maximum advantage of the increased willingness to decrease the public land herd, particularly as the public lands serve as an important opportunity to reduce deer numbers? I'm also in agreement with DNR liaison Anderson, in that I don't understand why the Council does not take advantage of the opportunity to extend the archery season through January. Yes harvest was modest at only 27 deer, but if you start to consider the offspring of those deer, and their offspring in turn, increasing at a 24% rate per year—pretty soon you have a pile. And though January 2020 wasn't the best hunting weather, what if we have weather like January 2019 again, when conditions for winter hunting were nearly ideal, but Iowa County hunters were not allowed to participate, so we missed the opportunity to increase deer harvest? But more importantly, what does it mean for the Council to say that holding the season was not worth the harvest? To who? The folks that harvested those 27 deer might have greatly enjoyed their hunts and greatly enjoyed the venison. Or like me, they might have received CWD+ deer results back on the deer they harvested earlier in the season, so they really wanted to go back out to get a healthy deer for the freezer (I failed, but I sure had fun trying). Finally, who or what am I hurting to want the same opportunity to go bowhunting in January on my own land that other similarly situated landowners in adjacent counties with the same Decrease objectives and very similar over-populated and CWD infected deer herds will apparently be able to enjoy next winter? Council members made comments that landowners and snowmobilers were not comfortable with the January season. Well this landowner disagrees, and I'm not hurting anyone by wanting to spend a bit more time hunting on my own land. No one is forced to participate in the January extended season if they don't want to. And what possible concern is it to a snowmobiler if a few folks are out bowhunting in January? I am virtually certain that in the 80 years that snowmobiling has been a part of the Wisconsin winter, we have never experienced a snowmobiler vs. bowhunter accident. This is a red herring, and the Council should acknowledge there is no good biological, social or safety reason to not recommend the extended season, particularly when you have unanimously adopted the population objective to Decrease the deer herd. Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your service.
2018 I saw a high number of deer though only 1 buck exceeding 3.5 years old. I hunted 3 to 4 days a week from the 1st week of Oct thru the 9 day gun hunt. This was the first year I thought we were close to what a hunter would call a good herd. It honestly felt like hunting Iowa where I could see 30 mature deer a morning and then again that afternoon. 2019 I hunted the same amount of days and saw a fraction of the deer from the prior year. My trail cameras were dried up and I saw the same 11 deer like clock work with no mature bucks. 2018 I was surrounded by corn and 2019 it was beans. I am sure this played a huge part in it. But then I spoke to others in the area and to my shock corn had nothing to do with it as others south of Barneveld were also not seeing the numbers they had in 2018. I like a strong herd. I want to see them in person and on camera and 2019 did not offer that. It felt like the herd went backwards from 2018. It also doesn't help that people are selling off land and more houses are being build. Pushing deer away or making them come out only at night. This sucks for a kid growing up learning to hunt with an AMAZING herd in the 90's to the no deer with the CWD slaughter and now a governing body who doesn't listen to the hunters. Please, leave the traditions alone. They were good at one point and people saw deer. You can think all day long the heard is good for the hunters. No, they are not. Statewide hunters are mad. My last note from a hunter. If you see a 100 acre field with 20 deer in it. That is sad. I remember growing up seeing 100 deer in a 100 acre field. This is how it should be. I am so tired of hearing about deer success and population in other states who also have CWD. Listen to the hunters. The hunters who hunt public and small acres lots. If you are getting your deer facts from someone who hunts 300 acres and they have an entire herd all to their own.. Well then, I see you clearly are looking at the wrong people for information. I have those friends, I have seen their deer herds and they are not the majority of people who hunt. Thank you.

I strongly disagree with the Iowa County CDAC's recommendation that there should be an ANTLERLESS ONLY Holiday Hunt WITHOUT ALSO INCLUDING the extended EITHER-SEX archery/crossbow season in this unit. I do not support the loss of the 9 days of either sex archery/crossbow hunting on top of the loss of 4 additional days of either-sex archery/crossbow deer hunting for the statewide antlerless-only season that follows the Muzzleloader season, UNLESS it is off set with the extended January either-sex archery/crossbow season. I am a private landowner that only hunts my own land. I harvest about 4 antlerless deer each year the end of December and in January with a bow or crossbow to make sure I harvest about 2 antlerless deer for each buck I harvest. The number of antlerless deer I harvest each year will likely be increasing because of the increase number of CWD positive antlered and antlerless deer I have been harvesting each year (2-3 past 2 yrs). I have been getting 1-2 replacement buck tags the past couple years because of the increase in CWD. I expect this trend will continue based on the increase in CWD positives being discovered. By limiting much of December to ANTLERLESS only, I am prevented from the opportunity to try to harvest a Non-CWD buck with my bow or crossbow while also out hunting for antlerless deer. In short, If there will not be an extended archery/crossbow season till the end of January, then there should NOT be a December Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt. If you sincerely want to do all you can to help control deer numbers in Iowa County, and want hunters who actually kill deer to try to help bring the population down and controlled, then PLEASE use the tools you have available an keep the January extended either-sex season in Iowa County like we had in 2019. It will also provide more consistency from one year to the next, and would be consistent with what is being recommended by many of the surrounding Deer Mgt. Units, such as Richland, Sauk, Dane and Layfatte Counties. Thanks for your consideration of my recommendation.
Why is it that our CDAC and the sportsman of Iowa county seem to have such vastly different opinions on the deer herd..? As someone who has been hunting for the last 25 years in Iowa county, the current deer population is but a fraction of what it once was. The mass slaughters that we all took part in early on with the “eradication zones” proved to us that there is no way to control a disease in a wild population. CWD has not affected our deer numbers. Excessive tag allocations, and extended seasons have all but destroyed what was once a destination county for deer hunting. Season structure should go back to how it used to be. Normal archery season with one buck tag and one doe tag and then a 9 day gun season with one buck and one doe tag. No “doe only” weekends, no holiday hunts. No one needs more than 4 deer in a season. I find it odd that back when deer populations were so strong we made people apply for an either/or tag otherwise it was buck only with only a single harvest tag. Now that numbers are meek we will give out 4 tags with each license purchase....oh, and don’t worry if that’s not enough, for $12 a piece you can buy an unlimited amount more! It sickens me that we are destroying such a beloved tradition. At the rate we are going our next generation won’t be hunting whitetail deer. We always talk about hunter recruitment as a reason for all of these “extra” opportunities. Do you know what hooks young people and makes them lifelong hunters??? SEEING DEER. We can’t kill everything and expect the deer to just somehow be around. Remember, us hunters are the most controllable factor when it comes to killing of any species. Vehicle collisions, predation (increasing coyote and bobcat populations), and disease all take their fair share every year before you or I enter the woods. Let’s work together to preserve this beautiful resource that God gave us so that our future generations can enjoy Wisconsin deer hunting the way we were able to.

I have hunted in Iowa county the entire time I have been legally allowed to hunt. I bow hunt every weekend during the archery season and participate the entire gun season. I hunt on private land primarily with one day set aside for doing deer drives on public land. If I can avoid it, I absolutely do not shoot any doe or any young bucks. If I do not see a deer that fits my standards throughout the season, then I simply go home empty handed and that’s my choice and I am happy with that. However, in the 16 years that I have hunted, hunting the same property, I have never seen the deer population seem so nonexistent. From a hunter who hardly shoots any deer, the math doesn’t add up. Over the past years I have steadily seen the deer sightings dwindle down to nothing and it is at no fault of my own. The property I hunt set up perfectly for deer. Food, water and cover. The deer do not have to go far to have all the comforts of home. But where are the deer?! I know for a fact the the neighbors and surrounding hunters have the mentality of "if it's brown, it's down!" and they come out of the woods on the first day of gun opener with legs sticking out in every direction in the back of their truck. Thats a terrible mentality to have and I believe the DNR just keeps adding wood to the fire by allowing so many tags per hunter. I understand that some people rely on deer meat as their main source but how many deer does one individual need? The 2019 gun season was absolutely terrible. I hunted every weekend during archery and all of gun season and only saw 1 yearling doe on the last day of gun season. The other 10 people in my party spread across 800 adjoining acres didn’t see anything. NOT ONE DEER.. We use to see 50 deer in a day where the hills would move due to the deer numbers. It is pathetic and I can't honestly say that I'm going to participate this 2020 season. I might just end up going out of state to hunt.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I've been hunting public land almost exclusively in Iowa County and many other SW Wisconsin Counties for multiple years now. During that time, I've experienced some of the best hunting that I ever have - even compared to hunting private land exclusively in other states. I continue to be impressed with the quality of deer that I'm able to find throughout the county. Although, I do enjoy seeing deer while hunting, I am concerned with number of deer that I see congregating in fields and that are dodging cars along just about every roadway. With that being said, CWD is a very real concern to me. Not only from a consumption stand point but also for my passion for this amazing resource that we're tasked with managing and responsible for protecting. I ask you to please take this disease seriously if not for yourselves but for future generations. I also want to thank you for once again offering the holiday hunt. This additional opportunity allows those weren't previously successful and those who want to harvest more deer the opportunity to do so. This county has a very high deer population and can undoubtedly support this season. Those who are not in favor of such a hunt don't have to participate but restricting such an opportunity is very single sided. I believe the CDAC should make all opportunities available to those who wish to partake in them, even the extended archery/crossbow season, especially considering the current decrease population objective. With that being said, I fully support and thank you for recommending the holiday hunt and would also like you to consider recommending the extended season during the final meeting.

CWD is a potential human health and ecological disaster. It is already a disaster for native whitetail. The deer population must be addressed accordingly with a months-long gun deer season from Oct. 1 to Jan. 1. Upright bow hunting has minimal impact on population management and the proportionally-high crossbow kill is a result of firearm hunter interest in a longer season. I’m tired of science-based deer management taking a backseat to tavern/hotel/tourism/business interests. I’m tired of herd health and it’s future taking a backseat to a management focus dedicated toward opening-weekenders seeing antlers one of the two days they hunt. The fact that crossbow season is under attack to promote the idea of more bucks during traditional gun deer season (or appeasing upright bow hunters) is missing the forest through the trees; the answer is more rifle hunt opportunities if we are serious about controlling CWD. Shut down deer farms. Completely. Reinstitute earn-a-buck with unlimited doe tags—and no initial buck license. Earn antlers by killing a doe. Had the DNR taken this seriously in the early 2000s and quarantined the disease area by eradicating the herd this would not be an issue now. Stop nibbling around the edges.

The Number of extra Bonus Harvest Authorization Tags sold over the Counter should be the Same as the Number as the Harvest Authorization Tags Per License Holder. * Hunters that give up Deer Hunting or Hang up their Coat for a long period of time see very little Deer in the area where they Hunt, while working at it Hard. The Number of Farm Tags should be Drastically Reduced for a Farmer because it has a Devastating impact on the Population of Deer in the Surrounding / Neighboring area and it takes a number of years for the Population to recover in the Neighboring area. Hunters Hunting in these surrounding areas see less Deer on the Ground they Hunt on and get Frustrated, and possibly Hanging up their Coat, or Hunt much less with little enthusiasm. What happens is that you will get these Pockets / Valleys where you will have a lot of Deer, and about a 1/2 mile away you have very little number of Deer and that can go on for a long Distance where there are Farm Tags are being used. Plus in those areas for the regular Hunting season, there are number of more Deer being Harvested.
My family and I would be strongly opposed to any proposed changes to the crossbow season, such as potentially limiting the use of crossbows to the month of October with the intention of somehow bolstering the gun hunting season. If more deer, or specifically antlered deer, are being taken with crossbows, it is occurring because hunters are motivated to use that method of hunting. Crossbows also provide for increased accessibility for youth and other hunters who may not feel comfortable using a vertical bow or firearm. If the goal is to increase the number of hunters in the field and the numbers of deer harvested, it seems like restricting the use of crossbows runs contrary to those achieving those goals. Also, limiting crossbows to a fairly restricted period of time will significantly alter the overall hunting experience, making it more easily disrupted by stretches of adverse weather. It also doesn’t feel reasonable to expect archery hunters to purchase, at significant expense, both a crossbow and vertical bow in order to hunt the full archery season. Thank you for your consideration.

During the crossbow season I saw very few deer, and especially very few does. In previous years while crossbow hunting on average I’d see 5-7 deer during a full day's hunt. It just made for a more enjoyable hunt to be able to watch the deer and study their behavior and have what seemed like a better chance at a harvest. I believe what played a major part was additional antlerless harvest tags, I believe especially in my area where I hunt that if people are able to harvest 3 does they are going to harvest 3 does, especially if they can get it for crossbow/bow and gun. I just think people will abuse the ability of being to harvest more than they need and not allow other hunters to have a chance to harvest. Also a side note I really appreciate having the late crossbow season, around the holidays is when it’s the busiest time at my work so I can only gun hunt usually one day out of the nine day gun season. So most of my time hunting is done with a crossbow and it gives me an extra chance if I’m unsuccessful in the regular season.

The longer the seasons and the more pressure hunting the deer in this DMU results in less harvesting on the average. I am not a wildlife biologist but hunting this area for the last 40 years and firsthand witnessing the effects of increased hunting and the "kill them all" CWD eradication we have created animals that are far more wary and most likely more intelligent in survival. They know what hunters are, what they smell like and change their habits for survival of their species. I can only verify this by the years I have hunted public land that ended up being heavily hunted and any deer residing on these properties exists only nocturnally with patterns to avoid any contact with hunters. The only other thing I can add is coyotes harvest far more deer, especially fawns in the spring of the year that are not accurately accounted for in deer statistics. Thus the vast difference in harvest goals and actual hunter harvest numbers. There are not the numbers of estimated deer available to meet anticipated harvest goals by hunters.

I think that we need to take a serious look at how we are wrecking WI deer hunting. Many of us hunters in Iowa county have been saying for years that there are far fewer deer than the DNR surveys and projections are saying. That being said, I understand that there are a few members of our CDAC board that want all of the deer dead. If we want to increase our harvests in any given season we can’t just hand out more tags or extend season dates. That doesn’t work. In fact both of those methods have been tried year after year and they just discourage hunters. The best way to kill deer is to get everyone in the woods at the same time. That means a regular bow season and a single 9-day rifle season. No doe only rifle weekends, no holiday hunts and no extended hunts. If there are limited seasons it forces people into the woods at the same time and it forces people to pull the trigger on that first antlerless deer they see instead of waiting for the “next” season to shoot a doe, which we all know never seems to work out how we plan.
State parks (particularly Governor Dodge State Park) need to open up more available hunting areas during the archery season. A good majority of the park is closed off to all hunting. That is unnecessary. It is forcing archery and small game hunters on top of one another creating VERY unsafe conditions and also it compromises the quality of hunting for both types of hunter. Opening up more areas of the park to archery hunters and small game hunters will help remedy these issues. Parks should also strongly consider opening up to archery hunting in Sept when all other archery around the state opens. Finally, state parks and public lands should allow hunters to put up and leave tree stands during the hunting months as long as they are not fastened into the tree (screws/nails/etc.). Not only does it dramatically improve a hunters chances, it also gives hunters a much BETTER field of view when taking a shot. This is very important on public lands and will have a significant impact on increasing safety. Thank you.

This has been a big topic in our area and I personally think that it is on the hunter if he /she can't harvest a deer in the normal traditional season frame work. I hunt the normal seasons and when that is done I switch to Predator hunting. I have to say that all the talk is on deer hunting and numbers but in Wisconsin people enjoy other sports too. Coyote hunting is a must to keep those numbers in balance and I don’t care to hunt them wearing orange. It becomes a safety issue when archery /Gun hunters are out hunting and predator hunting is also taking place. People don't take advantage of shooting that adult doe when it comes by as they are after the big buck. That's on the hunter and they need to realize that they aren't doing their part in controlling the numbers within the sport of deer hunting. No need to add all these special hunts becuase most people don't hunt those hunts anyways. A better idea needs to come up and let the people that hunt other animals have there traditions also. Thanks and good luck!!!!!

This wanting to change our seasons is just Stupid.. A late gun season with way more than average crops standing was the reason for less deer being killed.. You guys have college degrees and can't figure it out? Unbelievable... us hunters know why you are broke too. Stop making this political its not politics its should be wildlife management.. Charge people for tags if they spend 13 dollars for a tag they will try and fill it. Its simple stop making it more complicated. The way this state handled the cwd Ruined it for our out of state hunters. LOOK JUST TO YOUR WEST... OUR DNR NEIGHBORS FROM IOWA KNOW HOW TO MANAGE DEER.. INVITE THEM OVER AND LEARN HOW THEY MADE IT THE PREMIER DEER HUNTING STATE IN THE U.S.. Take a step back. Admit you screwed up and try to stop trying to justify your preceding actions and fix this.. Its not that hard.. Let hunters manage there own deer herd we know more about these areas than anyone sitting in an office.. Listen to us Hunters..

I have had the privilege to hunt 2 pieces of private property within Iowa Cty for 18 years. I have lived here all my life. In most areas, I am seeing decreasing numbers each year since the CWD earn a buck was implemented. The properties I hunt, I see very few deer. Our own property, we have been trying to manage to increase population over the past several years because there are days we don’t see any and we own cropland and timber capable of growing and holding deer. In my personal opinion, our deer numbers are lower or have maintained their population. We have 5-10 deer/vehicle collisions each year within a 1/2 mile of our property. When walking the property, we find remains of at least 1 deer every year. In our little area, I strongly believe the population is far lower than what is estimated. Not hard to see when its the middle of the winter and deer from the surrounding areas are herded up, and you see minimal groups in harsh weather conditions.
One comment I hear often from CDAC meetings is the amount of hunters in Wisconsin are declining and people are not hunting like they used to. A good portion of the younger generation, myself included 1) never learned to hunt as a youth or 2) we don’t always feel welcomed in the woods. Last year was my first year hunting. As an individual who doesn't have their own land or have private land to hunt on, hunting public during the 9-day gun season is a nerve racking experience for any new hunter. I personally don’t feel comfortable hunting public land not knowing how many people are out there, who is there or where they are. I did hunt public land during the statewide antlerless and holiday hunt, even though I wasn't successful in harvesting a deer the experience was still valuable. If we want to maintain interest in deer hunting in Wisconsin, we need to provide all the opportunity we can. With that said, I fully support the holiday hunt and extended bow season!

The top two issues facing deer hunting are not being considered. Hunter recruitment, and hunter access. Iowa County and other Southern Farmland units have an overabundance of deer, but with 5% public access, we will never harvest deer in effective numbers again. Changing season structure or arguing about which way an arrow is fired will only suppress efforts to successfully manage deer in this area. We seem to just keep recirculating the same old ideas for deer season structures instead of getting people to access hunting lands, and getting new hunters into the woods. How about farmland access incentives? How about a $20 junior conservation patron license for anyone under 18? Presently, you could open up der season from Sept. 1st to Dec. 31st with no other restrictions, and I doubt you will see much change in deer harvest. The people regularly harvesting deer have access, time, skill, and self-motivation. Who will take their place when they are gone?

The Holiday hunt is counter-productive. It is some of the best bow hunting time of the season to harvest a quality buck and it eliminates that possibility. My family harvests plenty of does in late season while hunting, but if one of us is trying to fill a buck tag yet this ruins the late season for them. All I hear about is how bucks are the predominant carrier of CWD and how we need to kill them, so the solution to that somehow means we have a season where you CANNOT kill bucks? It is absurd. All this season does is give people who haven't figured out how to kill a deer any other time another chance to get one, and almost none of them even go out much less get a deer. Meanwhile hunters who do know how to kill something that have their buck tag yet sit home ticked off. We harvest a lot of antlerless deer on our property every year and we do not need a gov't authority to dictate to us that we have to do so!

as long as you charge for the additional antlerless license you will never see the numbers or kills go up to 3000 or even near it. I constantly hear hunters complain about this and they say as long as they have to pay for the bonus they will not participate, if your really concerned about deer count, you would just issue without the charge. Just saying I am 71 years old and have hunted every year since 1986 in southwest Wisconsin very close to Gov Dodge. The last 5 to 7 years the deer, especially bucks that I have seen, much less shot have decreased annually. We don’t sit around waiting for a buck to committee suicide either. We move around and hunt hard. So much land around us that is posted that I am sure the deer are laying low on that land, but it’s frustrating to the point that the 8 of us have discussed just not hunting anymore. The age of our group is from 71 down to 14 and consists of fathers and sons

This is the second year in a row I hunted the rut.October 30/31 to November7/8th. The number of does appeared to be down significantly, as many days it was only bucks to be seen. I keep daily log and have a camera out on this property. We have also taken more than one CWD positive deer here, and also non-infected ones. The demise of the ag sector is changing the habitat as there is more fallow fields than years previous. Also the wetness of the year made hunting parts of the property impossible. I previously identified two trophy bucks on this place, and many bucks from yearlings to 2 year olds. My notes sow 21 bucks, Nov 6th began most action. Also snow in the time period. Habitat aging is concern on this property, as the invasive has taken over much of the formerly productive oak stands. There was about 2 sq miles of standing corn at the time. I have a B&C off this property from 2012.
My observations as a hunter, who has hunted the same small private parcel in Northern Iowa Co (Clyde Township) are not consistent with the numbers presented here. I am concerned the population numbers are lower than you estimate. After years of what I believe are over hunting in the old DEZ (disease eradication zone) has reduced numbers to that of pre CWD (roughly 2002). No its not that I'm lazy, or that I don't play the wind, or what other excuse is brought to my attention. The numbers are low. Period. Also a reduction in hunter participation is down as well. I heard 6 shots from first light to noon on opening morning last year. It used to be you would loose count at 50 before 9 AM, also less cars parked along roads. I strongly recommend 1 free antlerless tag, no holiday hunt, no expanded archery, and infract for 2021 I would support 1 season of buck only hunting. Thank you

Having a Doe only season would result in a huge loss in the number of Hunters and lack of interest. I am all in favor of going back to the earn a buck to help control the doe population and still allow hunters the opportunity and dream of still having a chance at harvesting a Buck or a Trophy buck. If you take away the Hunters Dream and Adventure in pursuing antlered deer that someone has been following over the years..... in my opinion you will do much more harm to the sport than good and will likely not accomplish what your trying to accomplish. I think most hunter will respond more positively if you require them to shoot a doe first if they want to earn a buck tag. I also think that private land owners should be given as many doe tags as they want for free if they can be allowed to manage there herd and take out doe when the population is to large in there area.

I noticed hardly any mature bucks during the archery or gun seasons this year. I never had anyone I knew get a mature buck. It seems like trying to kill off all the deer is having a negative effect on the amount of mature bucks. There were a lot of young 1.5 and 2.5 year old bucks but not many mature deer. I suppose this could also be due to being over run and the mature bucks not having enough space but I have always believed the mature bucks chase out the younger deer. And also with so many less doe the mature bucks may move to areas where the doe population is higher. I’m not a scientist so I can’t say for sure. That is just what I have noticed. 5 years ago or more it seemed like there were big mature bucks everywhere and now that seems to be going down. Could be just the land I hunt but it seems all my friends and family have noticed the same thing.

One of my main concerns is about the proposals to the crossbow season. As a crossbow hunter I would hope the decisions made about the hunting season aren’t being swayed by the other methods. Hunting is hunting, whether your Gun (which I also do), Compound Bow, Re-curve or Crossbow. It's about putting the time in the woods. Also, I mainly hunt in Governor Dodge State Park. The issue hunters already run into there is that the archery season opens on October 15th (a month after the normal season opener). And the entirety of the hunting portion doesn’t fully open up until November 15th. It would be nice to hunt the whole property (full hunt area) the full season. But needless to say, if crossbow season were shortened like some proposed talking points suggest that would seriously hamper the amount of time I could/would spend in the woods. Thanks.

Quality Deer Management should become mandatory... e.g. bucks only 6 points or 8 points or higher - or min of three or 4 points on a side perhaps. Exception for the youth season. The kids should be able to shoot anything... but maybe they get some sort of reward if they shoot 8 point or higher... like maybe a free license the following year ( to start to teach them the beneficial biology of allowing strong, healthy bucks to survive and mature.) Some sort of culling info and support for inferior deer bucks might be interesting as well. And lastly, I think a more comprehensive data and informational report on the progress and research related to the CWD situation would be nice. I’m just still not comfortable that I know as much about CWD as I should... even though it’s been around for a whole lot of years now.

WI DNR should consider putting a muzzle loader season PRIOR to the normal rifle season. This season would create more interest for hunters as well as giving an opportunity to harvest deer prior to the gun season. The buck limit would apply to both gun/muzzle loader so a hunter would not get an additional buck during gun deer. Hunters could also fill their antlerless quota during this season. Many states offer the muzzle loader season PRIOR to their regular gun season and it has brought many hunters to the woods who don't necessarily bow hunt. It would also be nice to have the youth season just a little later in October maybe just a week or so later.
You,(dnr) have gotten hunting in our area all screwed up. Wasn't even planning on turkey hunting this year because there are none on the property i hunt. My son wanted to go so I got us tags and found some other property to hunt. Last season me, my son, and daughter never even got close to shooting a turkey. Deer hunting is going along the same venture. Last season we had 5 people bowhunting and only shot one buck. Gun season followed the same, 5 of us and only tagged one buck. So to sum up my observations, your cats are doing the hunting for you. Numbers are way down. If it keeps going that way there won't be anything to hunt.

Hi, I'm concerned about the possibility crossbows starting later the longbows. It may only be a rumor... This is ridiculous to say the least. If I need to go to the dr for a permit, I guess I'll hv to. I would love to have my shoulder back to use a longbow. I'm unable to draw efficiently. Point 2; I know guys that wound deer with the longbow. Lots of them aren’t harvested. I’m not a fan of loosing or wounding any animal. It’s unethical and cruel. These “hunters” Can hit a target but the heartbeat is a completely different thing. Same guys hunt with a crossbow now and are efficient killers. Less wounded deer. Period. Thank you for your time.

I’m against the holiday hunt. After all of the other gun seasons, most of the deer are nocturnal. I want to use our property with the family for other activities around the holidays besides just seed hunting. All of our neighbors gun hunt, so this season affects me even if I don’t hunt it. I’m STRONGLY against the Jan archery and cross gun season. Once again, deer are nocturnal from over hunting. This effects all landowners for very few deer harvested. Jan should be for habitat improvement, coyote hunting, sled riding and snowmobiling. This hunt effects too many people that are not even deer hunters to even consider it!

I realize CWD has made deer management in our state an ominous task, I've hunted in Iowa county for 34 years on the same private land and have witnessed the herd decline first hand. I have followed the recommendations and have done my part in herd reduction. Back to feedback for you: I think 3 antlerless tags per license is too much, within my group of 4 to 5 hunters, we usually participate in reducing the herd by taking one doe along with (hopefully) a buck. Offering to sell additional tags at a price may be the way to go. 1) It would create some revenue. 2) If hunters want to shoot more deer, they can.

I think the number of ag tags is ridiculous. Does the DNR even do research on crop damage from deer...?! Or investigate the losses of cerain farms.?! Raccoons n turkeys do way more damage then deer so where is all the extra tags givin for those species.?! I am extremely concerned for the heard in my area due to the extreme high number of ag tags givin to neighboring farms. The amount of deer they have shot is disgusting and our sighting numbers are waaaaaaaay down. These people brag about the number of deer they have slaughtered over a years time n something needs to be done about it.!!!!

In the CDAC minutes there was concern that in the 2019 season hunters reported seeing fewer deer. That unfortunately was the case for myself as well, however what people have to remember is the 2019 fall was not favorable for getting crops harvested. That being said there was a lot more crop cover, particularly corn, where deer were not as exposed nor were they in the woods as much to be pressured out. As a farmer as well I see first hand the damage that deer do to the crops and the number of deer I see throughout the year seems to be increasing despite my experiences while hunting.

My opinion is that if you want to decrease the herd, you need to provide opportunities to the hunters to do so. There is no reason not to extend the archery season. There were 27 deer killed during that season, which isn't many but they did decrease the herd and that's the objective. Some hunters enjoy that time of year and I don't believe we should tell them they can't hunt at that time. Rarely is there enough snow during this season for snow machines so I can't believe that's a real concern with the farmers and associations. ps, I’m not an archery hunter.
Deer numbers in certain areas are high but that’s large tracts of private land and very few hunters. Don’t assume deer populations are the same all over. When hunters see fewer deer than they used to Why do you think they’re lying. It’s not the weather or the corn or date of season there’s fewer deer where the majority of people get to hunt so please don’t punish the majority because the few and wealthy have high deer numbers. I don’t have to harvest a deer to have a successful hunt but seeing deer is very enjoyable. License sales fund the dnr if you lose that then what?

I have hunted the same farm in Iowa county off and on the past 20 years. I feel the numbers are in check if not low. I hardly see any doe during season and through my trail cams feel the ration of Buck to doe is 1-2 or even 1-1. The farms I hunt in Sauk county have far more doe probably 1-5. In addition I bowhunt a probably 15 days a year on average and have seen far less deer during bow season than after the crops are off usually by firearm season. This past year I saw more deer in 2 hours opening morning than I did in the majority of my bow season!

If you decide to do an antlerless only hunt or change the crossbow season in any way, that is different from the regular archery season, I have decided to shut all the land I control down. I only have control of 740 acres but I feel hunting should be equal to all. You shouldn’t let people insist on them getting the first chance at shooting a deer. All hunters can buy a license for all seasons if they would like, so why make so many changes and make it more complicated. This is what I hear from many hunters, that this is getting to complicated!!!

Thank you for this opportunity to input on the direction of this DMU. I am glad our unit is considering the recommendation to hold a Holiday Hunt. I have taken part in this opportunity for several years and am thankful that I harvested during it. I would like you to also consider extending the archery season through January. I think this is a valuable hunting opportunity that has been successfully conducted in previous years. This is the final year our DMU will be tested on its goal to decrease deer population numbers, how is the progress?

Deer “farms” in this area are out of control ie landowners who only allow a few deer to be taken off of their property And try to generate higher deer populations in the area just to shoot 1 buck off the property..then the deer come to my farm and destroy my crops. And I thought baiting in cwd areas was illegal? Aren’t food plots and small man made watering holes the same as baiting? The Dnr should provide daily bag limits for whitetail deer for landowners until the herd is back to a healthy sustainable heard.

If any county was antlerless only, I would not hunt that county and there would not be any antlerless deer shot by our group of hunters. We have a group of 3 to 4 hunters and shoot on average 1 buck and 4 does per year. The issue is not tags the issue is access. Also a idea would be to start the gun season the Saturday after November 15 and close the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Some years would be two weeks some one week and always during the tailend of the rut. It would lead to more bucks and does shot.

I feel appreciate the ability to have hunter feedback. I think all to often the DNR in the past would set numbers for deer harvest, and if the majority of hunters didn’t agree with that they would manage the deer their own way, by not taking as many deer anyways. I feel an antlerless only season would lower the harvest at many a deer may choose to hunt in an antered area. As well as many hunters just want meat, and often while deciding if a deer has antlers or not the deer could get away.

Post 9-day seasons would be much more effective if buck harvest were allowed as well as antlerless harvest. Many more hunters would participate if they were allowed to shoot a buck (assuming they had a valid tag to do so). The simple fact that more hunters would be in the woods under such a harvest structure would result in significantly more antlerless deer being harvested and would not pose any sort of over harvest of bucks. More hunters would participate, more antlerless deer would be killed.
The deer numbers that my family have been observing on private land in Iowa/Grant County have been slowly declining over the past ten years. Extending the bow/crossbow season is a bad idea and no holiday hunt should be instituted until overall numbers rebound. YOU CANNOT STOP THE SPREAD OF CWD BY TRYING TO KILL ALL OF THE DEER! IT’S BEEN HERE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE HERE. WANNA START VACCINATING DEER NEXT? START USING SOME COMMON-SENSE APPROACHES TO DEER MANAGEMENT AND STOP WASTING OUR MONEY!

My primary concern is reducing the incidences of CWD infected deer. Although unpopular I would favor going back to Earn a Buck for a season or two and I would say that the 10 other hunters in our group feel the same way. Since the first case of CWD we have averaged about 5 deer a year killed on our property. We had two positive. In the last two years we have killed 8 deer. Only 3 have been negative. 5 positive! Something needs to be done. People will stop killing deer that they will not eat.

We have been seeing very low number of deer year after year. For gun season, 10-15 years ago, we’d see 20-30 plus deer opening weekend. The average we’ve seen over the last 5+ years is maybe 3-4 deer. Our camp has 3 hunters and the 3-4 deer is total for all 3 hunters. Please please consider not issuing so many antlerless permits. One would be plenty or go back to needing to apply for an antlerless permit and not giving them out automatically when licenses are purchased.

Wisconsin needs to decrease the wolf population. I do not care if thats done by hunting or other means but my hunting partners and me are considering not hunting in the very near future if the deer population does not rebound. We used to lease land by Tomah and saw a 90% drop in the amount of deer saw in 5 years after the wolves moved in. Maybe with the judges President Trump has put in place we could have a hunting season or other means to cull the wolf population.

I think the CDAC is doing a good job with the tools that they have. I do believe the DEER NUMBERS way over estimated, as everyone I’m speaking to is seeing LESS DEER, NOT MORE!!!!!!!!!!!! I would recommend to MAINTAIN starting in 2021. We have certainly not seen the mortality rate from CWD as was stated by the DNR 20 years ago, when they stated the herd would be decimated!!!!! Sportsmen view CWD as something they will have to live with for sometime in the future.

I harvested 3 CWD positive deer last year. In addition to being a beautiful time of year to hunt, the holiday hunt provided me with a much needed opportunity to harvest some clean venison. The proposed rule changes by the NRB are foolish at best and pose a real threat to deer hunting at worst. Please tell them to listen more to successful deer hunters and less to whiny guys at bars. -one of Wisconsins many happy and successful deer hunters.

With the deer season starting in mid September and has ing opportunity till around jan1st. That is almost 3 1/2 months of a deer season. Why do we need a January deer hunt? Other people also like to use the woods and lands for winter recreation. Thus I am against the January bow hunt. Remember archery gear is allowed thru all of deer season and for the minute amount of deer that where harvested in that January hunt is it really worth having.

I understand how all tools should be looked at if the goal is to reduce the deer pop but having a extended archery season is easily not worth landowner and warden burden. Maybe the goal should be pop maintenance rather than reduction. Lack of fawns due to predators is obvious. A bounty might help. County or club money to fund the bounty. Higher trappers maybe. Recommend reducing the crossbow harvest so that message gets sent up.

First year hunting our lease south and east of Dodgeville, Doe to Buck ratio witnessed while archery and gun hunting during the pre-rut though post rut seems to be heavily lopsided. Saw approx 8 to 1 bucks to does on trail cameras and while stand hunting full days. In speaking with the neighbors and sharing information, that was the general consensus between all. This had influence with my answers on the CDAC questions above.
We have young hunters in our group and have trouble keeping them excited about hunting when they see very few deer. Was the deer population really too high 10 or 15 years ago? We certainly have less deer now than back then! You have increased license sales and kept older people hunting by allowing cross bows to be used by anyone. Has decreasing the deer population had any effect on CWD? Or just discouraged young hunters?

Fields are full of deer in the morning and evenings. The population needs to be reduced not only for the damage they do to crops and woodlands, but to slow the spread of CWD. We can not be selfish and think about how it is for us, we need to think about the future generations. Please consider the extended January season. It gives more opportunities. This is a decrease unit, so you need to use all available tools.

Open archery seasons at governor dodge and other state parks when the rest of state opens up. Open up more of governor dodge for archery hunters. It is too crowded with small game hunters and it is very unsafe. Open up more of the park. There is plenty of room there. Allow tree stands on public lands during hunting seasons as long as they are not fastened to trees and/or harm the trees in any way. Thank you

Please stop hunting 5 days prior to the gun season, this will give the deer a chance to start to move. I use to see alot more deer during gun season when there was a 5 day period where no one could hunt. I would also like to see any early season gun hunts stopped. Once guns are fired the deer are alot more spooked which makes bow hunting tougher and I think that is why deer numbers are down.

I feel the deer numbers are not as high as thought. Keep the season structure the same as in previous years. We don’t need a extended rifle season. Let the crossbow hunters hunt the same amount of time that compound bows get too. You will lose even more hunters if you limit crossbow use in this state! Compound bows are just as accurate and deadly as a crossbow. Thank you for your time.

CWD is a definite problem and needs attention and solutions. However, there are too many deer tags for one hunter, And there are too many gun seasons. It doesn’t seem to be an effective way to manage deer health problems, is more dangerous, interferes with other hunting, etc. we need encouragement of hunting from the broader population and a focus on alternative mitigation practices for CWD

The best deer management I’ve personally witnessed was earn a buck and having the doe tags flow over to the next year. In my personal experience that was some of the best rut activity and deer numbers, and I’ve heard the same thing from a number of taxidermist in the area. I also think extended seasons is hard on deer especially after the rut when there bodies are trying to recover

I strongly suggest to implement earn a buck to achieve the goal of doe harvest, properties I hunt have way too many deer and many neighbors don’t allow hunting or will not shoot doe, this hurts herd health in many ways. Having longer seasons also hurts as people will not get out and hunt because they always have another weekend to go and leaves less hunters afield at a time.

I think that a population objective of decrease warrants a holiday hunt which provides additional opportunities to harvest antlerless deer especially considering the quota is not met during the 9-day gun season. I support recommending an antlerless only season framework to attempt to decrease the negative impacts of Iowa County’s deer herd by decreasing its size.

In my area of northern Iowa county the deer numbers seem very low.I would like to see limited doe tags issued and no doe only seasons at all.If a holiday hunt is recommended then make it either sex not just doe.I think it's hard to manage Iowa county as a whole unit with the same quotas.The southern half seems to have a higher deer density then the north.

I think all holiday and antlerless only hunts should be ended. There are plenty of opportunities during archery, gun, and muzzleloader seasons to harvest antlerless deer. I also think you should get 1 buck license per weapon type meaning if you bought both gun and archery licenses you could fill both buck tags with archery equipment during archery season.
We need to stop trying to kill all of the deer in Iowa county. We used to be a great county for deer numbers and deer quality. Now our extended seasons and extra tags have destroyed our age structure. Allow the population to get back to where it should be. It would make hunting more enjoyable for the next generation.

I agree with the recommendations to hold the Holiday Hunt, as well as offer 3 free tags/license. Please recommend an extended archery season. Last year while in my stand, I saw on average 2 deer/hr!!!! There are too many deer where I live. Let me and my neighbors have the tools to control the herd! Thank you.

Just do not think we need holiday hunt since the numbers do not change with and without the holiday hunt. Same with extended season. We all have plenty of chances through the season to harvest deer if we find it a priority we do not need another month. I would like to no holiday hunt no extended late season.

Seeing deer decline every deer season for many years. Didnt hunt at all in 2018 because of lack of seeing deer. I went last year and wish I didn’t. I saw 1 deer the whole season. Sad to say my days of deer hunting in Wisconsin are over. Btw. Raccoon and Turkey do way more damage to crops than deer do.

Without does there is no way for repopulation of the deer herd. 1 buck can breed 3 or 4 does. I honestly would like this see the earn a buck program make a comeback. There has to be an even amount of does and bucks harvested otherwise there will be not be enough reproduction to keep the deer herd alive.

With the rise of CWD, if I shoot a deer in gun season and it tests positive; I would like to get the opportunity to hunt for another deer during the Holiday Hunt. I don’t support the extended bow season. This is too late to harvest a doe that is already a couple months along in the gestation process.

Appreciate what you are trying to accomplish. I oppose the holiday hunt only because most people don’t doe hunt that week, we can shoot an fatherless deer during archery or gun season, no need to shoot one over Christmas. And, it is harder to take in testing sample after gun season ends.

as long as big deer numbers remain on private land that does not let hunters on the cwd problems will remain. I talked with others hunting on these lands and they all saw large numbers. We need programs or incentives to aid in getting access where the large numbers are on private land.

Eliminate the private and public antlerless designations. I hunt too many variations based on ability to access private lands. Reopen accesses into large track of public hunting lands. You assume people will walk in. Yet they are the at most 300 yds from a road or open trail.

We need an earlier and longer gun season, as they are not moving like they used to. Start two weekends before Thanksgiving and end the usual weekend right after for a 16 day season. Also if it goes to an antlerless hunt, I will not be hunting. That’s part of the thrill.

Non resident licenses far to expensive. I'm the out of state owner of a 1890's farm. I've hunted for 25 plus years. The state is greedy. Property owners should receive a more inexpensive license based on the fact that i pay property taxes on the property.

Extend the gun season to include the weekend before the scheduled season of deer hunting. Would give an opportunity to see more deer because the rut would probably still be going strong. I wouldn't add an additional full week, only an additional weekend.

Overall, I think we are doing a decent job with deer management. There are no easy answers and it can change from year to year depending on weather and other variables. Keep up the good work and open the State Parks again so I can go fishing again.

Given the prevalence of CDW in Iowa county, why not consider some type of earn a buck to reward the harvesting of a doe? The addition of extra antlerless tags is a great bonus, but why not further encourage their use by rewarding a bonus buck tag?
We do not see deer period. I would like to see gun and bow season to run side by side. Give everyone the same fair right to see deer during the rut. Less people are hunting, my only chance to see deer around me are when they move naturally.

The increase in CWD is concerning. Unfortunately we missed the window to suppress the disease in this area. It may be better to remove more deer before they are all infected so people can at least consume the meat for a couple more years.

Do not accept a 19 day gun deer season. Deer numbers are low do to two horrible winters where we had ice covering deer food sources and lack of food. I realize you have matrix you rely on but those are way off on actual population.

There are too many deer in NW Iowa County. I am a homeowner, landowner and farmer in this zone. Deer damage is excessive. I would support having a bounty paid of $20-$50 by the State or DNR or each antlerless deer harvested.

I participated in the first Iowa County CDAC conference call and do agree with most of the recommendations. They have a very tough job and can't please everyone. Thank-you for all of your hard work and tough decision making.

Myself and many others may not participate in a anterless season. If earn a buck becomes a option, it should allow primary tag to still be either sex. The high percentage of standing corn was a huge impact on the area we hunt.

I think that the holiday hunt should include bucks as well. I see way more bucks then than I do during 9 day hunt. I also think the out of state license fee should be lowered and the in state fee should be increased slightly.

Give the hunter we have the opportunity to fill tags by combining the public and private LIC again to many newer rules simplify the hunting rules many hunter have a small privite land and like to suplimente with public land.

With the dramatic over abundance of deer herds you need to increase options to further reduce the number of deer. When coupled with the Covid issues provide harvest authorizations to help feed the poor and disadvantaged.

Pop. Is way to low i have hunted this area for 5 decades i have seen alot never have i seen it like this muzzle loader hunt only were spectacular in Gov Dodge. Wish i could have my grand kids exsperance it. Just very sad.

We need to continue to work to keep the herd in Iowa county from growing, both to battle CWD and to help forest regeneration for future generations. Hopefully earn-a-buck will be again be a tool and one the CDAC will use.

Keep supporting Youth Hunting Seasons with strict enforcement of adults who violate the youth only hunting. Add a Disabled American Veteran Licence Fee, like other states, regardless of residency, they deserve it!!!

As you know already the crossbow season has had negative reactions from true bowhunters and gun hunters. They should not be allowed during the rut period. My brother calls them X-guns because they really are a gun.

The Deer numbers are way to low! There should be no antlerless tags issued. Hunting all day on opening day of gun season, to see 3 Deer, is not right! My neighbors and friends saw similar or even less than I did!

I am NOT in favor of extending the framework of either the Gun, muzzleloader, or archery season. I would support an entire doe only season framework in this county if the objective is to reduce deer numbers.

I think the gun season shouldn't change as that's the easiest way to kill a deer. The bow season should be both sex till January 31st though to keep hunters out watching for predators and deer with cwd

I greatly appreciate the committee's preliminary recommendation for having a holiday hunt this coming season. The holiday hunt has been providing an important recreational opportunity for my family.
The deer numbers overall are very low and the herd does not look strong. There is an over abundance of predators. I have seen multiple bobcats while in stand and coyotes are very overpopulated.

I think that having a no buck harvest year would not be a good idea at all. If anything extend the doe only hunt at the end of the year and kill more doe if high numbers is that big of an issue.

No Special Hunts other than youth. no extending gun season. need more bucks to shoot and higher deer population in southern Iowa county like highland and the lake as low numbers seen.

I still cannot understand why we do not have a bounty for deer testing positive for CWD. A simple $200 check and re-issue of the tag would do far more than the current use of those funds.

I'll own private land and will not hunt antlerless deer. And do not want the crossbow season shortened. I have limited time and the longer season gives me more of a chance to actually hunt.

I strongly oppose shortening the crossbow season. I have shoulder issues that prevent me from using a compound bow so If the crossbow season is shortened, I will be unable to hunt.

If you want more deer killed go to two 3 day hunts. Hunters wait till the last minute to shoot the big one and end up shooting nothing. More hunting seasons is not the answer.

CWD mitigation and control should be the over-riding concern in Iowa county. We're lost too much time and it is an existential threat to Wisconsin's rich hunting traditions.

It just seems the population of deer in sw Wisconsin is very very high. I've heard of multiple farmers that would like a lot of antlerless deer shot on their property.

We have harvested/cdw tested (since 2002) many deer on this property since 1980 without any positives for cwd. In 2018-19 we had 3 test positive. It's a very concerning.

Farmers who receive agricultural damage tags to omit deer for reasons of reducing crop damage should not be allowed to rent their lands out for recreational hunting.

The biggest problem with deer hunting are there are too many santuaries. The deer just go to land where the owners don't hunt. This causes older deer and more CWD.

If you truly want to reduce the population you will never do it with holiday hunts or 19 day seasons. there is but one solution and it is very simple. EARN A BUCK.

Deer, numbers South of Hwy. 18 -151, are extremely high. Travel and hunt that area, in the townships of Brigham and Ridgeway. Do, not own any land. Thank You!

I would like to see more weekend hunting. For example, I would like it if hunting were concentrated on the weekends of the 7th and 8th, 14th & 15th of November

I think everything is going well. I would like to see a few more deer. The only thing I would like to see come back is, tags and in person registration.

It has been my observations over the 2018 and 2019 gun and archery seasons, there are a lot more bucks than does. We are not getting them on camera either.

Continue to offer land management tags for farmers who are concerned with the crop damage. Push predator hunting. It's starting to be more popular.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1591</td>
<td>If the state really wants to reduce the deer herd in southern Wisconsin, bring back Earn-A-Buck as it is the only thing that has been successful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1592</td>
<td>I’ve hunted the same property for the past 43 years. Last year I saw less deer than ever before to the point of wanting to sell my family farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1593</td>
<td>I would like to see hunters just get 3 harvest authorization tags which they can use on either antlered or nonantlered deer, hunters choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1594</td>
<td>I would support earn a buck being reinstated. I would support an extended deer gun hunt season. We need to seriously reduce the deer herd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1595</td>
<td>I am against an anterless hunt only. If i am bow hunting i want the option to kill what i chose to kill. Not be told what to kill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1596</td>
<td>The crossbow season is way too long. A crossbow is a rifle that shoots a little slower. Give us back a real bow hunting season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1597</td>
<td>I wish the bow season would be shortened 90% of them are just horn hunters and don’t do there part too keep the herd in check.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1598</td>
<td>Yes holiday hunt, no extended bow. A lot of counties around propose 2 tags. Iowa county should consider this too. Earn A Buck?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1599</td>
<td>I wish the NRB would allow the DNR to perform their work based on science and with all available tools and resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>If you were to hold a completely antlerless year there would be a very significant drop in hunters and license sales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1601</td>
<td>Bring back the back tags and registration stations, you can have both online and in person, it helps all involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1602</td>
<td>We need to cut down on the coyote population. They are dictating our hunting land, whether it is good or bad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1603</td>
<td>Really hoping we will begin gun deer season closer to the 15th of November to catch the tail end of the rut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1604</td>
<td>Holiday hunt should include antlered deer also especially for landowners, mentored and 1st time hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1605</td>
<td>If more deer need to be shot, I would be fine with a doe only season. I actually like the proposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1606</td>
<td>There is hardly any deer on my property due to cwd over kill. Too many does taking out in past years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4225</td>
<td>I don’t always agree with everything the CDAC does but I am glad you’re doing it. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4226</td>
<td>CWD issue is way overrated, must be very careful about too high of antlerless deer harvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4227</td>
<td>For the last two year I have not seen many deer. There were more deer before last year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4228</td>
<td>Support a antlerless only holiday hunt. I do not support holiday hunt for bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4229</td>
<td>I really enjoy my crossbow. I hope that crossbows are here to stay in Wisconsin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4230</td>
<td>I would like to see the Winter hunt be either or (anterless or buck).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4231</td>
<td>Extend the muzzle loader season making it doe only for the extension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4232</td>
<td>Make sure adequate CWD testing is readily and easily accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4233</td>
<td>Start taking CWD seriously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4234</td>
<td>Gov Dodge state park should be open during holiday hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4235</td>
<td>We saw less deer by far than previous years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4236</td>
<td>Thank you for reaching out to the hunters!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4237</td>
<td>Is it time to bring back earn a buck?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faster testing techniques are needed.

Thank you for your hard work

I think we need earn a buck

Dump crossbow season
Iron, Northern Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

277 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 106
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 90
   - I hunt in this unit: 247
   - General interest in this unit: 71

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 231
   - Bow: 101
   - Crossbow: 93
   - Muzzleloader: 67

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.88
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 60
   - Mostly Private Land: 40
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 69
   - Mostly Public Land: 33
   - Exclusively Public Land: 43
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 4
   - Not too crowded: 18
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 29
   - Somewhat crowded: 41
   - Very crowded: 91
   - Not applicable: 2

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 63
   - Fewer: 73
   - Same: 81
   - More: 32
   - Many More: 26
   - Unsure: 2

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

- Should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? 126 VALID, 127 NOT VALID, 24 Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I would first like to express my support for the opinions shared by Jeff Wilson in his April 18, 2020 letter to the Iron County CDAC committee members. I especially agree with his comments about the loss of in-person registration. I have my property enrolled in the DMAP program for the sole purpose of obtaining assistance with reducing the number of deer on my land. The browse damage is significant and interferes with my efforts to repair the damage that has been done by over 100 years of high grading. I want to leave the land in a better state than when I bought it, but this is proving difficult to do with a high deer population that is concentrated around deer feeders and the reduction in hunters. For personal reasons, I rely on others to hunt my land and do not benefit personally from the DMAP antlerless tags I am issued in any way other than reducing the browse damage in my forest. Issuing 200 antlerless tags isn't going to have a significant effect on overall population, but it will keep hunters in the woods this year who would otherwise decide it's not worth the effort. I know several other landowners in my area who have similar (or worse) problems with browse damage, and who find it almost impossible to find anyone interested in hunting their land because the does roam around in herds all day but the bucks only appear at 3am on camera... With respect to the harvest data we are generating. I just looked at the harvest results for my DMAP tags and discovered that two of the entries recorded the sex of the harvested deer as "M" (male). I looked at the harvest entry form and it is ambiguous as to who's sex is being requested, the deer or the hunter. I fixed the records, but I can only imagine how many incorrect entries have been made across the state. Individual citizens are not trained in data entry and their submissions aren't verified. I can't see how the data can be used to make reliable decisions. I doubt that these kinds of clerical mistakes were very common when we had in-person registration.

Iron county is a large county that has very different habitats and deer severity indexes from one end to the other. The northern part of iron county has a predatory problem to go along with a harsh winter problem. The northern part of iron county has been ruined for quality deer hunting by poor management and the reckless idea that we need wolf packs to infest our winter deer yards. To fix our herd, we need zero doe harvest, a point restriction, management of our predators and less days for hunters in the woods. You keep adding more efficient weapons and longer seasons and you wonder why the herd is dwindling. Crossbows are not for archery season, and archery seasons were not designed for crossbows. Age or proven disabilities were a great requirement for using that weapon. But we all know that you don’t listen to any ideas that you don’t agree with and you will continue to ruin a once great tradition. As a kid I had 9 days to bag a deer in gun season. That made deer season very special. Special beyond words. Now there are youth hunts and perpetual deer seasons. And then someone had the brilliant idea to not require any accountability for registration. Every violator loved that decision. When you add all of these decisions together and look at the complete picture, maybe you can understand why hunting is not the sport it used to be. The Wisconsin DNR ruined it, and neglected every step of the way, to listen to the actual true sportsmen. You are not interested in balancing our deer herd, you are only interested in balancing a checkbook. Our deer herd hardly ever gets to enjoy a peaceful night sleep in northern iron county. There is perpetually someone or something chasing them around every corner. Your lack of ability to fix this is becoming astoundingly hard to deny at this point. Like all bureaucracies, you are just too arrogant to admit that you may be wrong.
I have noticed throughout iron and ashland counties the number of deer around houses or areas with humans are higher than areas that there are no houses present. I believe the areas especially in Iron county were wolves are known to be present we have seen very few if any deer running the trails or roads. This is concerning and would not like to see the wolves move into populated by people areas that presently have very few wolf sightings. We ride snowmobiles, atv's and hike throughout iron county year round and have noticed this throughout the years. I have witnessed wolf packs on trude lake take down a deer and it was very disturbing on the ice as well as road kill deer on county ff being eatin by wolves and not moving as i approach with my vehicle.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Deer management in Iron County is a difficult task and I feel that the public and scientific data need to be considered. First of all the data shows a growing herd of deer. The 2019 gun harvest data does nothing to show us the accuracy of the herd. All you have to do is look all over the state to see that the 9-day gun harvest data is not a good benchmark to evaluate the herd size. The late opener and weather was definitely the cause of low harvest data. If you look at the bow harvest data all over the state you will see that the herd has increased. This is a much better matrix to see trends. The bow harvest time frame has not changed and therefor it shows the harvest with the rut included. I feel that Iron County can have a antlerless quota of 100. It is my hope that the CDAC committee reverse it's decision and have a 100 deer harvest quota. This will be a good thing for many reasons. 1). Tourism (good for local businesses 2). Antlerless harvest will take pressure off of the young bucks 3). Antlerless harvest allow people to put food on their table 4). Antlerless harvest will help keep a tradition alive 5). The more deer heads turned in to the DNR the more information they will have to check for CWD. Thank you.

A "0" quota for antlerless deer in Iron County is the right choice. During the DNR sponsored meeting in Mercer before the 2019 season the assembled group recommended NO antlerless permits be issued for Iron County - aligned with the "0" permits issued for the 2018 season. The DNR went ahead and issued 125 permits anyway - CONTRARY to the wishes of the residents/hunters who attended the meeting. That was a bad idea - not just because the permits' issuance flouted the wishes of the folks offering their input at the meeting. It was a bad idea because the deer herd was still at a very low ebb and still struggling to recover. The DNR "experts" obviously knew "better" than the people who lived/hunted in the county. That was an arrogant move and worked to alienate many residents who would normally support viable DNR regulations to rebuild our herd. As a result the DNR is now facing a dual rebuilding challenge in Iron County: 1) Rebuilding the deer herd in the face of predators and weather and, 2) Rebuilding the confidence of the residents in the trustworthiness of the DNR "experts." Please note: if you believe you can achieve reasonable herd-building goals (or anything else) without the support of local folks you are mistaken. It's your turn at bat - don't foul out!

I am in favor of an antlerless harvest in 2020 and always will be if the science supports it, as it does this year. I would like to see the same stucture as last year - a quota of 100, 250 tags, evenly split between public and private land. The harvest last year was 103 total antlerless which I believe includes the youth harvest. Though it is true that our goal is to grow the herd, the number of antlerless deer taken is small compared to the benefit derived from these tags in the form of added interest in Iron County deer hunting. Plus, I am a big believer that a little more venison in hunter's freezers might mean just a little less winter kill, road kill, and predator kill. The lower buck kill really makes the numbers look bad. However, Jenna does a good job of documenting how important the date of Opening Day is. In addition, the Tuesday night snowstorm effectively ended the season in the northern half of county. I think this is important. Hunting pressure in the county is so light, chances of success are nomally higher later in the week than in other areas of the state. We really did not get that chance last year.
If the state really wanted to accurately measure the deer in each unit they could do so. The deer czar did not feel that was possible but it is. Drones could easily and accurately do the job. Further, it is in the best interests of the state to grow massive bucks. This is good for tourism, hunters, and out of state hunters. As a long time hunter I recommend handling the season just like bear. STATEWIDE..Everyone has to buy a license and 50,000 harvest permits will be issued. No more. A lot of low information sportsmen will scream like stuffed pigs but within 2 years you would have the best deer hunting in America right here in Wisconsin. I do not think for a New York second you’d even consider such a program like this which is just one reason why the DNR as an entity has such a poor image. It would take real balls to propose such a thing and so I doubt if anyone in your department has any but I think that is what should be done with the deer season.

I do not see how the deer can make a come back with the number of wolves and bears killing and eating the deer in this area. Until the predators are reduced, their will not be enough deer to survive and provide a quality hunt. We had 6 hunters in our camp last year, hunted hard, where in the woods from dawn to sunset, we saw 3 does, total, all season and they were very spooky. This is very sad for me personally, as the camp is made up of 3 of my sons and 2 grandsons. We still go to camp as it is our history/tradition, and we make the most of it, but the only deer stories are the ones I tell around the dinner table, about how it was years ago. We enjoy being out in the woods, but it gets to be a long day without seeing anything, especially for the young hunters. Years ago, before the wolves moved in, we had excellent hunting and success. The terrain and feed/browse available in plentiful. I know you have heard this before, but that is the way it is. I hope something can be done.

I have a concern about resident/non-resident tags. I have always been a loyal Wisconsinite. I own land in Iron Co WI, I was born and raised in the state of WI, I enlisted in the military in the state of WI and I have been paying my WI property taxes every year and contributing to the local economies. I am now a firefighter in MN and can no longer apply for resident tags. That having been said, I believe it is unfair for one to have to pay for non-resident tags to hunt on the land that they are paying taxes on. I think a fair compromise would be if someone owns land in WI and they are up to date their taxes, then they can purchase a resident tag if they only hunt on their land. If they plan on hunting on public land or someone else's private land then it would be fair to pay non-resident prices. I am willing to discuss this further with whomever is willing to discuss this with me. Thank you!

The fact that no antlerless tags should be offered for the 2020 deer season should be a "no brainer". No tags should have been offered in 2019, either! The fact that the DNR representative on your council is recommending offering tags for the 2020 season is INSANE!! The only rational explanation is that the DNR is only interested in the money that selling the tags will bring in. I’ve hunted the same private and public land in both the Kimball and Saxon townships every year for more than 25 years. Weather permitting, our hunting party hunts the entire 9 day gun season, plus some November bow hunting. We’ve seen fewer deer, by far, during the last 3 or 4 years than in previous years. You have to build the herd, and to do that, you have to STOP SHOOTING DOES!! In addition, there needs to be a crackdown on: 1. Excessive pre-gun season bait piles on private and public land 2. Poaching 3. Wolves Thanks for considering my comments!

Thank you for all of your work. Although I use to hunt the area, I do not anymore. Deer hunting could be better, but without serious predator control, and poor habitat, it is pretty hard, to build a herd. also consider the weather that the county gets. The many years of fine deer hunting, was simply because little to no wolves, better Forest mgt from the Feds, and a real commitment from the DNR deer team, that lack the passion and interest compared to the old school members of the DNR. I have friends who have homes and camps in the County frustrated, is to say the least. As far as the amount of vehicle kills, the number you showed, is nothing, to even be concerned about. Create good habitat, good deer yards, control the wolves, and your county will be filled with a lot of hunters, who really want to hunt the big woods, but have left, for areas, where there are a lot more deer.

Good luck to all of you.
4253 Basically, I feel the deer numbers match having a limited number of antlerless permits for the 2020 season. (much like last year) My experience last fall all the way through the winter season is deer numbers up actually a fair amount, and the main reason for low registration is lack of hunters. Individually, we as a family enjoy the ability to harvest a doe or two so yes my opinion does benefit us, but it does get tiring listening to people talk of low numbers when you know they aren't putting the time in to make a honest decision. Northern wood is greatly different than anywhere else in wi and this area can be more difficult with lack of obvious food sources ect. to use as areas to scout. The best numbers example I can give from winter is counting a group of 28 deer on the flowage while still have multiply other smaller groups visible also. The numbers are much stronger than 5 years ago.

4254 The northern forest deer herd goals should be set below 50% of biological carrying capacity (overwinter deer density below 15 deer per square mile). To maintain this level will require harvesting a quarter of the population every hunting season with at least half of the harvest consisting of does. This would allow for maximum sustained yield while maintaining a stable population. As a hunter, gardener, commuter, AND someone concerned about the long term conservation of Wisconsin’s northern forest I support harvesting MORE and BIGGER deer rather than SEEING an over abundance of “wood rats” on the landscape (which is currently the case under the existing management regime). Keeping deer densities below 12-15 deer per square will prevent the spread of brainworm to Iron counties remnant moose herd. Iron counties other NATIVE ungulate (i.e. moose NOT elk) deserves management attention.

4255 I very much appreciate Ms.Malinowski’s excellent video regarding Iron county’s deer population. Having hunted in Iron county for at least 15 years and having gone through 6 years of buck only hunts, being able to harvest a doe last year improved my hunt tremendously. While I did not harvest a doe, just having the opportunity improved the hunt alot. We hunted (with bow) the week before the gun season and likely missed the rut. I saw multiple does and not a single buck. I am concerned about a highly skewed buck/does ratio occurring which would impact hunting the rut. Trying to find buck sign (such as rubs and scrapes) has always been difficult, making it very hard to know where to hunt. Making this ratio worse with buck only hunting will only exacerbate this problem. I very much hope there is a doe quota again this year. Thanks for your time and effort.

4256 I very much appreciate Ms.Malinowski’s excellent video regarding Iron county’s deer population. Having hunted in Iron county for at least 15 years and having gone through 6 years of buck only hunts, being able to harvest a doe last year improved my hunt tremendously. While I did not harvest a doe, just having the opportunity improved the hunt alot. We hunted (with bow) the week before the gun season and likely missed the rut. I saw multiple does and not a single buck. I am concerned about a highly skewed buck/does ratio occurring which would impact hunting the rut. Trying to find buck sign (such as rubs and scrapes) has always been difficult, making it very hard to know where to hunt. Making this ratio worse with buck only hunting will only exacerbate this problem. I very much hope there is a doe quota again this year. Thanks for your time and effort.

4257 Private land owners should be able to determine if they want to allow any antlerless harvest on their own property for them and their guests. They spend time and tax money to maintain their lands, and they know what kind of numbers they are seeing. My personal piece of property borders counties that have recommended antlerless quota, and we do see a much higher number of antlerless deer on our property year round, including on camera and in person. While I have no problem with allowing youth hunters to harvest antlerless deer, as long as there is a quota for them, I feel that with the telephone registration of deer there is a very likely probability of abuse of the system, with adults doing the actual harvesting, and then utilizing a youth permit to register it, especially since now even toddlers can “purchase” a license.
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I can tell you for a fact that the predators in both Vilas and Iron county are the problem for deer population. In Iron County our camp of 5 hunters only saw one deer, being the one shot on opening morning. From opening morning till Wednesday last day of our hunt Wolves were the only active animal in the woods. It is quite apparent that hunting is not a important factor for many political groups. I myself could care less for tourism. However the tradition of hunting is decreasing as the wolf population rises. It is apparent that Wisconsin is being told by Federal Judges that they know more that the people who live here. I believe that ethical hunters are going to take matters in their own hands to solve the problem on their own. However it will make a honest hunter dishonest which is a shame.

Overbrowsing of the shrub layer and ground flora has been shown to decrease the production of ground-nesting songbirds. I see areas of heavy browse pressure, to the point where northern white cedar only survives beyond the snow depth protection if otherwise protected from deer browse (like by fencing). Canada yew is absent where it used to be plentiful. For some reason, deer seem to prefer these species over white pine in my neighborhood, but I have seen white pine saplings browsed as well. Maples, ash, oak seedlings and saplings are all heavily browsed. These observations are based on my familiarity with the forest in my area. If I were to get into the topic of my yard I couldn’t do it without expletives! I am more concerned with the health of our forests than with my yard plantings.

Thank you for not having antlerless permits This is the way that it used to be in the 70's. The deer population in iron County (Gile Flowage where I own land is low). I have been hunting this area for 48 straight years (grew up there) It has been decimated due to wolves, snow, and poor DNR Management in the past. Too many doe permits. We used to buy them and immediately burn them. It appears the DNR is finally listening. You can’t run Iron County like SE Wis where I live. I have talked to Jenna in the past and have been impressed with her knowledge and professionalism. The DNR should give out more bear permits. I would also like to see a wolf hunt. Thank You

As a resident of Minnesota, the cost of an out-of-state deer license is prohibitive for me to hunt in Wisconsin every year. Especially, given the low deer population. For the last several years I’d pay the high cost for an out of state license, only to sit in the woods without seeing any legal bucks. Finally I decided the I could no longer make an annual contribution in that amount to the Wisconsin DNR. So, unfortunately I rarely return to hunt with my brother and his family in northern Wisconsin. Perhaps consider having varies license fees for out-of-state residents, i.e., a fee for northern zones and a fee for southern zones. Just a thought. I miss the family hunting tradition!

Whoever is voting no antlerless permits for the county is insane. I have private property and am overrun with does and I have no tools to use to reduce the population. You are never going to grow the herd to massive numbers in this county with the high predator load that is out there. Making buck only is just making the doe to buck ratio very lopsided; there isn’t a spike or fork buck around that makes it to 2 years when nobody has a chance to harvest deer for meat. I HAVE LOST ALL FAITH IN THE CDAC; THERE IS NO EDUCATED DECISION MAKING. EVEN THE COUNTY BIOLOGIST IS RECOMMENDING PERMITS BE AVAILABLE. You need to offer antlerless permits for at least private land.

Rather than have a zero antlerless season, why not issue say 100 antlerless permits both private and public land and advise the hunter they can only harvest one deer per season, if they draw an antlerless permit and harvest an antlerless deer they are done. This could satisfy the need for venison for some hunters (without violating) and reduce pressure on smaller bucks taken at a high rate due to a buck only harvest. Hunting for meat is more important to some than taking a buck. If you really want to take a stand on increasing the Iron county herd make the one deer limit include all deer seasons, bow, crossbow and gun. One deer harvested per hunter for 2020.
Baiting is the only way a person will see any deer at all in Iron county. Without baiting I would have to pass on hunting the area, this would be the first time in 45 years. Years ago you would see hunters all over the place young and old plus buck poles with a good harvest. Now if you see another hunter in the woods they are probably lost. The buck pole is a thing of the past. Young hunters lose interest because we have them sit in the woods all day and don't see hardly anything. I believe antlerless hunts and predators along with heavy snow winters have depleted the herd to a point that it may never recover. Thank you for allowing this feedback.

Has there been any consideration to ban deer baiting in Iron County and/or statewide? With low populations already, baiting definitely congregates deer into certain private areas, making it worse for hunting. In addition the illegal activities associated with it along with the spread of disease from baiting. Another concern is the lack of forestry practices on a local level that seem to have really changed over the last 30 years. No more large cuttings. Then number of wolves and predators in our area of northern Iron county has gone up dramatically as well. So many factors, along with poor weather deep snow early in December this year didn't help.

I believe a lot of our Wolves have moved South. We have not been seeing them as often as before. But we have an abundance of coyotes right now, and a few wolves. We have not seen our resident mountain lion in the last year or so, since forestry logged our area heavy. I think he liked the mature forest trees more than young saplings. I think over all you guys are doing a pretty good job of managing the deer herd. I remember bow hunting our area years ago, before the wolves. We used to see 15 deer a night. Now we might see 2-3 a day, but there are still days where we don't see any... It certainly is nowhere near what we had in the past...

I agree with the zero antlerless tags, I think doing that the past couple years has helped our population but we are still a long ways off from a decade ago. I would be supportive of many more years of no antlerless tags or even a shut down of hunting in the county. There are very hard winters in the northern part of the county and many predators that have been hurting our population. I did not see a single deer this season and I haven’t seen a buck in a couple seasons and I hunt about 6-8 days of the gun season each year. I also spend a lot of time hunting other animals in the county (Bear) and rarely see deer while in the area.

Deer management in iron county, makes no sense. Last year 2019 you had doe tags this year none, and that's good. In the past you had basically unlimited doe tags one year and none the next what is the reasoning behind that. I seen people have 6 to 10 deer on a trailer back when you went to register deer. When asked why you killed all of them, dnr sold the tags must want them killed. I started bear hunting in iron county back in 1979 you where lucky to see a deer the last few years are the same, do not bear hunting in iron county any more. Winter can be really bad especially if you get a bad spring. And predators.

I've been hunting Iron County for over 20 years. It's rare to see a buck older than 2.5 years, not just hunting but also on my deer cams. I maybe see one every 4 to 5 years on the camera. I support zero antlerless even though that may put increased pressure on younger bucks. In my opinion, the only way to get more mature bucks in Iron County is to have more deer. When I first bought land in Iron County, the older bucks were here. Then the population took a hit with bad winters, wolves and other factors. The herd has never come back. I agree with your 2020 recommendations.

I am glad they chose 0-antlerless! The deer populations tend to be in or around residential areas. There are very few deer in remote areas. In some places there are none. In winter timber sales there were few if any deer in the sales in many areas of Iron County. There is also a lack of Mature bucks on the landscape. We really cant talk about managing the deer herd without addressing the wolf predation and the population of these predators. Hunting in the area for years this is the only variable that has changed and why there is an absence of deer in the remote areas.
I own my own land with my sons and now a grandson. Our goal is not to harvest a deer but for the family to see deer when hunting to keep interest up. Hard for a young 7 year old to go with his dad and not see a deer all day!!! Our population is very low in our area. With another hard winter this year I am worried on the population. Preditors are high! I also believe cross bows are very deadly and so they shoot the deer in rut before rifle season. When populations are low if they get a buck with a bow they should not be able to harvest another with rifle!

I feel the cold and snow in our area is so severe more often than any other area in our state it seems to me it would serve our goals of increasing the deer population much better to protect the does in our unit. You add the predators to mix and we have the potential for real population declines in a matter of one season. We had a very small doe permit only one year in the last several years and yet our deer numbers have not jumped to numbers that show over browsing or a hazard to motor vehicles. This should be of some proof a doe harvest is not required.

I hunt on private land in the town of Knight and I am disappointed in the amount of deer I've seen in the area. In 2019, I would see what I believe to be the same 3 deer all year. All of my sightings, all were on trail cams, the deer appeared to be young and very skinny. I have frequent deer sightings in southern Iron county but the deer population north of Mercer seems to be quite scarce. I would love to see the deer population grow in Iron county. I'm in favor of another year of buck only hunting if that will help increase the deer population.

We have seen increased level of wolf activity last fall. Up to 5 different wolves were seen within the same week. We didn't see any by the time the season rolled around so it's possible they moved on by then. I feel like the wolf population is underestimated even though I know it's only a small impact to the overall deer population. Deer also show altered and skittish travel patterns in years we know wolves are around which makes hunting much more difficult. I would be happier if all wolves would be removed from the northern Wisconsin.

I am concerned about wolf population. I have hunted here in southern Iron county for the last 35 years. Hunting was always very good up until about 10-12 years ago. About the same time we started seeing wolves and hearing them at night on a regular basis. It is difficult to get young hunters (my son and soon my grandson) to sit in a stand for hours without the thrill of at least seeing a deer. I have not seen a buck during shooting hours in 10 years. I also have not seen anything bigger than a fork horn on my trail cam in 5-6 years.

I bow hunted in excess of one dozen times in October and November and saw a total of three deer. I only missed a total of four years due to military service and 1 year to being discussed the last 59 years in Iron county. Between the wolves and the bad winter kill it is nearly impossible to harvest a deer in iron co. Allowing 200 antlerless tags in this unit last year was totally irresponsible. It seems to be getting worse every year, and I doubt If I'll hunt in Iron county or any other county in northern Wisconsin this year.

Having been born in this area and having been hunting here for 60+ years, I've experienced the ups and downs of deer experience that this area can provide. TO THOSE OF US IN OUR "CAMP" THE CHANCE TO BE TOGETHER AND TO EXPERIENCE NATURE FAR OUTWAY THE NEED FOR A KILL. However, after hunting five days and only seeing 3 deer between four hunters while seeing a bear, two wolves, and a pack of coyotes, it was disappointing. We have always passed up shots on does and smaller bucks but there was no option at all this season.

I believe your numbers are way too high. I saw 1 doe and 1 fawn 1 week before the gun season. We had 3 hunters in our group. We did did not see another deer through the end of the 9 day gun season. I did go for a couple hikes to see what I could find out. Most days I found more wolf tracks than deer tracks. On 1 of my hikes, the wolves were howling on my back trail within 100 yards. I think I strayed too close to a den. The bear numbers are high in our area also. We had a lot of evidence of that all fall.

What part of the need to ban baiting doesn't the department understand? I did not buy a rifle license for the first time in 40 years in 2019 and I won't again in 2020. I even have a vested interest up there in the form of a cabin and property. I will continue to hunt western states where there is no baiting and animals to see. I found some of the data interesting, however it’s 2020!! There’s predators, winters etc. but I feel it ultimately comes down to mismanagement. Again, it's 2020, not 1980.
Personally I think we should close the season or really limit it for a few years. We used to have nice bucks up here regularly and you rarely see them anymore. Including me, other people are frustrated with the lack of bucks up here. Either you don’t see any or you have to take a small one, they never even get the chance. I’ve hunted off and on for about 20 years... probably less than anything. Due to time, public land issues and buck only seasons I’ve never even harvested a deer.

Bring back the back tags. There have been many incidents where hunters are trespassing on private property, but there is no way to track or report the hunter, because law enforcement is spread too thin in Iron County. Bring back deer registry sites. In theory, I don’t even need a license to go and harvest several deer, and under the current system, I’m not obligated to report any of the harvests. Tagging deer, and registering would prevent dishonest hunters from over harvesting.

We hunt by the Gile Flowage. We saw several wolves during gun season and zero deer. Deer numbers seem very low along with hunters. I can assume winters and predators but definitely not hunters are influencing the deer population. Please do everything possible to increase the population of deer. Predator hunts, no doe seasons, increase logging efforts, improve habitat, and increase efforts to catch poachers. I know our hands are tied but wolves are taking a lot of deer. Good luck

Deer numbers are not high enough in the majority of hunting land in iron co. Certain residential areas, because of legalized wildlife feeding, have an over abundance of deer creating localized herds. If baiting and feeding were illegal this would not be the case. Outside of these residential areas, the deer population is low in the vast majority of forested area. To shoot does after an extreme winter severity index score is not using science to make decisions.

We should try getting a bounty placed on coyotes, and stronger push for a wolf reduction plan. I would strongly support an antler restriction for a few years to give the year and a half old spikes a chance to breed the following year. A simple 2 or 3 antlers on at-least one side. Giving them a chance to get smarter, same concept lakes are doing with walleye size increases from 15” to 18” or slots. We have had buck only for years it’s not working time to re-attack.

I truly feel sorry for northern Wisconsin. The state appears it doesn't care what happens to the people and their lives. Last hunting season the number of hunters out of the area was almost nonexistent . Once again no or very little tourism money was spent in the beautiful northland. With almost no chance of shooting a buck why would people want to go and hunt the area. The deer will provide for the growing populations of wolves, bears, coyotes and other predators.

For the last 5 years I have seen less and less deer, no mature bucks. Bow hunting and gun. I have always seen good deer when bow hunting and now I see nothing. I’m not happy either that I can only shoot a buck with a bow. Most good hunters would leave the young bucks and take out dry does. I have lost this opportunity. I’m slightly handicapped and this makes it even tougher to get a deer. I’m beginning to think buying licences are a waist. 5 years no deer.

We do not have the deer population up there. I hunt out of a camp that will shoot any buck 3" or more because we hunt for the meat. In the last two years we have shot 3 Bucks total. We have 12 people hunting!!! Last year we saw a total of 5 deer!!!! Also Why cant we just have a set season date wise? This notion of having deer season over Thanks Giving is a JOKE! With the season being late last year, whatever deer we had were laying down after the rut.
Our county should reconsider the no doe harvest quota recommendation. Based on the deer that exist in proximity to the Flambeau, the car kill number, encroachment of CWD in surrounding counties, and suggestion from the area DNR wildlife staff a harvest equal to the 2019 season should be available. The late gun season and terrible weather contributed last year to many people seeing few deer. Grow the herd based on scientific facts not past myths. Forward!

Heavy Snowfall during the gun season (including Muzzle loader) is the single most limiting factor influencing time spent afield and harvest success in Iron Co. for me. I now spend more time during archery and little time during late muzzle loader due to deep snow. Gun hunters would benefit from an earlier opening date if they were willing to give up the tradition of Saturday prior to thanksgiving weekend.

The presentation provided by the Biologist was very informative and I learned a lot about gun season timing and harvest results. My recommendation would be to increase the Bow/Crossbow harvest limits of Antlerless deer due to lower number of hunters and success rate. I would like to see more information on the Predator problem in Iron county and what is planned to relieve that pressure.

This past winter I had counted deer numbers in the 50's on the lake. I also saw five remnants of wolf kills and personally saw 2 wolves chasing deer about the lake. I haven't seen this many deer for at least the last 10 years. In 2014 the most deer I counted at one time was 7. So, would be nice to get at least another year of zero or low numbers of antlerless permits issued to increase the herd some more.

CDAC members need to represent their whole county. As a hunter in the corn fields of the north there are plenty of deer! Friends around the Gile and Turtle Flowage are seeing more deer, and they want limited doe tags. Stop baiting and feeding and we’ll see more daytime deer in the woods where they should be. Too many are being killed on the road from feeding and yet people are worried about wolves.

Stop setting antlerless quotas. Iron County’s deer population is an embarrassment. It is the lowest in the state with the exception of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties... that’s embarrassing. Iron County CDAC should consider setting point restrictions for 3-5 years to spike the population for generations to come, i.e. four points on one side, six point minimum harvest, etc.

in much of the Mercer to Island lake area i hunt the deer are struggling to recover on public lands. Can we have a sportsman program to plat food plots strip on town or county lands to improve habitat for late season food? I would think food plot seed developers would jump all over the opportunity to partner with local groups to improve habitat.

Many members of CDAC want deer numbers that were seen in the late 90’s and early 2000’s. That’s irresponsible and should not be allowed. Some of us enjoy eating venison and have some science background and value our DNR wildlife biologist’s professional opinion. We should have a antlerless harvest! At least a small number of tags should be issued.

The northern economy relies on deer hunting and here numbers drive hunting. Whoever has been working this herd number program needs to be fired!!!! Quit messing g with crossbow season because the Wis Bowhunter Assoc doesn’t like crossbow hunters killing ‘their’ deer. Everyone I know loves crossbow hunting and doesn’t want it taken away!!!

I hunt with a camp of typically 10 people and we’ve seen maybe 1 deer per year. Some years we haven’t seen anything. Your best chance to see anything is to hunt around neighborhoods. Do the deer feel safe? Is the food easier to access? It would be nice to see deer way back in the woods again some day, way off the beaten path again.

I purchased 120 acres strictly for deer hunting and wildlife management and in the last 10 to 15 years it seems like the deer have left our area due to the natural rut. I would like to see Iron county have an earlier deer season or even the the northern counties open the season on November 15th and run for 2 weeks like Michigan.
26 years of hunting in northern iron county, in the beginning there were plenty of deer but in 2008 started a severe decline in deer sightings. I've had my woods logged for better habitat but that didn't help. I am sad to see it happen as we are considering selling our property and move to where there are better deer numbers.

I think too many people place too much emphasis on antlers. I hunt for the venison. There seem to be plenty of deer. The deer I have seen look like they made it through the winter in good shape. Last year's kill was down because the conditions were terrible. Way too much snow. And the season opened late in the year.

As most people know the deer are not spread out proportionately. There are a lot of areas in iron county that have very few deer, while a few areas may be over populated because of feeding or other food sources. I believe that we need to grow the population and support the 0 antlerless permits for 2020.

The Committee is correct in establishing a zero quota for antlerless deer. I would also like a zero quota for the youth hunt, etc. The only element of growing the population that we can control is the number of does shot, all the other elements of growing the population are beyond our control.

I believe baiting/feeding deer should not be allowed until the Sunday after gun season ends. The one year baiting was illegal statewide, deer movement was much increased over any year before or since. And no, I didn't shoot a deer that year but still enjoyed seeing so much deer movement.

We need more deer but we also have too manage the herd so i dont feel that not harvesting some of the antlerless population is the answer i also feel there should be regulations on the size and age of the adult bucks so we arent taking the young healthy breeders out at their prime. Thank you.

I would recommend the same regulations as the 2019 season. I seen the same if not more deer in 2019 up until the week coming into Gun Season. The deer just went nocturnal. I still had them on camera. People don't do deer drives like they use to. That also plays a role in down numbers.

The many T-Zone hunts held in previous years wiped out the deer herd in our area. We need does to reproduce to rebuild the herd. And to help this along, I would be willing to see a one-buck-a-year, your choice of harvest tool system for a few years. Nobody needs more than one deer.

Keep the wolf population in check. Buck only in this DMU ought to be followed for a few more years until the deer population returns to a reasonable level. Hunting for numerous days during the gun season should allow you to at least see deer like it used to be in the late 1990's.

During all the past seasons of buck only harvests I question myself while sitting in my stand at how many of the shots I'm hearing are in fact bucks being shot. With no visual check stations and the lack of dnr help It sounds to me like and over abundance of bucks in the woods??

I feel the big drop on numbers of harvest is due to the multiple big snows we got during the season. I noticed many hunters quit going out and many of them left to go to their homes before it got here resulting in many fewer hunters which would mean a smaller harvest.

I was on the call in May and don't understand why the DNR wouldn't give tags to hunters or at least hunters on private land. We have a bunch of deer near Kimball and I don't see why I can't harvest one of the 20 does that visit a field nearby. Give out 100 quota.

Listen to the biologist. Deer population is growing. And yeah, it's going to grow slow, have you seen our forests? But let us hunt a few does. I want to see less young bucks being killed and it worked last year with the percentage that Jena talked about.

Deer population has decreased tremendously over the past 15 years. I would like the DNR to offer some concrete answers as to why the deer population is so anemic. I'm (and five family members) are seriously considering not going up north this year.
The amount of deer has increased over the last 15 years. I see more deer every year. All I hear is how few deer there are from the people up in the area hunting. The problem is they suck at hunting and are good at drinking and making excuses.

We need to keep the youth into hunting and to do that they need to see deer. Not enough deer to keep them interested. Doesn’t matter what you do with the hunting seasons, if there is no deer they get bored and will lose their excitement.

Enough of special seasons and letting kids shoot antlerless deer in buck only zones. Use common sense for a change. Farmers don’t kill their cows to get more milk. Stop allowing does to be shot. We want more deer in the woods.

You want to increase the deer population 1: give one buck and one doe tag for the entire season for two seasons weather you kill it using bow, gun, muzzle. 2: keep the season lengths the same. 3: no bonus tags no earn a buck

Great presentation by Jenna Malinowski. My only concern is that (it appears) we are using predation data that has not been updated since 2015. If that is correct, I think updating that data should be a priority. Thank you.

I agree with the 0 proposal for antlerless deer harvest tags for iron county. The deer population has and will take a while to recover. Especially with the winters and the wolves. Please keep it that for another 4-6 years.

I have been a Forester in Iron county for 20 years. This is the first winter that I didn’t have a single deer on any of my timber sales. Also last deer season was my worst as far as seeing deer, I seen one all week.

I would like to see deer baiting banned as soon as possible. Thank you for making the video and going thru all the graphs and stats it is good to better understand what is going into the decision making process.

Antlerless in Iron County would be welcome. Extremely rare to see bucks on the 80 acres of public land I hunt (couple miles south of Saxon Harbor) Rarely see bucks at all in that area overall Thanks

I love hunting in iron county. The deer numbers are way down. If the deer numbers get much lower I will quit hunting. The harsh winter’s and wolves are the major reason why the deer numbers are low.

When I was up in my place in Saxon Wi 2 weeks ago I counted 21 deer in my square mile area. I believe we should at least have the same amount of antlerless deer permits in 2030 as in 2019

Bring back antlerless permits for private land. Seeing too many does overabundance on private land and need a tool to control population. Buck to doe ratio way out of balance.

Make sure on your reports that you include wolf and coyotes deer kills, that with the bad winters kill more deer. Your predator kill is way off on your reports.

Manage all predators of deer, like adding a wolf season. Manage all people all harvest deer to help increase the overall future deer population.

There needs to be some antlerless permits available to take the pressure off the young bucks to get a chance to grow. Especially for private land.

In the past 20 years I have seen the deer herd more healthier then it's ever been, nature is almost back in balance, thanks to the big predators

Would like to see limited number of antlerless permits for private land. I have seen multiple herds of does and limited amount of bucks.

Please drop the county advisory groups and go back to letting the professionals make management decisions, not the bar stool biologists.

She said in her video that she would like to see does harvested for research reasons, why not use the car deer kills for that?
Bring back a limited number of antlerless permits. Private landowners need to be able to bring doe numbers down are too high.

Please stop authorizing doe harvests!! Iron County does not have a high enough population to sustain it. Please be smart!

Lots of predators give other wildlife very little chance of survival should start wolf hunts and give more bear tags out

Way to many predators, areas baron of any animal sign even 5 days after snowfall, so much worthless land going to waste

Need doe permits for private land. I see too many does and no bucks. All the young bucks shot before they grow.

antlerless permits need to be available for private land. I see all does and herds of them need to be thinned out.

2019 I did see a little more deer than the previous year, but the numbers are still way down from say 10 years ago.

I live in the county. My private land has too many does and am unable to harvest. Bring back doe permits.

not being allowed to feed them during the winter when we have the ability too has made a negative impact.

I believe the deer gun season should be extended to look something like Michigan has... i.e. 15 days.

We had a much milder winter than last year. Antlerless deer harvest numbers should not be reduced.

need doe permit for private land. See too many everywhere eating my yard and overbrowsing

Deer population needs to increase. Do what you need to do to get the deer numbers up.

Zero antlerless harvest, period. Give out more bear tags. Reduce Wolf population.

would like to see some antlerless permits. Multiple doe sightings on private land.

Cut out all and I mean all extra hunts, youth, black powder, late season etc. all.

make doe permits available for private land. Too many does on my property.

We have almost the same amount of deer as in the time of 1976 to 1985.

The deer population is low because of the wolves. Open wolf hunting!!!

Please don't allow any doe tags. Change the reg's on crossbow hunting.

agree with biologist. Need doe permits especially for private land

good job deer control. not many deer or hunters. glad to see no does

I agree with proposal of 0 doe permits including 0 for youth hunts

need antlerless harvest tags for my private land. Too many does.

I feel last years quota was perfect and should be inacted again.

No more antlerless tags. Also need to eliminate some wolves.

As a young hunter I am excited to harvest my first deer.

You have to have deer before you can manage them.

Issue antlerless permits for private land.

0 antlerless... thank you

too many predators.

Open wolf season
Jackson, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

303 forms were submitted for this unit.

### Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 99
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 69
   - I hunt in this unit: 287
   - General interest in this unit: 48

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 272
   - Bow: 172
   - Crossbow: 108
   - Muzzleloader: 110

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.78
   - Maximum: 66

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 208
   - Mostly Private Land: 39
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 22
   - Mostly Public Land: 6
   - Exclusively Public Land: 10
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 6
   - Not too crowded: 22
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 15
   - Somewhat crowded: 15
   - Very crowded: 14
   - Not applicable: 5

### Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 43
   - Fewer: 92
   - Same: 126
   - More: 35
   - Many More: 4
   - Unsure: 3

### Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth.  - Private:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth.  - Public:</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Support  Oppose  Unsure
78      190     35

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Support  Oppose  Unsure
26      261     16

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Support  Oppose  Unsure
124     150     28

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID  NOT VALID  Unsure
Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First time participating in CDAC. Good process but remember no good deed goes unpunished, especially in deer hunting. Death, divorce and deer hunting bring out the worst in people - keep doing what you are doing in engaging the hunters in the process. My comments are regarding the disconnect between DNR management goals and hunter experience. For several years both DNR and hunters agree it's not working: DNR issues more tags, uses best science to establish quotas (too many deer) yet hunters are disappointed with the hunting experience (too few deer). Only so many hunters want to kill so many antlerless - so issuing more tags isn't the solution. Here's my nickles worth of free advice: 1) consider carrying capacity as a metric in establishing quotas. There are many like myself which work year round on INCREASED carry capacity - food plots (don't have enough space for that discussion), vegetative management (timber cuts, openings, etc), mineral placement, thick cover habitat, fawning habitat, predator control (coyote hunting but mostly bear predation). Using the generic 25 deer/square mile times the number of habitat square miles doesn't take into account the difference in habitat carry capacity. Certainly there are differences in carry capacity (up to degrading vegetation and not sure how cwd comes into play?) 2) focus on hunter experience and participation. Extension of seasons is like issuing more and more tags - pisses some people off and doesn't lead to DNR harvest goals. I'd rather see Holiday hunt in ALL zones, rather than extended antlerless season. Remember hunter experience? Family home for holidays, kids and grandkids come over - tradition, family and friends experience. On same line, don't screw with 9 day season (Wisconsin tradition) and continue new Holiday hunt tradition state wide. Youth hunts are good.

I have hunted in this unit ( and when it was 59c ) for 44 years with only 1 year of my deer hunting spent out of the unit. I can say that we have consistently seen less deer during seasons ( both gun and bow ) for the last 7 to 10 years, despite more days afield. The quality of bucks is better than years ago as hunters are more likely to pass on smaller bucks. I think allowing crossbows for the archery season should not be allowed for non-medical and non-age related exemptions. I have personally known of hunters who will consistently shoot much farther distances with their new crossbow than they would have dreamed of when they hunted with a bow. I would favor a ban of crossbow hunting fir non-exemption hunters - at least during the first two weeks of November ( active rut.). I realize it is probably too late to “put the genie back in the bottle” and go back to allowing crossbows for only exemptions. Lastly, I would like to say that I have always been extremely impressed in my dealings with WI game wardens around the state. They have always been friendly, professional, courteous and have gone out of their way to helpful and share their knowledge. Maybe you guys should host workshops for the DMV employees in my area- Ha. Seriously, kudos to you all.

I have a suggestion, and that is to have an early muzzleloading season that starts concurrently with the start of the archery season such as states like Kansas have. The season should be a “primitive weapon” season only, that is, flintlocks or percussion firearms, no inline, scopes, etc. As a bowhunter, I do not think this would interfere at all with that season, as there would not be a large number of hunters who take advantage of this early season and it would not be during the rut, but it would increase the deer kill and bring additional revenue to the state. I also don’t believe the late muzzleloading season helps all that much with either revenue or the overall deer kill, as licenses are already purchased for the deer gun season and by the time that season ends, the deer have become very nocturnal. Extending the gun season by an additional 10 days would not be all that productive, either, as the traditional 9-day season over Thanksgiving brings the most hunters to the woods. It’s not very realistic to expect that adding more days, as the weather gets colder, will keep the hunters in the woods.
Although I have only harvested one deer with a crossbow and prefer the standard bow hunting methods I do support any type of hunting that increases hunter participation. I believe the crossbow has helped several individuals that I know enjoy hunting and harvest more deer. I do think that there is drop off in the ability of crossbow hunters insofar as becoming more adept at improving hunting skills. Crossbow hunting does allow for less skilled hunters to be successful. My biggest complaint would be, many of the crossbow hunters over estimate their abilities and that of their crossbow. I have seen many many hunters that do not spend time practicing and honing their hunting skills, wound deer and not understand some of the nuances that make up good hunters. These crossbow hunters may, with time, improve with experience and failures which should reduce these situations if they follow the same learning curve of other hunting methods.

I would like to see an antler restriction be enforced in order for growing older, more mature animals. I am all for getting youth involved and enjoy seeing them happy with any animals they choose to harvest, but we have many neighbors who come up hunting from the Milwaukee area and are just there to fill the freezers. (Which is great!) I try to convince them to shoot does and get their meat that way instead of killing all the young bucks which simply aren’t smart enough to hide throughout the rifle season. They pay taxes on their land and I understand it is their choice I just think that we could see the same results as Buffalo County a well known deer capital around the United States and could attract many people to our county if we were able to help aid the deer giving them a chance to grow up and get bigger.

There are collectively a number of individuals that load up on permits and fill their harvest limit. There are many that buy licenses for family members that never hunt and they fill those permits as well. I think the DNR should take a close look at the data coming in from those individuals and better enforcement should take place. I think the DNR should impose a rule that if an individual fills 3 or more permits in a given year, they take a mandatory 3 year period of only being allowed 1 deer harvest. There are many of us out there working to balance the herd for the enjoyment of all and to see people that just want to take, take, take all the time is annoying. It’s just like over-fishing, many practice catch & release while others take home and eat everything they catch.

It seems more attention is given to elk herds & wolves in this part of Wisconsin. If I want to hunt elk I will do so in Colorado, Wyoming or Idaho. Please spend more money to improve your deer herd. The whitetail deer is your bread & butter here in Wisconsin. Promote that not wolves & the elk herd. When I was a very young hunter deer season was more of a religion then a sport. My Father taught me to hunt and have respect for the animal harvested and for other hunters. It is not that way anymore. Young people would rather stick their nose in a cell phone screen then enjoy what nature has to offer. It is sad to see and I am not sure how it should be fixed but the future of hunting in Wisconsin hangs in the balance.

Should reconsider the amount of BAIT one can use for hunting deer- 2 gallons or 10 gallons what is the difference? When you live a distance from where you hunt you end up just wasting fuel in your vehicle and 4 wheeler or UTV causing more harm to the atmosphere which is worse for the deer then the amount of bait set out!! Deer eat and lick from the same cob of corn in the field or a "licking branch" so what sense does it make "limiting' the amount of corn or acorns or soybeans whatever you can place in one spot ? If you want to PAY to feed and help maintain the health of the animals it should be the right of the individual to do such!!

Your new ideas about extending rifle season and all of your other ideas are just stupid. Get rid of the wolves and raise out of state license. The hunting has gotten worse sense i started when I was 12 and I'm only 25 now. Listen to more of the people that put hours into the woods vs all the stupid auto insurance companies. You guys want respect from me then actually do something good. Thank you for your time.
4376 The deer herd in this area has been down for years. At least in the part of the county that I hunt. The public land sign is solid but not anyway near what it was ten years ago. Thank-you for not going crazy with the doe tags. It is appreciated. Hopefully the herd will be able to keep up. There are getting to be more predators in the farmland. We are seeing bobcats, wolf, and bear on the camera’s. I am going to have to try coyote hunting this coming winter, there are at least three groups of dogs around the land I am able to hunt. The herd is in solid shape and keep the good work up.

4377 The antlerless deer harvest is necessary to keeping the herd in balance each year. A healthy herd is not overpopulated creating opportunities for disease, more car crashes & more chances of harsh winters having a bigger impact. Controlling the herd is done with antlerless harvests & limiting the buck harvest to one per year (get a buck bow hunting you could not legally shoot one during the rifle or muzzleloading season). This would be in between having having an antlerless only season & allow for more hunters to have a chance of harvesting a buck. I love The Great Outdoors!

4378 The DNR currently provides hunters with ample opportunities to harvest a deer. Some things that would be nice to see would be eliminating baiting and feeding of deer not only in this county but statewide. Herd health and age structure are the most important and antler restrictions would help the age structure and only affect hunting for one or two years before everyone would see the benefit of a more traditional rut. Public land in central Wisconsin sees too much hunting pressure and always has so doe harvest numbers should be set accordingly.

4379 One buck - per person - per year. Keep the gun deer season as it has been. Please no "Holiday Antlerless hunt." I would like to see a week break between gun deer and muzzle loader season. I feel this would increase the quality of that season and bring in more antlerless deer without the "Holiday Antlerless" thought process. Plenty of days available for all to take antlerless the entire season. Adding a designated time frame like the Holiday Hunt will only lower quality hunting afield by all participating in the late season opportunities.

4380 There is so much private land and so much logging that has happened on public that you either can't find any deer on public or it's so thick/swampy you can't get to a good deer hunting spot. You are forced to take what walks in front of you for lack of deer. Being in central farmland is a terrible location to hunt, and then to not be able to buy a doe tag because all of the out of state hunters get them first. I, as a Wisconsinite should be able to get a bonus or extra tag before out of state hunters. At least for the county I live in.

4381 Since implementation of EAB in my area of Jackson County (Hixton) our herd has been crushed. A lot of people in my area own acreage from 40- to 160 acres and our does got pounded hard. We then had some hard winters and increased predators, especially coyotes, and the herd has struggled to rebound. I think a lot of hunters understand that we can't have deer numbers like we did in the early 2000's however we need to limit our doe harvest for a few years. Conservation first and the hell with crybaby hunters wanting unlimited tags.

4382 The numbers of deer in each unit has decreased over the past decade we need to get the deer population back up to where it was. This would help with increase sales of licenses and increase our younger generation to want to hunt. When I was young and I hunted with my father it was very discouraging when I did not see deer. I understand the insurance side but the management of units should be considered upnorth is where there should be an abundance of deer. In areas that are closer to cities etc need to have fewer populations.

4383 There is no shortage of deer in western Jackson county. I feel we should receive 2 bonus antlerless tags with each license as well as the holiday hunt. Late gun season last year coupled with poor weather for 2nd half of the 9 days made it tougher to see deer (rut was over, lots of standing corn, and trees so flocked with snow you couldn't see 30 yards in many places.) would be nice to have the holiday hunt so us gun hunters could have more opportunities to put some venison in the freezer in the event of poor weather, etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4384</td>
<td>Hello, I would like to see an Early Muzzleloader Season implemented like The State of Iowa has had. Say maybe the first or second week of October. This way it is far enough out where it won’t affect the RUT and bow hunters have their chance at uninterrupted opportunities during this wonderful time to be in the woods. I both bow hunt and black powder hunt and I would like the ability to harvest a mature buck with my muzzleloader when it’s not bone breaking bitter cold. Just my two cents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4385</td>
<td>The deer population is not what it once was in the area. Deer sanctuaries set up on private land for trophy size bucks are under pressured. This results in many deer bedding down during the 9 day hunt where they are safe. Wisconsin needs to extend our 9 day season to at least 21 days. This will give hunters a chance to harvest deer during the rut that has only been available to bow hunters. Some states have 30 - 45 day seasons. For the money we pay, we get shorted time in the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4386</td>
<td>I believe there are not enough deer in this unit and that’s why we are seeing people from out of state not coming any more. They are sick of spending money and going the whole hunting season and not seeing any deer. I bow hunt everyday that season is open and very rarely do I see a deer. Buck or doe. Private lands with game mgmt hold the counts of deer you guys are seeing. While regular private and public lands see no deer or very few. Please fix these issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4387</td>
<td>I feel there are to many antler-less tags being issued, I have seen fewer and fewer deer in the woods before and during deer season every year for the past several years. The population may be higher in parts of the county where people own big pieces of property but in other parts its not. It gets frustrating hunting and sitting dark to dark and seeing 8 deer and of those 8 it was probably 4 and you seen them twice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4388</td>
<td>The current format favors bow/crossbow hunting far too heavily. It seems like an aweful lot of the bucks and bigger bucks are gone long before the gun season. Since I can’t take my kids bow hunting, they seem to be losing interest because they never see bucks or big bucks. Now that crossbows are allowed, there isn't that much difference between using a crossbow and a firearm. Look into making this more even.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4389</td>
<td>Need to have a point restriction on bucks. 4 points on one side minimum. Wisconsin used to be known as a state with mature deer and good genetics. Since then this has decreased with the people I know across the state and my own observations as well. I lived in Missouri and Iowa and hunted public land in both states the past few years and I see more mature bucks there than I have my whole life in Wisconsin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4390</td>
<td>Being a bow hunter, I would prefer two archery bucks tags for the season and forego my gun tag. This may be one method to help buck population if bow harvests are less likely than gun harvests. I would actually prefer to hunt with bow during all seasons and forego my gun tags if I was allowed a second buck with the bow in lieu of gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4391</td>
<td>I believe that the deer population is low. We should be increasing the deer herd. Over the past 10 years myself and other hunters have seen less to seeing nothing at all. Also the amount of hunters from outside my area that I hunt have all stopped hunting this area. This I think plays a part in why we see less deer during the hunting season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4392</td>
<td>40 to 50 deer a night in our winter rye. Much higher numbers than last year. All deer appear healthy and over winter food supplies must have been adequate judging by proportional body weight. No deer appear gaunt or in trouble. As we get further into spring, I’m sure the numbers will disperse into surrounding farms and wooded areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4393</td>
<td>I agree with the recommendations set forth here. I don't want to see the deer population dwindle down to nothing. In the past few years, it is my opinion, that I have not seen enough deer to warrant extended seasons or holiday hunts. I also feel that crossbow is creating a disadvantage to the bow hunters and gun hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4394</td>
<td>Bring back Registration Stations, leave Crossbow hunting and Archery hunting season and requirements alone, give Wardens power to enforce trespassing as well as harassment of hunters on public land. I was harassed twice last year on public land. Leave the 9-day gun season but allow a 48-72 hour cool down for gun hunters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This unit can support the current crossbow and archery seasons. Please leave as is. I have seen plenty of deer on public and private lands the last 10 years. People who don't see deer are the ones that sit all day and don't drive deer. Population in Jackson county is very good.

There isn't hardly any deer left except on a few closed to hunting properties, how many blaze orange people you see walking around the day before hunting season compared to ten years ago....there's the answer to your population....you don't see them, you don't come back.

Please do not extend the rifle season, or stop the hunting season a week before the rifle season. Both are wrong, and would destroy hunting for many people, and it would seriously effect the quality of the deer herd. Please do not make these changes. Thanks!

The number of mature antlered deer seen, both when hunting and through trail cameras, has gone down significantly in the past few years. Allowing crossbows are making for too many easy kills and makes it like having a firearm season all fall and winter.

I believe there should be one antlerless tag issued with each license bought including for the youth. No extra antlerless tags should be available. The 9 day gun season should stay as is. The crossbow season should be 50 years and older or disabled.

I believe that the sharp decline in deer in our area is primarily due to coyotes and possibly wolves. I would like to see the DNR more actively involved in encouraging coyote hunting and we need to restart annual wolf hunts.

Concerned about deer predation. DNR should change bear season framework, hopefully to a spring season, to allow some decrease in bear numbers. Current bear season dates make it very difficult to kill bears.

We need to return to back tags and in person registration!!! The harvest numbers for this DMU as well as all others are inaccurate as compared to years when in person registration and back tags were required.

I think it time to get back to one deer tag per person and no bonus tags. If want give out bonus tag have a party tag system again where 3 or more hunters get one extra tag between the group.

It is completely ridiculous to not offer bonus tags for public land in this DMU. As an overall opinion I feel that there should be no "public or private" designation of doe tags.

Great survey! Appreciate you collecting our input and your dedication to balancing deer population, hunter satisfaction, and outdoor tourism. Keep up the great work!

I see large parcels of private land that only hunt antlered deer. I'd like to see something help reduce the deer population on or near those areas.

I don't know where the deer went, i know we had 7 bear all year in our hunting area. I think they got fawns and moved the deer to other areas.

I think the dinner is doing a good job Jackson county with the deer population. I am concerned about over harvesting of does. Thank you.
I own and farm and hunt 330 acres in Jackson County. The deer herd seems to be at about the right number for hunting and farming.

Keep bow and crossbow seasons the same. In fact, there should be no distinction between the two—they both launch arrows.

Get rid of agricultural damage tags. Or keep it for regular gun deer season til the end of December.

Holiday hunt will be a good and necessary way to control the deer pop in Jackson County.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work. I would like to see a higher deer population.

One doe tag per person is enough. Anything more and there won’t be any deer left.

Run the crossbow season with the archery season. No changes from 2018-2019.

I am satisfied with the deer population and the length of hunting season.

Let the DNR do what needs to done to best manage the environment.

I feel each license should be allowed 1 antlerless and one buck.

Do what ever the DNR thinks is good for the whole environment.

I would consider buck only instead of an antlerless season.

Opposed to limiting or restricting the cross bow season.

Don’t change from current standards.

Maintain 9 day regular gun season.

Keep up the good work!
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Jackson, Central Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

309 forms were submitted for this unit.

### Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 42
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 89
   - I hunt in this unit: 300
   - General interest in this unit: 47

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 279
   - Bow: 155
   - Crossbow: 116
   - Muzzleloader: 82

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.24
   - Maximum: 64

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 43
   - Mostly Private Land: 29
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 37
   - Mostly Public Land: 45
   - Exclusively Public Land: 142
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 8
   - Not too crowded: 34
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 55
   - Somewhat crowded: 67
   - Very crowded: 84
   - Not applicable: 5

### Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 55
   - Fewer: 83
   - Same: 101
   - More: 47
   - Many More: 15
   - Unsure: 8

### Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: | Not applicable in this DMU |
| Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:       | Not applicable in this DMU |

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID 167  NOT VALID 99  Unsure 43

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>3.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I called into the first CDAC meeting for Jackson county, with specific interest in the Central Forest. I have hunted in the Jackson Central Forest since the early 70's. Deer population in this area has dwindled greatly over the past 15 years. During the CDAC meeting no mention of natural predators in this area was mentioned. I believe that the wolves, coyotes and other predators in the area play a big part in the deer herd population and have helped in the great herd reduction! I'm interested in what the CDAC plan is to address this issue. During the CDAC meeting the herd size data was reviewed, the data indicated that the herd was not increasing, but declining. Several thoughts on the possibility of "bad" data were discussed, with a conclusion that the data did not really reflect the herd size. The conclusion in the meeting was the herd was growing. I found this disturbing that the data, in the end, was not used in making the recommendation for the 2020 season. I reviewed CDAC meeting minutes for neighboring Central Forest counties. Wood, Clark and Adams all have recommended to reduce the number of antler less permits from 2019 for the 2020 season. These counties also discussed the data for the herd population, which indicated a reduction in herd size. To help increase the herd size, I would like the Jackson CDAC to strongly reconsider reducing the number of antler less permits for 2020. One more reference point, from my hunting experience in 2019. I hunted all of November in this area, including the rut. Other hunters were also hunting with me during this time. The total number of deer we seen hunting was very very low, 6 total. This included many many hours in the woods. The herd is not even close to what it was 15 years ago, let alone 25 years ago when a hunter would see deer daily... the lack of a herd will aid in the reduced number of hunters! I have also read the DNR articles on concerns of few hunters, and a continued decline in hunters thru 2030. If we don't address the declining herd now we will lose more hunters! Last comment, again, what is the plan to address the over population of natural predators! We have many trail cams out and seeing wolves, coyotes, bears and bobcats is a regular occurrence. Thank you for your time and allowing my personal input.

Deer hunting isn't like it used to be. Too many stupid regulations make it hard to enjoy hunting. the promotion to deer hunt is high but yet back roads, dirt trails are blocked off, gates are in place making it undesirable to walk 3 miles to get to an area that even remotely has a chance of holding any deer. Clear cut the woods so the county can get more money is what it seems to be all its about. What about the days when back tags were issued? It was easy to report violators by giving dnr the tag number when you encounter illegal activity. now nobody knows if anyone even has a valid hunting license anymore just throw on some orange and go. I am a very avid sportsman and abide by all registration rules. How easy is it for people to get an illegally harvested deer from the woods to the freezer without calling in a registration? How many does are shot and registered over the phone as a antlered deer? Who is going to know??? How many buck fawns are shot and registered as an antlerless deer? Regardless if the antlers are 3 inches or not, there is still nuts on it making it a buck a BREEDING buck once mature enough. All the money generated by buying licenses, stamps, go wild cards etc. is going where???? 1 warden for , lets say 250 square miles it seems like, where is he when you do need him? 1 800 # then leave a message and maybe you get a call back before the season ends? Deer hunting in Wisconsin is so commericalized its pathetic. There can be 25 deer in Jackson county but dnr will promote to sell 5,000 tags and chalk it up to quality time in the woods with family and friends is what its all about anyways.
I'm happy with the recommendations made by the CDAC this year. I think it was a good idea to make the tags a 60/40 split in favor of the public land. It makes sense to give tags out based on the percent of the land base. Deer browse should be highly considered when setting antlerless quotas for the Central Forest Zone in Jackson County. Almost 200,000 acres of public land exists in this County, and much of that land is sustainably managed for forest products. Jackson County and many other counties around the state rely on consistent revenue streams from the harvesting of forest products in order to run their operations. If deer aren't allowing for adequate regeneration that is a big detriment to the County, the local community and Wisconsin's forest industry as a whole. I would be cautious when using hunter success rate as an indicator for deer totals in the Central Forest Zone in Jackson County. The hunting pressure has not appeared to be very high over the last few years, and less folks seem to be participating in deer drives. The eastern part of the County has a lot of thick cover due to logging practices and just because folks aren't killing deer doesn't mean they're not there.

My problem with deer hunting in my area is all the doe hunts that happen throughout the season. It starts with the youth hunt, as soon as that happens the few deer that are around go nocturnal. I spoke with a father and his daughters and asked them how they did during the youth hunt and the Dad said they they got a doe. I asked the daughter about the hunt and how it was to shoot the deer and she said my Dad shot it. I know not every situation is not like this but we all know this is happening. I dont purchase a gun license anymore because of lack of deer. I hunted with the bow 15 times last season and only seen 6 deer the whole time I was out. The true numbers are not there less deer now than 6 years ago. I hear wolves just about every night and have seen kills from them. My main thing i would like to see is to stop the doe hunts for a year or two. We need the population to get back up there. My wife and I usually get a doe tag every year but never use them to try to save at least two does from getting shot. Kids would be more interested in the sport if they were to see some deer. Tim Albrecht email address is timalbrecht181@gmail.com

Though I now live in Pa, I have come back to Jackson County to hunt with my brothers from Wis. Rapids. I shot my first deer near Saddle Mound when is was 14 and Jackson County deer hunting is very special to me and my whole family. I can not believe how you let the forests get cut down, what a sorry excuse for forest management. Your doe tag allocation increase is totally out of line with the deer population. You guys need to do what your predecessors always did, they got out of their offices and went out into the field. They actually counted deer by unit, county, area and township. You can't manage deer population unless you actually know how many deer there are in an area. Stop listening to the farmers, insurance companies and academics. Trust me, we in Pa sent you Dr. Gary Alt from Penn State Univ. after he ruined our deer hunting ... We use to put 400,000 hunters in the field on opening weekend .. now it is just a trickle. Bottom Line is if you your goal is to manage deer so we have something to hunt then stop interfeering with nature .. we hunters will thin the herd for you if and when there is something to shoot.

I took the time to watch the informative video of results and information- very well done With that said, I am a private land owner in the central forest and the deer sightings were much lower in my area than in years past. This included archery, 9-day gun and muzzleloader observations. I also received similar observation feedback from other hunters in the area. We continue to manage our private property for deer by hinge cutting, planting food plots, planting soft mast and thermo cover, establishing bedding areas and maintaining low hunting pressure. From our observations, the deer sightings were very low in 2019. We did have antlerless permits and decided not to utilize them on the very few deer we did see. From our observations, there is no sign of over browse on regeneration in our area, including red and white oak. I am by no means an expert, but rather wanted to share my observation. I would prefer a much lower antlerless harvest goal if possible. Thank you to all of the volunteers and CDAC committee for your time and information sharing. I hope you take my feedback into consideration.
Deer hunting on state and county public land has become one of the biggest disappointments in my life. I had enjoyed the hunts regardless of higher hunter densities that was part of the hunt. Wisconsin has managed wildlife habitat with excellence but all of that work is being compromised with baiting. When I hunt these properties now all I find is bait piles and tree stands left unattended. Deer patterns have changed to bait piles with unoccupied tree stands. Wisconsin has limited public land with a large amount of hunters, confrontations are happening often about hunting near bait piles of hunters. Old school deer hunting was a enjoyable way of life now deer hunting is dumping corn, pumpkins, potatoes, carrots and cheap feed out on public land and shooting a deer with a mouth full bait from the 50 dollar cheap tree stand left there all year. I myself will deer hunt federal public properties the old school way. I would also add that I will not recommend deer hunting to young or newcomers because shooting deer over baitpiles is not hunting. Thank you, Bill Stoll

Change the regulations to allow junior hunters to harvest an antlerless deer statewide regardless if the land is public or private - recommend using the same approach as state-wide antlered deer harvest. Currently, junior hunters select either 'public' or 'private' land when purchasing their license and this limits them to harvesting an antlerless deer on the land type specified on the license. Many junior hunters hunt both public and private lands and antlerless deer harvest shouldn't be tied to the land type. This limits their ability to harvest a deer when they hunt both public and private lands. It is in the best interest of this sport to allow junior hunters should be able to harvest an antlerless deer statewide on both private and public land. This will provide the best chance for them to harvest a deer regardless of the land type they are hunting. The junior hunter should be able harvest an antlerless deer anywhere in the state without consideration of 'public' or 'private' land.

In my honest opinion I believe the deer numbers are on the rebound in Jackson forest region. The number one factor that hurts the deer population in this area is wolves. I spend ALOT of time in the woods all year long weather hunting scouting looking for sheds etc and the amount of wolf sign is getting to be out of hand. I had to totally stop hunting one of my favorite spots to hunt due to wolves. They literally track the deer faster then I can and eat them down to nothing in little to kill time. Really frustrating tracking a heart shot deer that ran maybe 50 yards and there’s wolves eating it. I refuse to take my nephews and nieces hunting in this area due to the wolves. If they where to make a bad shot on a deer we would never be able to follow the in written rule “when I’m doubt back out” wolves will have the deer gone within an hour after shooting the deer if you don’t shoot the deer and immediately get down and go after it

My father and I have hunted in Jackson counties central forest zone for approximately 4 years now. We have hunted all over the unit and have spent some time scouting and finding good locations to hunt. We have seen deer in years past and have seen sign of mature deer in the area. The last 2 years I would say though we have seen a sharp decline in the amount of deer harvested. I’m basing this on talking with other hunters when coming out of the field and grabbing a bite to eat at a local establishment. I’m not sure what is causing this sharp decline but I feel as though making this unit very hard to receive a doe tag is a big deterrence from hunting in the area. I’m by no means saying to give away thousands of doe tags to hunters but to rather open up the amount alittle more to allow for more deer to be harvested and in turn bring in more people for local establishments and boost local economies. Thank you for your time!

I drive 3 and a half hours to hunt the public land in Jackson county. I saw 1 buck immediately on opening morning, along with 2 does. That was before 7am opening morning. I didn’t see another deer the rest of the hunt. I walked along with my brother 16 miles in one day, didn’t even see a deer, didn’t even see a track. What a disaster deer hunting in Wisconsin has become, 2020 might be my last year hunting in Wisconsin. To put it simply, the juice isn’t worth the squeeze. If 1100 deer were killed in Jackson county this year, I won’t be back next year. I guess it’s off to find the next piece of public land in western Wisconsin that has a slight chance of providing a wall hanging buck. Congrats dnr. Keep being happy with your turkey recovery efforts. And keep taking everyone else’s $24 for a deer license.
Please do not reduce the season for crossbow hunting during the archery season to two or three weeks and to exclude the rut from crossbow hunters. I would be in favor of crossbow hunting rules being changed to only include disabled hunters and hunters sixty and older to be authorized to use a crossbow. Cut back on all of the special hunts or cut them out completely with one exception, disabled hunt. The youth should only get a anterless tag the first year they hunt, that's it. They should enter the lottery like everyone else. With the current system, if you are lucky enough to draw a anterless tag, you can use it for either gun or archery season. In a limited anterless DMU, Party tags could be a very good option for the state to use. That was the old way and it seemed to work and hunters were somewhat satisfied.

I have hunted this area for 50 years and in the early times you would see herds of deer running through the woods and it was great to be a hunter! Now there is no way that many deer and hunting is not that much fun and exciting especially for the younger kids. They need to see more deer and have more opportunity to get one that's what makes it fun! It seems that we let other interest groups (car insurance companies and etc.) push you to keep killing more does each deer which reduce the total deer heard and bucks. LET THE HERD GROW! We didn't have problems before and we won't now! Close the ATV trails one week before opening bow season so the deer settle down and so we can bring kids, grandsons etc.to hunt when the weather is nicer! They enjoy it more and if the herd are up that would be great too!

Keep working on trying to increase the herd in eastern Jackson County. We need a wolf hunt. Cross bow 'hunters' are taking too many bucks. Keep doing without the Holiday hunt! Implement a full scale baiting ban. It seems hunter numbers keep going down. If they saw more deer, it would help. Continue to have 2 zones in Jackson Co. There was a Conservation Congress question about doing away with the different zones. That would be stupid to combine Jackson Co into 1 unit. There's too many predators. Allow foot snaring of bears to better keep the bear population in check. Encourage more CWD testing in this zone. I wish I could see more deer. Hunting has become quite frustrating. The government should plant less pine and plant more 'deer friendly' trees. Promote DMAP for zone 55 landowners. Thank you.

We need to stop killing the does, for every doe that is killed you reduce the herd by two deer plus the deer that you just killed. I have hunt this land for over 46 years and we used to see herds of deer which made it fun to hunt plus get others younger adults to join too. I continue to place many trail camera throughout the woods all year around and the deer herd is very low, too low. You shouldn't let others influence you that we need to keep reducing the deer herd or many others will not participate in the hunt! You just need to stop killing does for 3 years and everything will come back nicely. After that I would follow what Upper Michigan is doing for regulations. you'll have many more bucks to hunt and you can have a minimum antlers size to hunt. You need to change!!!!

I am retire and disable hunter. I put a lot of time in the woods more on the east side of hwy. 27 south of BRF. In my time spend in the woods and on the county forest roads I would say that the buck population is doing very well specially the 1 to 3 1/2 year olds. I have been seeing more does on the east side of hwy 27 in the last two years. There is a lot of does on the west side of hwy 27, with less bucks in the area that I hunt. There was at less 50% more gun hunters out for opening day. The second day I would say you only had maybe half of the hunters from opening day out, and by noon they were gone. During the 3rd and 5th days you were lucky to see another gun hunter. With this said I don't think a longer gun season would do any good at all.

I have hunted and trapped the eastern half of Jackson County for 13 years on state and County lands. I spend more time than the average sportsman out on the forest. Browse on fresh cuts is considerable and widespread. I have seen the deer herd grow since the earn a buck years and would have to say the deer numbers are the highest I have seen presently. It was not uncommon to see 10+ deer a day hunting. Try driving hwy 54 at dawn or dusk and not having a near collusion with a deer. With CWD on our door step, I believe it might not be a bad idea to increase the harvest of all deer to slow transmission of this disease. I believe 1000 public tags would not hurt the herd and would be well received by MOST hunter on the forest.
I used to able to see 40-50 deer a day 20 yrs ago, but then came along unlimited doe tags. Everyone and there brother went to public land to shoot their does. People I’ve never seen or saw again. Now I only see 2-3 deer per season. The people are gone. The wolves left cause they do not have any deer to eat, but the coyotes are horrible. Last 5 years the turkey population is down 50% id say. I won’t hunt there anymore. The best thing in my opinion is to let the does be for 3 yrs and hopefully by then the deer Hurd will come back. The DNR is loosing hunters. And the hunters are losing interest and faith in the DNR. The introduction of wolfs was a bad mistake on the DNRs part. They pretty much cut there own throat!

I personally feel the wolf population is very high in the Jackson county central forest. The predation on deer is very high, I can only imagine what the fawn mortality rate to wolves is like. Over harvesting oak stands which provide essential food for all wildlife is a problem too. Once those huge acorn producing oaks are gone, they are gone for a lifetime. It takes 60 years to regenerate those oaks. I’ve been seeing fewer deer year after year. How do I get my kids interested in deer hunting when I barely see 1 deer in 8 hours of hunting? Young hunters are not interested in staring at trees all day. Deer hunting is a heritage, a tradition, which has changed not in a good way.

The amount of does have increased due to the lack of doe permits available, so there for I'd like to see an increase to 1000 or more permits awarded for public lands. As for the season dates structure goes. I feel the way it is now is just right, other then the youth season in the beginning of October. I feel that the youth season should run just as long as the disabled season to allow more opportunities for youth hunters. As the weather is not always favorable on those current season dates. Especially when there's alot of us that hunt public lands and dont have the luxury of sitting in big box towers. Also parents work schedules can interfere with the current season timeline.

I hunt the central forest zone public land. The last 3 years I haven't seen any deer and the hunting pressure has dropped dramatically. Opening day gun season 2019 I think I only heard 1 shot. I am concerned the number of anterless permits for public is going to be too low. Would like to see it increased. I am concerned about how certain sections of the central forest east of hwy 27 is harvested for oak lumber as the areas where I've seen mast crops of acorns are no longer there due to lumber harvest thus the food source is gone and I don't see any deer. Please take into consideration if possible the habitat as well when trying to increase the population of deer.

I’m 63 years old I’ve been now hunting since I was 18! 8 of the last years on private property 160 wooded acres ! Ever year I see less and less deer! Just can’t figure why this is? I don’t need too harvest a deer ever year but it would be nice too see a few!! I’ve taken 1 buck and 1 anterless deer so far! I’ve bought the bonus tag and didn’t fill it because of the very low deer sightings!! We have ample feed and cover on property not pressured during the season and neighbor’s also say the same!!! I hope population starts increasing soon? Not many good years ahead of me!! Looking for future for grandkids hard too sit all day and not see a deer!!

Wolves, clear cutting, and the years of earn a buck from the past have decimated the deer herd in the Jackson County and Black River State forest. My son has come hunting with me for the past five years and loves coming to Jackson county , but the last two gun seasons out here have been absolutely dreadful. It’s pretty poor when you don’t see a single deer opening morning or hear any gun shots remotely close. Last year my son told me this is boring. That’s your future hunter and purchaser of licenses. 😞 Thin out the wolf population and spare the does, the big forest deer herd is hurting.

Hunting pressure is the Jackson county Forest region is actually quite minimal. Decades ago there were thousands of hunters, as compared to hundreds, a ten to one ratio less than now. Virtually no one hunts the hard to get at areas, swamps ect. The hunting culture has drastically changed. Most deer hunters now are lazy/farmland Trophy hunters. Can’t even bow hunt the forest region for a doe with a bow. Years ago bow hunting was a buck or doe statewide and done. It’s a big money game. The 10:00 go on line to get a doe tag on a weekday is a kick in the tally dodgers for the working man.
Do not have doe season for the forest county, my father has been hunting this piece of public for all his life and has never seen such low deer numbers, stop recking the deer population in Wisconsin or we will run out of traditions in the already trying time of the this world and PETA, remember what you guys “decide” to do will have an impact many years down the line. I have considered quitting hunting because of the lack of deer population on public lands that it disgusts me. After logging many hours in the woods it is very discouraging........... Hope you do the right thing....

Our group Hunt's central Forest, Deer Numbers are down considerably, have been for over a Decade. Bear bobcat, wolves are up. We've noticed small pockets of deer that lock down during the gun deer season and these Small areas are where we mostly spot Wolves. Lots of pressure on deer. It's almost impossible to keep the younger generation involved when they go days without seeing a deer. We see nothing sitting and turn to making some drives , which is hit and miss with a deer population that's under SO MUCH PRESSURE.

I feel increasing the antlerless quota in this unit will only take us backwards on trying to increase the herd and hunter satisfaction. Only after years of limited or no antlerless harvest are the numbers finally on the upswing and I feel it is still too early to start harvesting too many antlerless deer. Maybe in a year or two take another look at the numbers and reconsider. I am 100% in support of maintaining health numbers and herds and don’t want to see it go backwards from the progress we have made.

Reduce Predators - seeing more and more as they get more comfortable with humans. Seeing less deer. I don’t mind crossbows at all, but to use a crossbow over bait is like using a rifle over bait at 20 yards...no challenge and not fair chase. Reduce the number of days for gun season...hopeful result more people hunting less time result - better deer movement. Also keep in mind this isn't a soccer tournament where everyone who participated goes home with a medal...put your time in.

Something needs to be done, I have hunted considerable amount of areas in the lake arbutus public land in Jackson county and the amount of predators is out of control. Unless steps are taken to control the wolf population the deer hunting in this zone will continue to decline. We talk with several archery hunters in our area and they share the same views. Respectfully James Jurasovich

I believe the season structure this passed year(2019) hunting season was good. Leave it as it is. Also raise the price of none resident licenses. I saw fewer deer this year do to the areas being crowded. Most of everyone crowding in non residents or weekend warriors as we call them. In fact they are the ones we see violating the most. Hmongs are extremely thick in this area and they don’t have a care in the world for anyone but themselves
I feel the deer Hurd in my area is quite healthy, but it seems the buck population was down. The group I hunt with did good we did better the year before. (Rifle season)archery season we always seem to do better than average. But it did feel like the deer population was down a bit. I would like to see Hunter choice brought back! Get rid of some of the special hunts hunting is getting to complicated. This is why people just quit hunting!

With the amount of predators (wolves) in this area, I feel no antlerless harvest the best option. The population seems higher compared to say 10 years ago, but nothing like the 90s and prior. The last few years the population felt on the rise, but kinda stagnated. I think in part because of the antlerless permits. It also makes some hunters take more ethical shots if they only have a buck tag. Can't just shoot any deer.

I have been hunting this unit since 1989 as a 12yr old hunter safety graduate and now a 42yr old with two sons who now have been a part of this tradition. I have seen a decline in population and now with the help of buck only a few years back has help the population increase. There has been a decline of hunting pressure lately in the area I am looking forward to find out why?

In my back yard I have 15 to 24 deer in my backyard feeding on the new grass. As I travel around my region, I see herds of deer (25 to 40) feeding in the picked feeds. As I drove down hwy 54, the road has many dead deer from cars. In my life I have never seem as many deer as I see now. I see 24 deer to one turkey. The deer are looking for food anywhere they can find it.

Too many wolves and not enough hunters because of the wolf population. If you want to get more hunters out in the woods you have to decrees the wolf presence. And stop giving out so many doe tags, it should be one doe tag per hunter, and stop the youth hunt and have the youth hunt during regular deer season, it teaches them more about the true culture of deer hunting.

I only shoot bucks and have not shot a deer on our private property in years. it is frustrating to hear wolves hunting just after dusk and seeing their fresh droppings the next day. I know that it is affecting my ability to harvest a buck. I also understand that increasing the deer population will increase the wolf presents. We need a legal wolf hunting season.

The biggest problem in Jackson County are the predators. Having spent a lot of time on my property in the past. I have come across many wolves, bears, fishers, bobcats and badgers. Not only are they decimating the deer herd, but turkey and grouse also. Also there is the human predator as in the poacher. Not to many nights go by without hearing shots in the dark.

Where I hunt (just south of Bear Bluff) we have an active pack of wolves and in the past few years have started to get pictures of black bears. I am fully aware that humans are by far the largest predator when it comes to whitetail deer so I am not trying to blame low population numbers on other predators. Just wanting to share more information with the CDAC.

I hunt my brother's private land in southern Jackson. In past years, poaching has been an issue in that area, but I think that is changing. Some newer landowners are taking better care of the properties. We see more deer there in the past few years. Still, the impact of predators can be substantial. I like the buck only for now. Let the kids harvest the does.

please leave opening day of gun season the same.leave bow season open until one week before gun season get rid of special hunts.if muzzleloaders want to use their weapons use them during gun season.bring back back tags and in person registration.get rid of baiting the deer. get rid of deer farms and game farms. also wolves are taking toll on deer population.

I am seeing a big increase in deer numbers when hunting on public land. CWD is approaching our area and I don’t think continuing to let the population drastically increase every year is in the best interest of reducing the chances of CWD. I feel the CDAC recommendations will still increase the deer population and hopefully the quota isn’t set too low.
I’ve hunted the central forest zone on public land for over 40 years and believe the population to be quite strong. The number of hunters have greatly declined in that area as opposed to 10 years ago. I would ask that you would increase the number of antlerless permits available even if it was one permit to a group of hunters. Thanks, Jeff Ellison

I don’t understand why the change of population 2013/2014 and the discrepancy of heard size from east to west. I hunt in pray area and see wolves almost every other time I am in the woods and more bear poop. From registration you know how many people hunt on private or public, so bonus should be distributed by considering those numbers.

Winter die off, major wolf presence, and. Hunters all affect public land tremendously. If you want to increase hunters license sales you need to increase deer population. Nobody is going to purchase a tag when they sit out and see no deer. And I am very concerned about the affect wolves have in this area. We all see the aftermath.

Some forestry practices are definitely questionable...hardwood and aspen are harvested and regeneration is mainly white and jack pine. This is not suitable not only for deer but for many other species. Far to many predators and have seen a large, growing population of black bear and bobcat...fawn mortality rate has to be on the rise.

There needs to be wolf control in this unit and should be buck only. NO youth hunt in this unit. We need to build this deer herd back up! We have camped and hunted here for many years and you are lucky to see 1 deer in 5 days of hard hunting. No hunters moving deer as the number of hunters/camps is next to nothing.

I do not feel that the quota and aligns with the stated goal of increasing the deer herd for this unit. The harvest declined in 2019 when compared with 2018, so the CDAC should reduce the quota, not increase it. I feel the quota should be zero, but youth hunters should be allowed to fill youth antlerless tags.

This area continues to disappoint. Our camp would typically harvest approximately 10 deer out of 20 hunters up until 2009. Since then our best year was 2017 when our group (18 guys) harvested 3. Beginning to think I’m hunting Big Foot up there because sightings are so rare! Stop the doe harvest on public land!

Stop the atv use on public lands most are gated and no motor vehicle signs posted yet certain people still get gates opened for them and in my area they really trash the land with rutts garbage and destroy many trees not to mention the constant atv noise disrupts other hunters and deer movement

I don’t believe harvest numbers can be counted accurately with the no tag system we are now using. I think people are taking more than are registered and that deer are shot in one zone but reported to be shot in another. We need some accountable way to make sure the law is being followed.

Interest in deer hunting has gone way down due to deer population. Where I hunt there used to be an abundant number of hunters now there are barely any. I believe that no antlerless tags should be issued except for junior hunters. If you harvest all the doe there will be no more fawns.

Don’t take cross bows away it is the best way to get young kids involved in archery my 8 year old son shot 2 deer with the cross bow last year he is hooked he will be a life long hunter im sure he would not have been able to do this with a compound bow not strong enough to pull it back

I don’t feel that, as a casual hunter, I possess enough knowledge to second-guess DNR Biologists. We saw plenty of deer on our trail cams before the season. There is just not enough hunting pressure in our areas to keep them moving when we have a later gun season like last year.

I think you need to take in consideration the predation factor in the central forest region. The deer herd seems to be holding it’s own so far. If you raise the antlerless quota to much you could hurt the herd numbers. Please consider a small increase from last year.
I would like to know why Jackson County is split in half by highway 27. I've hunted in the past on the east side and have been unable to shoot a doe, hunters on the west side have always had the capability to shoot a doe. The County should be uniform, not split.

I feel the deer numbers are coming back, with that said I also feel the need to take this antler less hunting serious and not over do it again and wipe out the heard again. Also need to start taking care of the wolf problem and take that into consideration.

The zones are a problem!! Stop forcing hunters to stay hunting in one area!! All licenses should allow hunting in the whole state at all times. We pay for it now let us use it! Plus the DNR has too much influence. The must be downsized.

I saw a lot of antlerless deer while hunting I think there could be more harvested other people say not to harvest them but there just not seeing the deer. I was seeing from 6 to 10 deer a night and it was all over the unit.

To many doe tags given out. We need the deer herd to grow. Every year in the same area, we see less and less deer. And more sign/sightings of wolves. Something needs to be done about the high population of the wolves.

I would prefer going to a 1 deer only per license. Buck or doe, hunters choice but only 1. No bonus tags. Wolves are having a huge impact on deer population in this area. Need to reduce the number of predators.

I think the deer herd numbers for this area were exaggerated in recent years, especially since decreasing sign, no deer movement and increasing timber harvesting has decimated the area which I used to hunt.

Basically the ability to harvest a deer in our area is horrible. The deer pop needs to be increased. Get rid of cross bows and youth hunts period. Getting a deer is not a right, it is a privilege.

don’t want crossbow to be limited to only 2-3 weeks and be excluded from the rut. Bow season should end at least a week before gun season. Gun season suffers from bow ending too close to gun start.

We have a good and healthy deer population in this unit. No need to change on Bonus and alter less quota. The Wolf population was a threat on the deer population in this unit.

There should be no special antlerless seasons on the public land area in the Central Forest! Eliminate the youth hunt on public land. Establish a 3pt rule for bucks in the county.

I sat all day opening day in an area I hunted for over 50 years and saw 3 antlerless deer. It's been bad eve since the almost unlimited antlerless permis a few years ago.

Too much baiting in the month of November. Private land gun hunting totally changes because of the baiting. Sept and Oct bow hunting was much more enjoyable.

I believe archery and crossbow season should close on the Sunday before the gun season opener to allow deer to go unmolested during rutting activities.

As a life long hunter in the same area they need to have longer season the last couple years the weather has been awful! The kill has been way down.

More predator control - wolves and bobcats Suspend all doe tags except for youth for 5 years Stop cutting down forests, especially the white oaks.

Do not shorten the crossbow season. Crossbow should b for 60 and over and disabilities only. Oppose special hunts and kids under 12 hunting.

Just really surprised at cost of out of state. I was a le to get the welcome ba k last year at reduced rate. Really doubt I will be back.

Open the doe tags back up and let hunters havest the deer. Deer numbers are high and hunters should be allowed to take a few more does.
We need to do something about the wolf population! There are way to many of them, it is taking a huge toll on the deer population.

The last several years this has been a buck only zone. So how is there an antlerless quota for this zone for previous years??

I would like to see registration stations again. Helps us assess other Hunter success and motivates the youngsters.

Just put out a number of antlerless permits should not have to pick public or private. That is just ridiculous.

Increased wolves in packs seen this yr as well as numerous over use of baiting w/ corn and road hunting

I believe your wolf count estimates are way too low. In one season, I saw more wolves than deer.

Jackson forest dmu should be open for either sex to give an hunter a chance to harvest a deer.

I see 1 buck for about every 6 does I see and I see a lot more does here than in other areas.

Way too many bear killing fawns. Shorten crossbow season except for old or handicapped

Too many wolves, wolf management must be brought back to the state as soon as possible!

I see deer all the time. Need to offer antlerless tags to offer harvest opportunities

The Wolf population needs to be controlled. Never should have been reintroduce to Wi.

Wolfs and coyotes are getting very bad in Jackson county seen more then I wanted to

Thank you for your hard work and keep up the great work. Respectfully, Bill Mahoney

I think the recommendations for this unit are perfect. Keep up the great work!

Looks Good! Nice to see more tags in the public vs private but otherwise good.

If you want to increase the deer population, decrease the antlerless permits.

Ser deer every time I am out. Need to keep anterless tags available

I have been seeing more and more deer every year but less hunters.

Leave the length of the gun season the same.

Need much more concern for predator control.

Thank You for this very complete report.

We continue to see wolves each year.

To many wolves and coyotes.

Wolf predation is high
Jefferson, Southern Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

358 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 253
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 48
   - I hunt in this unit: 317
   - General interest in this unit: 44

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 287
   - Bow: 200
   - Crossbow: 123
   - Muzzleloader: 115

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 20.52
   - Maximum: 56

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 169
   - Mostly Private Land: 58
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 34
   - Mostly Public Land: 17
   - Exclusively Public Land: 37
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 26
   - Not too crowded: 49
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 29
   - Somewhat crowded: 21
   - Very crowded: 16
   - Not applicable: 5

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 48
   - Fewer: 101
   - Same: 154
   - More: 34
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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Jefferson, Southern Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<th>Much Too High</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

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<tr>
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<th>Unsure</th>
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<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 157 [Support], 179 [Oppose], 22 [Unsure]
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 222 [Support], 125 [Oppose], 11 [Unsure]
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 39 [Support], 297 [Oppose], 22 [Unsure]

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID [Support], NOT VALID [Oppose], Unsure [Unsure]

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Scale: 1 = Not-at-all;  2 = Slightly;  3 = Moderately;  4 = Very</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
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<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
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<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
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<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
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<td>2.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Jefferson, Southern Farmland
The deer numbers in Jefferson county are decent. The biggest thing that I see in the county is, you can tell where a person is able to hunt and not able to hunt. If you see a lot of deer it is hard to get access, if there are few deer in the area there is either public land around or there is access to the private land. I am against the bonus tag levels on a scientific level. There is plenty of opportunity for people to obtain doe tags in the county. Why is the council increasing the harvest on public land but not the private lands. According to the numbers that are being presented the herd on public land is getting pounded compared to the private. According to the presentation the buck to doe harvest for the county needs to be around 1.5 for the whole county to meet the goal of maintain. At the present time the public land harvest is 2.6 does to every buck, which equals a decreasing herd. The harvest on the private is only 1.12 does to every buck, which is an increasing herd. I have been to these meetings in the past, and all that you hear is we need to get more deer shot on the public land. The numbers above, your numbers, prove that is not the truth. The deer herd on public land is decreasing and the herd on private is dramatically increasing. There is no reason to increase the tags on public land from last years numbers (450). The bonus public tags lasted until after the gun season, which gave the public land hunters plenty of time to buy a tag if they wanted to. If you want to slow herd growth down in the county decrease the amount of doe tags available on public. Make the people that have access to the private take does on the private. Please preserve the deer herd around the public lands they are getting over harvested. 2.6 does per buck is a lot of does per buck. My kids do not hunt with me on the public because "we do not see anything." Please do not make the comment that you just need to know where to go, we get them all the time. We are not able to stand on private land and shoot the deer as they run out of the public land onto privat during a deer drive. Please keep the public land harvest at the same level as last year. Decrease the public land tags to last years level of 450 the science says you are going to get at least 2 does to 1 buck harvest ratio which does not meet the goal of maintain.

I archery hunt exclusively public land. The following are observations and opinions based on my experience: 1) Public land deer hunting In Jefferson County is too often interrupted by non-deer hunters. Last year as example, my opening day ended by 8AM, after having squirrel hunters shooting around me, and concern over my safety. Turkey and duck hunters are typically less of an issue. We should look at how we can shift a game season like squirrel hunting to not interfere with opening weekend and other peak deer season. I usually see 5 hunters to every 1 deer. 2) Public land hunting is often “brown and down.” I appreciate not having antlerless-only or earn-a-buck. As in older days, I went seasons with no deer harvest, because I only saw basket racks and no does. 3) While not part of this Jefferson County proposal, I’d like to comment on crossbows. Keep crossbow season as is. It gets more hunters out, including my wife. Don’t shorten or make it a special crossbow season. 4) In some areas where the narrow easement style walking path to larger public land is located, the neighboring private land owner gets aggressive with placing no trespassing signs right next to the path entrance, creating concern on whether it is still legal to walk the path in. I’d like to see an increase in use of the small “public land” signs, so it is clear to everyone...and have the local warden double check for those signs being up. 5) I don’t know how to fix this, but on several occasions I’ve seen neighboring private land owners, out walking the public land, trying to push deer to their property. Last year as I was dragging my archery deer out, I ran into a husband, wife, and their two dogs doing exactly that. They said they owned the neighboring 40, and were out for a walk. We all knew what they were doing. 6) Other than the marsh, we lack large areas of wooded public hunting land. More public acres = more public deer harvest. More public parking areas to give us more access points will increase deer harvest.
I believe that if you want your deer numbers to have a steady buck to doe ratio and help stop the spread of CWD that hunter should be allowed to hunt white deer or albino deer! They serve no purpose being protected other than that there hair is white. In my part of the county near Jefferson, Wi we have a over abundance of them and I believe that if you truly want to pass on the passion of hunting you should be allowed to shoot them! My reason are we have at least 15 of them around my property and they are taking habitable bedding and food for other deer to live in, therefore not being able to harvest them because they are protected. My second reason is because they are just as capable of having CWD as the next brown deer would. My third reason is when I have family and friends that come to hunt for 2 days and all they see is white deer they don’t want to come back because that may be all they see. I try to practice QDMA on my property and try to keep the buck to doe ratio even but it is hard to do so when I can’t harvest white deer. Over the years of hunting here the white deer are always here year round and I have hunted neighboring properties and they have them also. To say that there is only 15 white deer is this area would be a lie. There is a lot more than people see. I understand that it is hard to keep everyone happy with rules and regulations but in my opinion and current situation and as a land owner it can make it tough hunting when you see more white deer that legal shooting deer. I will say that we also see a good amount of brown deer but that being said if you want to get a good amount of deer in this county you need to legalize harvesting white deer. I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments and ideas! If you need any proof of the white deer I have over 5 years worth of pictures and videos of these deer! Thank you!

The population is fine, the problem is, most of the deer are on big private land and its hunted by family, every thing else is over hunted. Those people with big land will always have deer and so will there neighbors. You cant control that. I am lucky to hunt those lands and I know it. The coyotes are the only predators and the boys take most of them out. Health issues I have no idea, maybe an opinion, CWD has been around forever and your better suited to handle that. Car kills is a problem next to the big private lands and you know better where those are then I do. There is no influence on other wildlife in farm country. Tourism in jefferson is family of big private land. Crop damage is a joke, because alot of big private land is farmers collecting crop damage checks and only family is hunting there, they have 40 deer in the field every night and shoot 4 a year so they can collect a check. Winters have been easy, back yard plants can be sprayed, the guy next door feeds deer and they take a nibble on there way. I used to see 6, 8, 10 deer a day now I see 1 or 2. Forest land is similar, big private land, the forest is a ghost town, I rarely go up anymore. Look at the car kills and most are around big private, you can give out all the doe tags you want your just making it impossible for average Joe to get a deer unless he hunts close to be private. Most of the out of state guys that are still here own big private. Sorry to say it but hunting in Wisconsin will be more of a business in years to come. Commercialized and that is the only way for you to do the balance act.

The car kill numbers are not a good metric to use in deer herd size. Especially as the number of people moving into this county increases and there are less breaks in the traffic for deer to get across the roads. Please reduce the bonus tags being given out for the public land. It was a tough season last year on public. Deer sign is significantly lower than the past, and the amount of blinds and stands on the landscape is increasing. Last year I found 8 stand sites on 40 acres, yes this was the best sign on the property. Also need to get more hunters in the woods surrounding the public lands. All that these extended hunts do is decrease pressure and allows the deer to have refuges. The extended season allows a hunter to wait and get picky. If you want more deer shot look at how many deer are shoot opening weekend compared to the rest of the season. It is simple logic, the more people in the woods the less areas that are safe for the deer. Also it kind of stinks that there are 32 days of gun hunting that require orange to hunt. There are many people in the woods not aware of or forget that there is another gun season. If you are going to have all these seasons you need to let the public know what is going on. The public lands are full of non hunting public that are using it for hiking areas. Please get us back to the standard hunting seasons. No reason for 32 days of gun hunting.
I hunt several counties in Wisconsin and the deer numbers in Jefferson County still haven't recovered to where I feel they should be after the CWD debacle/earn a buck. Though I understand the car incident numbers are high?? 400ish what a joke to use that data, 1-94 and Hwy 26 cut this county in quarters the amount of traffic compared to others is much higher, driving higher hit counts. I sell recreational land in several counties and buyer's don't care to have Jefferson County land, because of the low deer population compared to other nearby areas. Our land values reflect that. I deer hunt a lot and it sucks to go out for days without seeing any deer, that happened more than ever this past year, including the archery season. I would rather drive a couple of hours or better to another county as my rate of sightings, more than make up for it. It's frustrating as a land owner/hunter to hear maintain after the population was decimated in this county. I'm an efficient hunter look at what I register every year, not seeing the deer is a direct reflection of low population and did you consider the amount of crops standing last year during the gun hunt?? No doe tags would be my vote for Jefferson county.

The installation of cross bow hunting over entire length of what was the traditional bow season has ripple effects that have diluted both the bow and gun season. It has more hunters in the field taking trophy bucks. This forces more traditional bow users also to switch to the more effective cross bow so they have a chance to compete for deer in their area / Then many of those hunters forgo gun hunting all together because it is easier to crossbow hunt at their leisure during longer ,warmer , and more active time for deer. Leaving the the traditional gun hunt that we once had in Wisconsin a shadow of what it once was. Other options such as lengthening the gun season will also spread the thin hunter out even further. Less hunter, moving less deer , less of the younger generation joining in because of loss of tradition, social stigma, and lack of interest. We may gain more older and retired hunters with the crossbow season, but will loose the new generation that we need to keep hunting alive in Wisconsin.

Jefferson County still hasn’t recovered from the earn a buck debacle! It should be increased,as Dodge county numbers are better and that’s being increased. This Mantence plan is simply about major traffic corridor in Jefferson County, that shouldn’t hold back having an adequate deer herd. It has hurt the rural real estate market and needs to change. The population is like it was in the early 80’s. I hunt at least 10 fold of your average hunters I hunted 5 full days in Jefferson County during the gun season seeing only 3 deer in total. Also hunted at least 30-40 days of the archery season the deer sightings where rare even during the rut. Stop all the goofy anterless seasons a let the herd rebound to an acceptable number. I shoot a lot of doe’s in counties where the population needs more control but Jefferson County isn’t one of those. I am also a licensed Real Estate Broker that specializes in rural property please consider increasing our herd.

I am a yearly successful trophy hunter of this county specifically. Most years I only miss 5 days of hunting. We have an abundance of deer in Jefferson County. I would like to see a higher number of bucks reach maturity. Preferably from a Pennsylvania style of 4 point minimum on one side. I see no reason that the public land doe tags were sold out. That means your number of available tags is way too low. 94% of the county is private. This is revenue that you are turning down and people willing to kill deer that we need killed and you are turning away. That doesn't add up. Also on a side note I believe deer kills will increase a decent number this year due to the COVID 19 virus. My fellow friends and I all have agreed with grocery stores the way there are we are all wishing we had killed at least one more deer for the freezers and have all vowed to not make that mistake again. Which I for one will not. Thank you for your time.
Hello. Been a life long deer Hunter in Wisconsin all my life (over 20+ years). I would like to see what's best for the deer themselves. Not very concerned if I harvest one or not but satisfied if population is heathy and abundant. Not a fan of endless tags due to unnecessary slaughter of heard consisting mainly of young deer. I feel 1 tag of either sex is sufficient, this way horn hunters can harvest their big bucks and people who hunt for meat can also be successful without having to pass or wait for correct gender to walk infront of them. If heard population is still too high due to numerous car damage then guess a tag for each gender would be satisfactory. Perfect world would be to have more observant drivers without phones in front of faces while driving but that doesn’t look promising so guess the deer population will have to adjust unfortunately. Just my 2 cents, thank you.

I lived and hunted in Ga for much of my adult life and was shocked at the amount of redtape it takes to get a deer tag in WI. According to State Farm last year, WI was #4 state in the amount of deer‐vehicle accidents. It would seem that a state so populated with deer would be MUCH more generous with deer tags. My goal is to fill my freezer each year - I don’t have to have antlers. In Ga, the tag was good for the state, public land is mostly done by quotas and drawings, and their season is much longer, and they issue every hunter 10 antlerless tags and two antlered tags. Their stats year after year indicate that most hunters kill less than two deer per year - I think WI just wants lots of money from deer hunters! BTW their regulations book is about 1/4 the size of Wisconsin’s, too. I realize there are a lot of considerations, but it seems like we are over‐regulated here.

I did not know the deer bow season was extended last year. If there was a way, I would only support the Holiday Hunt with a bow season extension. In other words, directly link the two. The Holiday Hunt is the last best time to get out during time off, and a great time to bowhunt a buck. I enjoyed the video, and the information was presented without attempting to influence opinion. Well done! One other idea (although I am mostly a trophy hunter). Let Muzzle loader season use either archery or gun tags. Last year I was fortunate enough to get a buck on opening of gun. I didn’t go muzzle loading since I didn’t have a buck tag. If I had, I may have shot a doe. I have a hard time going doe hunting when I can’t have a chance at a buck.(Still had archery tag)

Extending gun seasons is not going to increase harvest numbers it’s only going to educate the deer. Gun hunters alert and put allot of pressure on deer due to lack of scent control and driving the deer. That’s why gun hunters buck numbers were down because they don’t hunt smart and when a mature deer hears a gun shot they’re gone. So in conclusion my point is more gun seasons will lower the harvest numbers. Go back to the original hunting structure and back tags and registration stations. Because this call in system is only encouraging poaching. I can guarantee you allot of people shoot deer and didn’t report them and just cut them up and went back out. Go back to back tags and registration stations plus doing this helps allot of small businesses out and communities.

Strongly oppose Holiday and Extended Archery! After all the hunting pressure leading up to Dec.24 the deer have turned nocturnal and land owners are sick of hunters. Very concerned about the amount of tagging violations with no field tag and registration. The talk of returning earn a buck would really be a joke with hunters with the tagging and registration we have now. WI has a great reputation for great bucks without the DNR doing anything to promote the herd. None of our neighbors have group bagging which is really a joke with our tagging and register system and we still have better bucks. Having gun season a week earlier would really hurt the quality of our bucks and we would end up being sub par just like MN and MI with there early gun seasons.

The last time I attended the Jefferson Co. CDAC the chairperson was very rude. When it comes to public comments the Jefferson Co. CDAC states they want to hear what hunters have to say about their deer herd in this county but in reality this committee doesn’t want to hear what the general public has to say. The Jefferson Co. CDAC is nothing more than an Good Ol’ Boy Club and will do whatever they want to this county’s deer herd - even destroy it. In order to fix this problem the WCC and CDAC would need to remove the Jefferson Co. CDAC chairperson and obtain new members who will actually listen to the general public. I will never attend a Jefferson Co. CDAC again until the chairperson is removed.
When I first started hunting the property 15 years ago I would see 10-15 deer on an average opening day of firearms season, after the CWD slaughter the numbers are finally returning to better numbers but only because we and our some neighbors do not shoot any antlerless deer. However large groups on the other neighboring properties so deer drives and shoot everything and they all have 2 free antlerless tags. Do away with the free tags and limit the number of bonus permits, this will also limit the number of yearling bucks shot if the number of antlerless tags is limited. I would also be in favor of 8 points or better statewide except for youth hunters 16 and younger or first year hunters.

I hunted hard all last deer season both bow and gun. I didn’t see one deer in the woods. I seen more deer hit along side the road than in the woods. No matter where i hunted there would be hunters walking up on me and just about everywhere i looked you could see orange vests and hats. What really upset me is most of the people out hunting public land were land owners that were harvesting off of both public and private which isn’t really fair for people like me that can only hunt public due to landowners not allowing access but yet you see them on public land hunting. Makes it hard for me to fill my freezer for my family when people are double dipping like this.

Deer season is way to long in Wisconsin, we need to get hunters more excited about the hunt by simplifying the season dates and shortening up some of the hunts, Archery- crossbow should be October 1st every year up to traditional 9 day gun hunt . No 4 day antlerless hunts period After the traditional 9 day gun, guns stay out of woods till muzzloader that should be December 15th- 24th. Then have the antlerless holiday hunt through the new year. Close deer season the wknd right after New Years if it lands in mid week. No extended bow seasons. More people will want to get back out to woods if it has a chance to calm down, there will still be good harvest.

2x free tags resulted in 0 more kill, but resulted in lost revenue on sales of bonus tags, and subsequently devalued the deer herd. Also your final summary slide if maintain vs increasing did not match the numbers you showed during your presentation. Most items in your presentation indicated maintain, whereas the summary said increasing, clearly showing a bias toward encouraging more antlerless harvest. If you want greatly increased antlerless harvest in Jefferson county, secure more public hunting land. 6% is a pretty small number. Especially low when you consider large percentages of those acres are unhuntable cattails marshes with waist deep water.

Like deer hunting very much, but i can only hunt public land and don't have access to private land. Seems like you see a lot of deer in fields that are private, but hunting public lands are not very productive. I think farmers and land owners that get funds for crop damage and other things should have to open there land up to public hunting. If they are going to get government funds they should have to open their land to the public. On public land i can hunt all week and i’m lucky to see 3 or 4 deer all week. I some times think about not hunting, but i love the sport and have done it a long time. thanks.

Last year I saw slightly less deer than normal, even though I have improved my hunting habits. In the areas I hunt, there are tons of people. With the extended antlerless season, there have been a lot more deer shot the past few years. I was very concerned because I saw only 2 fawns all year and I hunted a lot. My main concern is if the gun season gets extended, especially moved forward, the herd will be thinned out dramatically. With how many hunters are around the areas i hunt, the spots will be burnt out quickly. Especially considering everyone in the area shoots anything that moves.

I do not want to see specific seasons for any type of bow HUNTING. Leave it the way it is . Im tired of hearing about crossbow hunters taking more deer than the longbow hunters. Everyone needs an equal chance to bag a deer. NO ONE TYPE OF HUNTER IS SPECIAL. IM 60 YEARS OLD IM TIRED OF LISTENING TO ALL THESE CRY BABIES WHINING. I HUNT PUBLIC LAND I USE NO BLIND OR TREE STANDS AND I AM VERY SUCCESSFUL AT HUNTING I.ONLY TAKE BUCKS NO DOE. REAL HUNTING IS NOT LIKE THE HUNTING SHOWS YOU WATCH ON TV. PLEASE LEAVE THE HUNTING SEASONS AS THEY ARE.
The price for non resident hunting permits needs to be increased. A WI resident pays MUCH more to hunt in neighboring states vs what those same residents pay to hunt here. If we are going to be gouged to hunt in other states then why are we allowing those hunters to come shoot our deer for a bargain? Increasing the fees for non resident hunters will provide more opportunities for our own residents to harvest deer and potentially increase revenue for the DNR if the same number of non resident hunters choose to participate.

Hunting is a life long tradition in my family and the cost of hunting to food in the freezer ratio is making it hard for many people to hunt now days. I believe if the DNR wants antlerless deer shot, they should give the tags to hunters free of charge. There are areas in WI that you don’t get an antlerless tag when you buy your deer license but, the DNR sell Bonus Tags for these areas. That’s wrong!!! Even if Jefferson County, the Bonus Tags should be available free if you have filled you other antlerless tags.

If you look at public land harvest and your models. you should have pretty even numbers of anterless to antlered deer but on public land your getting 3 anterless to 1 antlered ratio which would mean your public land antlerless harvest is way too high. Your population is decreasing at a high rate. Whether it be private land hunters hunting public to shoot does or whatever. I think the anterless tags on public land need to decrease as well as remove holiday and December hunts from public land.

We need to get back to simple traditional season framework, deer season is not exciting or as fun if it’s 5 months long, this is great that your asking for feedback and getting engaged w hunters, keep it up Archery, no crossbows . Oct1st- traditional 9 day gun, Crossbow after 9 day through dec 14th. Muzzldr 15th - 24 th Antlerless holiday hunt dec 25th- wknd after jan1st Wouldn’t even oppose asking for a 19 dollars for a crossbow stamp or muzzldr stamp Just thoughts

After the traditional 9 day gun season in Wisconsin there doesn’t need to be the 10 day muzzloader hunt followed by the 4 day antlerless hunt. Keep crossbow and traditional archery open after the 9 day, but no guns, give the woods a break! If you have muzzloader from 12-15 to Christmas every year, more people will hunt it, and probably with more success, obviously only with tags left from regular gun license sales, than after muzzloader do an the antlerless holiday hunt.

I truly believe the deer population is healthy. Saying that, I do believe it is important to harvest deer during specific seasons. Right now, there is way to much hunting pressure. From mid September all the way through the holidays is just endless hunting. Why do we need all the extra hunts with firearms???? I don’t think the antlerless only hunts in October and after muzzloader is needed. Design the hunt for traditional archery season and gun season!!!

I feel that the cost of hunting licenses for kids that live in the state is too high and as a state we should charge more for our out of state licenses. It is a steal for out of state hunters to come and shoot America’s number one big game species. To pay over $20 for a youth or mentored hunter to shoot a deer or a turkey is ridiculous to me. We love the outdoors, but it is hard to go out and do everything we love as a family with the cost. Thanks

I feel all the antlerless seasons combined with the crossbow hunters are taking way to many deer. Young hunters trying to get into hunting are losing intrest due to not seeing many deer. I personally have seen the antlerless numbers go way down on private and especially public land. There are still deer around but they are so pressured from the extra antlerless hunts and the influx of crossbow hunters that they are very nocturnal.

To me if you want to push the holiday hunt open up Buck harvest for unfilled tag. I pay a lot of money to own my property and to be held back from harvesting a buck after a long season is complete bull. I've had multiple opportunities at trophy bucks during these doe hunts and refuse to hunt them anymore. If I've hunted bow through gun and still have a buck tag I should be able to fill it.
I saw only 2 deer the whole season. I hunted with cross bow and rifle and I hunt lots of hours, I am retired. But I also have seen a lot of deer while not hunting. I attribute the lack of seeing deer during the season to a lot of standing corn in my hunting areas. I will have a very different opinion if this season is as poor as my last season. Thanks for your concerns on this subject.

I think that there are too many seasons all broken up into a small time frame. Muzzleloader should be later to give the deer some time off from the pressure. Skip the antlerless hunt in mid December and just have the antlerless holiday hunt. The more we pressure the deer, the more that get hit by cars and the more we pressure the herd, the harder it is for many people to harvest a deer.

Less days of gun season is better. Deer herd after CWD extended gun seasons were terrible. Wouldn’t see a thing. Drop down to just a 9 day gun and that’s it. Let the herd build back up. One buck per season limit. Please support increasing deer population, so it can make it worth hunting still. It’s expensive to hunt public property and constantly not even see a thing.

Not enough deer per acre on public grounds. No food plots planted to keep deer in the areas. I would also suggest that pheasant, small game seasons be moved to accommodate hunting in spring and summer so not to interfere with the deer season. This causes too many hunters on the grounds at one time. The deer flee to private lands. Greater potential for accidents.

The extended season needs to stop it messes with other hunting opportunities. It is tough to call in predators and late season turkey hunt in blaze orange. There is plenty of time to hunt deer. The holiday hunt screws up many opportunities for the non-hunting public to enjoy public land without having to worry about a group of hunters driving deer on public lands.

Whose fault is it that farmers are draining fields so fast that lowland habitat and the rock river is being destroyed, all the deer are herding up on small high ground farm lots, brushy back yards, old pastures, and the deer herd seems bigger than it really is, if we have a couple dryer years and deer start to spread out again..... will this all change??

Please keep the archery season open from September through January with no breaks like it has been, even during the gun season. I have heard rumors they where going to close the archery season during gun. That’s the only time my dad and I hunt everyday together and make those precious memories. Him with his gun, me with my bow, both in blaze orange.

It’s fairly simple when you look at this...other states are very successful when they implement One Buck tag per year and One doe tag per year.. that is enough meat for anyone to harvest...That would mean you have the option to shoot that One Buck and One doe during either gun, bow or crossbow season.. a total of two deer per person per year...

dis away with holiday hunt and extended seasons...its not just about hunting when it comes to other outdoor activities in late December and January...and yes I own private land and allow snowmobiling and other activities on my land...but other private land owners are not as generous opening up their land when a hunting season is open....

Unfortunately in my situation, I hunt private land in this county and am only allowed to bow hunt and only allowed to harvest one deer. It’s unfortunate, but I use this property in Jefferson county to try and harvest a buck, if I want to shoot a doe, I have to go to a different county (Dane) because of the property owner’s restriction.

Because of the way the gun season is determined by the calendar, this year was so late in the rut that the deer in our area were not moving unless a larger number of hunters start hunting in this area. All of the land that I hunt is private, so the deer do not see the pressure and bed down during the hunting hours.
4573 We really need to get rid of this holiday and antlerless hunt. In my area next to thousands of acres of public, the antlerless numbers are way down. I've been hunting this property since 1983 and the antlerless has been going down and tag numbers keep going up. How about 1 buck tag and 1 antlerless tag per person!

4574 By having to choose ahead of the season where I'm hunting. It takes out a lot of the hunting adventure. How can a person explore new places mid season if they must declare where they are. What if half way through season they are invited to go elsewhere? A tag should be good statewide! Public or private.

4575 I live in the country and do nor see the numbers of deer they say are there. Eve since you had all these special hunts the deer numbers have not come back to previous seasons. No one needs to harvest more than a buck and one doe, you are over estimating the size of the deer herd in this area.

4576 Owner of several 100 acres of wetland reserve/hunting property in Jefferson county. Great habitat, great buck management in our area. Doe to buck ratio is way out of balance. Estimate we sit at 8 or as high as 10 to 1. This is our problem in this area. More doe need to be harvested.

4577 I am a farmer and the damage from deer is not an issue. Coon and turkeys on the other hand are out of control. We need to just stick to the normal bow season. 9 day gun. And muzzeloader after gun. If you can’t kill the deer you want by then you need to wait until next year. Thanks

4578 I stopped hunting deer for 2 years after seeing no deer in 5 consecutive seasons. I have hunted for 24 years. I only went out this year because I thought they were saying there would be a record number of deer. I dont know where they get their numbers but I highly disagree

4579 For many other land users please change it to not having deer season of any kind go past January 1st to be able enjoy the land more in this high hunter density to habitat region! Would welcome more antlerless hunts but like to see higher age in the bucks.

4580 I would like to see a buck harvest with the late season holiday hunt. I know there is a big push on harvesting doe, but the bucks are the ones who impregnate Doe. Having the opportunity to harvest bucks as well would also decrease the deer population.

4581 There is absolutely no need for extended archery/crossbow!! So many hunting seasons. Give the woods a break!! It’s continuous hunting from September-January! Think about herd structure and herd quality, Not just how many deer the DNR can report killed

4582 I would like the option of purchasing an additional buck tag. Myself as well as other hunters I’ve spoken with would be willing to pay an increased license fee to do so. I think this would be a good way to increase revenue.

4583 Deer unit Jefferson county to many holiday hunts too many antlerless seasons as well. Stick to the traditional 9 day gun season. Over hunting of deer in my area is occurring, its having effect on the deer I see while hunting.

4584 I have never participated in the antlerless only hunts. I can shoot a doe any other day of the season and will not sit if there is no opportunity to harvest a buck. Not one other person in our hunting group will either.

4585 In my personal experience coyotes have done a significant amount of damage to the deer herd in this unit, not many fawns survived on the property I hunt. A incentive to remove coyotes would help the deer population.

4586 We need to do away with the "traditional" 9 day hunt and open it up earlier in the season. Maybe early to mid November. Michigan starts on 11/15 why can’t we? With fewer hunters out there we need to do something.

4587 get ride of ALL antlerless hunts Stick with regular 9 day gun season, followed by muzzeloader season which should be the end of deer hunting season. No more extended archery/crossbow until the end of January.

4588 It would be a thought to implement antler restrictions and let these bucks grow to their potential, all the things they need are here just need to get past spike and forkhorn stage to 2.5 or 3 yr old.
we need to bring back the back tags , and registure deer at registration stations bars gun shops gas stations . With no back tags on it makes it easy for people to trespass or poach deer

I would like to see the holiday hunt and doe only hunts go away. I only hunt public land and believe these regulations need to be looked at a little closer on a public land and private land basis.

do not see the number of deer i used to see. yes i see small groups and individual deer during the summer but i can be in my stand during bow season for a week or more and not see a deer

Please keep the archery (compound bow) season open through January. Including through all gun seasons. All I hunt with is a bow and have some of my best times during the gun seasons.

On the public hunting land i would like to be allowed to put up 1 hunting stand that I wouldn’t have to take down each night. whether that would be a ground blind or ladder stand

No deer hunting past December of any kind. Only one 9 day firearm season. No other hunts at all the way it used to be in the 70’s when hunting was fun and a tradition.

There is no reason in the world to have youth hunts for anything. Let kids go with their fathers like we did... or let hunting die. Not everyone has to hunt.

I believe extending gun season for 7 to 14 more days and including 2 antler and 2 antlerless in the tag package would help the deer population get regulated.

Deer numbers are good despite quite a lot of hunting. Seeing plenty of animals this spring. Current framework is working! No need to fix what is not broken.

Extending the gun season to 19 days and making it sooner than the traditional 9 day season with a "rest period" prior to gun opener would be a huge mistake!

I'm strongly opposed to an earlier and/or longer gun season. I heard that was a proposal, but I didn't see any information about it in the survey.

I would like to see more time allotted for Bow/Crossbow hunting. There are already PLENTY of opportunities for gun and/or muzzle loader hunting.

I think it would be beneficial to not have all the extra antlerless hunts after gun season. It makes it difficult to do late season archery.

I want a reasonable chance to harvest a deer but trust the CDAC to recommend what is best for deer health, land health, and other wildlife.

I would like to keep the gun deer season the same as previous years and to NOT extend it and keep the archery season the same as well

I would like to see the holiday hunt go back to it was years ago when we were able to harvest a antler deer during the holiday hunt

The extended season through Jan 21, I have seen that big buck's that have dropped there antlers where shot as antlerless, big error!

My land borders up with Waukesha county and sometimes there are as many as 41 deer running between the three properties.

To many antlerless hunts do people really need 4 deer per year? Run a traditional 9 day gun season stick to the basics.

I would like to be able to harvest a antler deer during the holiday hunt, I feel it would help with the herd control

I would like to see during the holiday hunt to be able to harvest a antlered deer also if a person had a permit left

Above all, R3 trumps most other concerns. Youth access is key. Youth and crossbow seasons are critical.
Over abundance of coyotes, terrible trespassing issues, and lack of quality age class of mature bucks.

If there is a holiday hunt I wish we could have the opportunity to harvest a buck during that time.

Take away antler-less hunts completely as well as reduce antlers tags to 1 per licensed hunter.

The Holiday hunt and extending the Bow and Crossbow season is a joke! Do away with them!

I think we should have 2 antler less tags and not anymore. Keep the population healthy.

I would like to see an opportunity to harvest a antler deer during the holiday hunt.

If a holiday hunt is pursued in this unit it should be only for antlerless deer.

Would like the opportunity to harvest a antler deer during the holiday hunt.

Stop antlerless hunts, as well as reduce doe tags to 1 per hunter license!

Stop the doe hunts. There are not enough deer in the area for that.

I saw one doe during the nine day gun season and I hunted every day.

DO NOT CREATE A SEASON LONGER THAN THE 9 DAY SEASON. MIKE

have an EARLIER season. To occur DURING the RUT not AFTER

would like to see season longer and starting SOONER

One buck tag and one doe tag. Per hunter per year.

I oppose people harvesting 6 deer in one season.

Just keep everything the same as last year

The gun season needs to be extended

Get rid of public or privatr tags

Open the state park back up,

Maybe bring earn a buck back
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 78
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 44
   - I hunt in this unit: 202
   - General interest in this unit: 28

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 188
   - Bow: 97
   - Crossbow: 90
   - Muzzleloader: 52

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 20.48
   - Maximum: 65

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 153
   - Mostly Private Land: 28
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 11
   - Mostly Public Land: 2
   - Exclusively Public Land: 5
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 6
   - Not too crowded: 11
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 11
   - Somewhat crowded: 5
   - Very crowded: 8
   - Not applicable: 5

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 32
   - Fewer: 58
   - Same: 88
   - More: 22
   - Many More: 10
   - Unsure: 2

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmland Zone Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Metro Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License: | Not applicable in this DMU |

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? **Scale:** 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very **Average Rating**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First off you guys work very hard to manage the herd, hunters. Its complex (very) and I believe for the most part thankless job. Good job it requires alot of thought and effort and its appreciated by us hunters who realize its hunting and its not meant to be easier. I believe after talking to many hunters at archery clubs, tournaments, gun clubs, vfw’s and hunting clubs accross the state that a couple of things Ive not heard discussed could be the answer. Number one…. move opening weekend of firearm season to the Saturday following Thanksgiving as alot more people are off work. Family groups would be more prone to get together to hunt. ( hunting pressure slows the hunt and Ive had multiple people say the second weekend(traditionally ) that the hunting is harder. Those of us who do hunt alot always discuss the uptick in Buck movement of late Nov Approx 27th-dec 4th-5th. and believe it is to do with normal rut cycles. Give the firearms hunters this edge. The first phases of the rut Oct. 27th-Nov. 10th. the rut effect on movement is to intensive and firearm season would devastate states buck herd( would be fun for couple years, but would ruin the states great buck hunting quickly. Bowhunters are the most likely to be multiple weapon hunters than a guy who rifle hunts 2 days a year( hopefully they change their mind tho us bowhunters would welcome them with arms wide open) I meet alot of men that take their children on the youth hunt and than leave them out of the traditional part of the hunting culture here in Wisconsin(shameful) For that reason only..... Get rid of the youth season I promise you that this statement has been considered for years before voicing it. It is absolutely ruining hunter recruitment. Any hunter who says otherwise are the ones doing exactly what I spoke of and are behaving poorly about taking children hunting. Having been a part of archery(shooting and hunting) Crossbows are not easier and are definately not as effective as a compound is in the hands of a skilled archer. In prior years i would watch as a multitude of people of people show up at archery shops, ranges and clubs the weekend before season and dust off the bow because they dont have time otherwise( these are the people that benefit from crossbows cause if you watch them shoot you would prefer they use a crossbow as to negate wounding. It isnt always laziness, sometimes its just time constraints due to job,families etc. Leave the x-bow guys alone they arent hurting anyone. 30 - 40 years ago it was the same argument against compounds. Just a couple thoughts and I very much appreciate your time and efforts as we live in the best deer hunting state in the world. Be proud of that and remember you cant make everyone happy.....Its impossible.
Have hunted your state (I'm from Missouri) every year since 1983 except 2 years in the 80's/early 90's. I want to compliment Wisconsin for keeping the non-resident tags reasonable so I can come for 2 long weekends (442 miles) to spend time with local friends that have become extended family. I do not over hunt/kill as in all these years I have perhaps shot 6 deer in my 35 years hunting your state from Antigo County and the areas of Mauston, El Roy, Stevens Point and Black River Falls where good friendships were formed. One of my sons asked why I hunted Wisconsin as I never get anything to which my response was it was adventure. We work on our hosts farm as my cousin is a wiz at farm equipment maintenance/repair and we do home repair for the lady we stay with who owns the Dog House Bar who is our hosts mother-in-law. We have been with these folks since 1993 or so. The reason I saw less deer last year was no combining corn on a neighboring farm wasn't going on. The only suggestion I would have is have a statewide license fee for non-residents as I also hunt Monroe County where a friendship was also established. We bring our Senior host food and provide him gift cards to a restaurant every time we hunt and at Christmas. We have to declare what counties we want to hunt and it's so much for this county and so much for that which usually amounts to $200. I would rather just buy a $200 tag for the right to bag a buck wherever and a doe or two whatever I'm entitled too. I do not Pig Hunt as I am not one to shoot as many deer as I can. I believe strongly in deer management which I enforce on my farm in Missouri and just how many deer can a person eat. I am the Masterbowhunter Recorder for South County Archers in St. Louis and anyone wanting to be our Masterbowhunter or win the Big Buck award must register through me. Most of our members practice good conservation methods and many of those who do bag multiple deer share their success with less fortunate members who let us know they would appreciate some meat.

I have 50 acres of land 48 acres of land in Juneau County and 2 acres are in Sauk County. The Sauk part of it is next to HWY 33. Initially when I purchased the property in 2009 my idea was to provide a place to hunt and to be able to plant and grow trees. Little did I know that the 2 were mutually exclusive. Ever since the CWD rules went away the deer herd has grown dramatically and so has the damage to my trees. I have to install a tree tube for every tree I plant at a cost of up to $6.00 per tree depending on the size tube and manufacture. The first year I owned the property I planted 1000 trees. I had a 80% mortality rate on them. With the tube I am able to lessen the mortality rate dramatically. I found if I buy tube at least 5' tall I can minimize the browsing, however the biggest problem I am seeing is the rubbing and girdling of the trees after they out grow the tube and the destruction of tubes by the bucks. Every year I spend days fixing the damage they cause. I was able to fill almost all of my tags last year. I got a real nice big tree rubber during crossbow and past up some small bucks to try to take down another big tree rubber during gun. I didn't get that chance to take down a smaller one during the last few days of the gun season. I know this is probably not a possibility ever, but it would be nice to be able to take more than 1 buck per license or allow that an archery tag and crossbow tag each be able to take a tree rubber.

I have been a (Hunter/Patron License holder) for 50 years. I have seen many changes occur to hunting seasons and regulations, (many not for the better). I am a very avid bow hunter, gun hunter, duck hunter. We never had these youth hunts, nor any early seasons, ALL WHICH HINDER THE OPPORTUNITIES OF HARVESTING GAME, AND SEEING GAME A FIELD, by the true hunters and conservationist, NOT SPORTSMAN that just go afield to shoot something or just shoot at, with out even going to see if they hit the game that they are shooting at!! These youth turkey, deer, waterfowl hunts should be done away with, because they do nothing but hinder that opportunity or effort of a true hunter, just seeing game is a lot of work. Don't get me wrong, I am ALL FOR KIDS OPPORTUNITIES, but my opportunity came on OPENING DAY, which we all looked for, and rifles allowed in October should not be, ALWAYS HINDERING THE BOW HUNTERS !!! Guns for deer hunting should be your NORMAL 9-DAY SEASON, with muzzle loader season following after that, THAT'S 20 DAYS TO HUNT WITH A RIFLE TO GET A DEER OR TWO. If your so called Sportsman can not get a deer in 20 days, they need to go and stay at a range and shoot their weapon of choice, and leave the woods to True Hunters/conservationist's. Please reply if your choose to. If you read this and it offends you, I am sorry, I RESPECT THE GAME THAT I HUNT!!!! Thank you for your time and we do not need a longer gun season, nor these early hunts!!!
Consideration of other hunters and other seasons must be taken into the factors of extending deer seasons. I am a coyote hunter that still hunts with hounds. I already have had part of my season taken away due to extended deer seasons. We can only run hounds during the winter when there is snow. Due to the fact that 97% of the land here is private and deer hunters will shoot my dogs on their land if they are seen during deer season most hound hunters in my area will be done hunting. This will put hundreds of running dogs without homes or forced to be put down. Deer hunters already have 4 months to shoot a deer. Extending the season will not help the issue of too many deer people can only eat so many. We can already get more tags than we want. In my home alone we get 14 tags. We shoot 4 deer not because we are not seeing deer because we only eat 4 a year. Extending the deer season will affect almost every small game hunter in Wisconsin. Ask them what they want not the deer hunters. If the season is extended there will be 6 less small game licenses bought and 10 homeless coyote hunters. I'm not spending thousands on these dogs to hunt January and February weather permitting. If you want to kill deer go back to earn a buck tags.

Deer hunters in Wisconsin average less than 50% success rate according to number of gun licenses bought and number of deer harvested during the 10 gun deer hunting season. It's well known that if the DNR would issue one deer harvest license per individual that is valid from the third week in September until the last day of December the same year. Hunter success rate would be acceptable as well as improved deer herd management. Instead you play the multiple (seasons) shell game. Hunting in Wisconsin amounts to being fleeced by the Madison mentality of milking the rest of the state. That is why a growing number of Wisconsin citizens outside of Dane county have only contempt for the DNR. Its widely recognized for what it is. A money grabbing racket. I doubt very much you have the courage or integrity to forward this to the highest level of your organization.

I have hunted the same property for the last 33 years so I think I know a little something about the deer population in this area. It is down. Way down!!! I have been lucky just to see a deer during the season the last six to seven years. I also drive to work at prime times for deer to be moving. I hardly ever see them now. Maybe ten a year. Ten years ago that would have been around a hundred. My satisfaction with deer hunting is at a all time low. On a scale of one to ten it would be a big fat zero. My dad and brother have both given up deer hunting because they felt the same way and I think it is now time for me to throw in the towel also with the way they have been mismanaged.

I hunt just north of Lyndon Station and gun season was pretty quiet I thought, shot a spike but only saw 1 other doe. I personally think a person should only be allowed 1 buck for this area no matter what season or weapon is used. There is no reason a person needs to shoot more than 1 buck. But to help maintain population and let the meat hunter enjoy venison and hunting, I would allow 2 antlerless total per person no matter season and weapon combination. There absolutely no reason a person needs more than 3 deer total in a hunting season in this area just north of Lyndon Station but still in the farmland zone.

Bring back the registration stations. This on-line registration is causing more and more killing of deer without limitations. There is no true accountability to legally registering the deer. This coming year, more and more people will be out hunting because of the butcher factories being shut down in reference to beef and pork because of covid-19. There will be more illegal deer shot and not registered!! People that I know are shooting way to many deer. One person had shot 6 deer and some of them were just nubby bucks. To me, that shouldn't be allowed! In summary, there needs to be better regulations!!!

Our certified Tree Farm in western Juneau County suffers heavy damage from an oversize deer herd. We get virtually no natural regeneration of oak, which are heavily browsed in the summer, and conifers, which are heavily browsed in the winter. In addition, there are enough bucks to do significant damage to 1 to 5-inch saplings. Besides the doe and buck permit per license, I would like to see a bonus doe permit. Fencing is the only way to assure generation of what I consider our prime species: red and white oak, white pine and sugar maple. I appreciate the work of the CDAC.
I would like to see a muzzleloader hunt that is later in the year. Being immediately after gun season does not give a chance for the deer to settle down after a extremely high pressure 9 day deer gun season. Having a buffer of a archery /crossbow season and then a later muzzleloader season, possibly even with a concurrent archery/crossbow season seems logical and reasonable. It would definitely give muzzleloader hunters a chance to hunt a deer heard that is back to a more natural pattern and a better quality hunt. Thank you for the consideration.

Nine days is plenty of time for people to shoot a doe or two with a firearm. There is no need to offer these antlerless only hunts from a numbers perspective. Take the holiday hunt away and those 70 does that were quoted during the earlier CDAC meeting as being shot in the holiday hunt season would have been taken during the 9 day regular season. As it stands now, you essentially can’t go in the woods in the month of December unless you’re glowing like a fluorescent orange pumpkin. It’s a needless aggravation.

Keep the hunting seasons the same, 9 day gun hunt, September through December Bow, cut out the antlerless hunts and no holiday hunts...you can’t rate a hunt always by the number of Deer harvested... that’s NOT what hunting is all about... I’m a sportsman of 49 years and grew up with the hunters choice tag/armband...I believe a lot of Deer harvested are NOT being reported due to the new registration process...also the Back tags were helpful identifying violators...my .02¢

There should absolutely not have any antlerless deer harvested in Juneau County. There is know deer the way it is. My niece and nephews gave up hunting because they did not see any deer. We are loosing our heritage due to shooting all these deer. We should go a couple of years without shooting any deer. Or going back to the early 90’s where you could apply for a hunters choice, but that would be it for a couple of years.

CWD is a definite problem and needs attention and solutions. However, there are too many deer tags for one hunter, And there are too many gun seasons. It doesn’t seem to be an effective way to manage deer health problems, is more dangerous, interferes with other hunting, etc. we need encouragement of hunting from the broader population and a focus on alternative mitigation practices for CWD

I’ve been hunting this area for 24 years. Always experienced good deer numbers until around 2012. There were a few seasons since then I haven’t seen a deer while on stand. Last few seasons seen 2-5 deer. The area I hunt around Elroy is starting to come back but is nothing compared to the late 90’s to early 2000’s if that helps at all with a specific area of interest.

We only harvest a few deer on our property for our use. I feel that having extra season length and antlerless only holiday hunts are fine as long as hunters only take what they can use and not do as the hunting shows do where the hosts travel around shooting deer in several states. Deer are a resource that needs protection and proper management. This is my opinion.

Easier CWD testing would allow me to use meat for my extended family. I take a doe most every year for my own use off my own 50 acres. Testing is not convenient so I do not always test. I will not feed anyone other than myself and wife an untested deer. Easier, faster and more convenient testing would be good for everyone especially the herd management.

I like the recommendation of have the WI gun deer season start near the 15 of November. Granted I only missed 1 year due to weather. Not all people are dedicated as my family. It is also easier to get 91 yr old dad into his stand with nicer weather. This is his only hunting he still is able to do. Let’s make it easier and safer for everyone.

I think the nonresident hunting licenses need to be raised cause Wisconsin is so cheap in that regards compared to other states. I agree with the Holiday Hunt in some areas but all the state wide doe only hunts are not a good idea. Also I’ve heard rumors of extending the 9 day gun season to 19 days is ridiculous no reason for that either.
I would like to see a 16 day gun deer season permanent, to spread out the pressure on the deer. Would also like to see the muzzleloader season before the gun season like other states. Wouldn’t mind a one buck per year like Montana gun or archery. Or a point restriction like 4 points on one side like Missouri.

Not in favor of youth hunt disturbs the deer hunting later. Rifle hunting was a tradition that is lost in wi because of hunting being made convenient for warm weather. I oppose the holiday hunt for antlerless deer only during late season I like to hunt bucks then however I can because of the season.

get as many antlerless tags as possible in the hands of the hunters, we need to control the population to slow the spread of cwd, people need to shoot antlerless deer, good job on up some antlerless tags for the forest zone on private land to the south of that zone, deer numbers are high there thanks

I would like to see the muzzleloader season pushed forward to have separation from the 9 day Deer Gun season. After a lot of pressure from early seasons it would give the deer a chance to settle down and provide a quality muzzleloader hunt. Mid to late December or early January. Thank you!

We have a lot of deer in southern Juneau county. Please leave the 9 day gun season structure but maybe put earn a buck back in place to give hunters an opportunity to harvest a second buck. That would keep more hunters in the woods and I believe get the kill numbers to where they should be

People who complain that there are no deer in this area clearly don’t spend any time in the woods. If the dnr wants more deer shot let people bait deer during the hunting season. But no feeding. Just baiting during the season plant a foodplot lazy couch riders

Get crossbows out of the archery season for able bodied hunters. They are not archery equipment. Your holiday antlerless only seasons have prevented me from shooting any deer because the quickest way to lose hunters is to make shooting bucks illegal.

Have the youth be able to harvest a deer of either sex is important to the sport because it gives them a drive to go and do it again even if they harvest one or not they have the opportunity to do so and have a better chance they stay in the sport

I have not heard anything mentioned regarding the 19 day extended rifle season in any of the proposals for the 2020 season. I hope that means it has been taken off the table. If it hasn’t been, I as well as many others, strongly oppose this.

I have hunted in Juneau County central farmland for four consecutive years. I have only seen one deer in the woods during hunting seasons. I believe depredation to be a significant problem. More critters on deer cams than deer.

I think the biggest threat to Deer are coyotes I’ve seen just as many coyote pics on my deer cams as a deer they are there and in abundance it’s not deer hunting that's reducing the herd more like car collisions coyotes and wolves

My biggest concern is we keep the crossbow season the same as the regular bow season. With the new scopes for the regular bow does not give the crossbow an advantage. I see a lot of good sign in the woods for another good season.

When talking to other hunters at the hotels many have said they were not returning because they hadn't seen a deer in years. I see 3-4 every other year it seems whit some days not even hearing a shot near by

Overall, there appears to be plenty of deer in this unit. CWD is creeping across this unit and reducing the herd numbers may need to be considered for future years in efforts of slowing the spread of CWD.

Our area has a lot of pregnant females at this time. Last year in our immediate area we had 4 sets of twins and 2 sets of triplets, plus many single births. The racial of females is 8 to 1 in our area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4667</td>
<td>When I was a kid hunting was fun!! We saw deer!! Now we don't see squat because the numbers are down. Let the youth hunter have the antler less tags. Public land is a waste of time now days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4668</td>
<td>I see such a low number of doe, I can't understand why so many doe tags are issued. We have such an imbalance of buck to doe ratio, all of our doe tags are usually filled with buck fawns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4669</td>
<td>I would like to see muzzleloader season before a rifle. Other states offer muzzleloader first then rifle. Wisconsin is somewhat backwards. Please try to change the muzzleloader season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4670</td>
<td>I saw way fewer deer and way more wolves, coyotes in 2019. I hunted bow, rifle and muzzle loader every week end and heard the same feedback from other hunters in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4671</td>
<td>Please don’t combine Juneau County into one unit. The northern part of the county is nothing like the southern part. Two very different ecosystems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4672</td>
<td>I would like to see registering your harvest in person opposed to doing it online. Also raise the age limit to hunt to at least 10 years old.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4673</td>
<td>Stop giving out so many doe tags!!!! Hunting sucks in Wisconsin. It's not like it was when I was a kid you guy's are screwing up bad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4674</td>
<td>I would like to leave existing structure of the deer gun and bow season the same as last year but would like longer deer bow season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4675</td>
<td>I have gauged about a 3 to 1 doe to buck ratio in my area. Lots of fawns mostly nubbin bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4676</td>
<td>During bow season the number of does seen was less than bucks, usually only 2-3 a hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4677</td>
<td>To many deer stands. No one walking around to move the deer. To much baiting going on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4678</td>
<td>Cost for Senior same as fishing. Promote donations of deer for food pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4679</td>
<td>Keep bow and crossbow season the same especially if you are a land owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4680</td>
<td>Why cant we extend out muzzle loader season. Make it a month long maybe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4681</td>
<td>I think they should have a longer gun season in November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4682</td>
<td>I feel out of state license should be a higher fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4683</td>
<td>Go back to 9 day season-1buck 1doe !!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4684</td>
<td>NO ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTS...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Juneau, Central Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

372 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 93
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 106
   - I hunt in this unit: 344
   - General interest in this unit: 62

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 316
   - Bow: 192
   - Crossbow: 136
   - Muzzleloader: 83

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.62
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 145
   - Mostly Private Land: 35
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 49
   - Mostly Public Land: 35
   - Exclusively Public Land: 76
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 9
   - Not too crowded: 45
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 30
   - Somewhat crowded: 42
   - Very crowded: 62
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 69
   - Fewer: 111
   - Same: 105
   - More: 49
   - Many More: 21
   - Unsure: 17

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOTVALID in the unit?
VALID 192  NOT VALID 130 Unsure 50

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I have great concern regarding the continued efforts to "manage" the deer herd as well as potentially curtailing the crossbow use/season. First, the efforts or recommendations seem to revolve around revenue generation in regards to making the gun deer season longer in an effort to create more of a buzz around it. The hunting seasons work fine, the constant "adjusting of the rules" to get deer herd numbers in line are what is ruining the hunting experience for many. As you are well aware of, there are any factors that change from year to year that impact the herd. While I don't suggest we have no rules, they should be only minor. When the herd is healthy, hunters have a good year, they see deer and continue to have an interest in the sport. I have had dismal hunting for the past 10-12 years in my area. Herd "estimations" are ridiculous. While I own property in an area where there are some farms, I don't have the herd concentration on or around my property. This throws the system out of balance.

Next, in regards to the potential change to the crossbow season. These potential limits are unjust and would seem to go against your herd management tactics. When the legislation was first proposed and then adopted after the 3 year trial period, I purchased a crossbow with a rejuvenated interest. Now to find out that either 1. A small group of hunters are crying foul because more bucks were harvested last year and want it changed back in the name of keeping more bucks around for the gun season is ludacris. If this is the case, only recurve bows should be allowed so that we are all on the same playing field. And from a management perspective, isn't killing more deer the goal (yours not mine)? Or 2. this is only about generating revenue which seems to be more prevalent theory. If this is the case, more people will become disenfranchised with this sport and simply stop buying licenses and will not pass on this sport to future generations. While I understand that my voice is small in comparison to other special interest groups lobbying for all of these changes, it leaves me dismayed as to what my son and his kids will have left as a sport in the future. When I started hunting, it wasn't necessarily considered a failure if you didn't get a deer. It was the hope that the deer you were seeing would be a buck or at the time, every other year or two you drew a doe tag and could shoot the first thing that comes along. The problem now is that you can't even get as excited, because even seeing a deer is a fleeting moment at best. 2019 Now hunting season stats: 18 days now hunting and every day of the gun season with total deer sightings of 5 doe and 1 small spike buck seen during bow and 0 deer seen during gun season.
We hunt in the NNWR which I think is very different than private or small track public land. One issue we have seen is the pressure wolves place on the movement of deer and therefore ability to harvest deer. We typically see a lot of wolf tracks on the road and I have seen wolves in the woods a few times over the years. But this last year was the first year I understood the impact wolves have on the deers. The day I speak of we had seen at least 4 bucks moving through the woods looking for Doe in mid-November. The most activity we had seen so far. My son, was able to harvest his first buck during bow that morning. We had heard wolves howling early in the morning, but way off to our North. We came back that afternoon, and the woods was dead. Nothing was moving. It wasn't until the sun was setting that we realized why. The wolves started to howl and they were now in our section of woods and no more than a few hundred yards from out location. There presence totally suppressed the deer movement during what had been the peak of the rut, at least as we considered based upon the deer movement. I bring this up because I had seen a lot of does moving. Usually early in the morning or late in the evening and only in heavy cover. At one point, I had a group of 8 doe come up on me one morning. The most I had seen in one group since probably 2000. The reason I bring this up is that I see a lot of sign of deer in the woods. I also had seen a lot of does last year but they are very wary and stick to heavier cover making it more difficult especially for bow. They stick to the heavier cover because of the wolves in the area. Also the hunting pressure in the NNWR is very very low for bow season. Which I like because the deer are at least not pressured by hunters. It allows more natural movement but you just need to find where they are comfortable enough to move. During gun season, there are more hunters but not enough to move the deer. The numbers of hunters in the NNWR have dropped considerably since 2008. In fact, what I feel happens is that the deer feel the pressure and there is enough areas for them to hide and not enough hunters to keep them moving. So I feel the deer population is fairly large within the NNWR but is difficult to hunt. Too many areas for the deer to hide, not enough hunters during the 9 day gun season and the added pressure of the wolves keep the deer to heavier cover making them more difficult to hunt.

I have hunted Juneau County Forrest from age 12 and most of my adult life. The area I hunt is posted no ATV . I see a lot of ATV traffic in the county Forrest. I also see a lot of dumped deer carcass. I have seen fewer Gun Hunters but a lot more bow hunters and Turkey hunters. I use Crossbow I qualified for medical Crossbow hunting 2012. I see they are discussing shortening the XBow season. I would not be able to hunt with my family in November as I turn 59 in May this year. I would hope my medical permit from 2012 would allow me to hunt into November. We do not see a lot of deer and we spend a lot of time in the woods. Harvesting is not are main objective. We enjoy seeing deer, predators, and all other wildlife. I worry that increasing the doe harvest will result in less deer sightings. I have seen an a lot of Bobcat and Fishers the last several years . I have seen fewer Coyotes. I welcome them all and don’t mind sharing. I’m just as happy to see them as deer. I have also seen more Wolves around the area while driving my vehicle in the Central Forrest . I have not seen one while hunting although I would love to. Please don’t cut my Crossbow season short. I retired here because I have hunted public land here my entire life and so look forward to family bow hunting in the fall. I might add I saw a lot of Turkey last fall while in my stand. I have never seen many Turkey but loved watching them last fall. I had a fall permit but did not shoot one because I was not seeing many deer and did not want to spook any Deer to harvest a Turkey. Thank for the great information provided in your Central Forest Video. Please keep up the good work and protect are beautiful natural resources.
Lower the number of special hunt seasons. Go back to a doe tag/antler less lottery system. The state issues antler less permits with each license sold. That is poor management. There has been over harvesting of antler less deer for many years. Over two decades at least. The introduction and full protection of Wolves has decimated deer populations in the areas where the wolves were introduced. Introduce a wolf hunting season again. I am much more concerned about crop/livestock damage from wolves, not to mention potential human interaction with the wolves, than that of crop damage attributed to deer. I grew up in Wisconsin, went to college and paid taxes for many years there. I now am forced to buy an out of state license for $160.0 My son travels from New Mexico to join our group during the traditional 9 day deer hunt. This is not inexpensive, and if you do not start to manage the heard better, you will lose my family as you have many others. The hunter numbers continue to show decline every year. Its not a lack of families continuing the sport, its the poor deer population as managed by the WI DNR causing them to leave. We are seeing less and less deer every year. It is obvious the state has enabled the population to be decimated due to over harvesting of antlerless animals. The decline is not attributable to hard winters. I feel that the state is helping the auto insurance industry lobby by lowering deer populations more than they are their number one supporters...the hunter conservationists. We also contribute immensely to the economy which you don't seem to care much about.

I'm an advocate of predator populations and the correlation to healthy deer herds. That being said, we saw a dramatic increase in bobcat and wolf sightings over the last three years and a drop in fawn and first year deer sightings over that time. I’d like to see an increase in availability of bobcat tags in this region of the state as well as a new look at the wolf hunting seasons and harvest goals. Second, I think the reduction of doe tags to the current level has not done any good for the overall hunting in the area. The draw system for doe tags is also skewed and most hunters will never have a chance to get a doe tag that way its set up. There should be an application process for the doe tags and you should be allowed to build up points to get one, rather than lottery and whoever gets on the DNR business portals getting the first shots at them. There has to be a more equitable way to distribute these tags to the greater population of hunters if there is going to be so few available. Or maybe we can go back to One deer of either sex with each weapon of choice.

The proposed quota for Juneau County Central Forest Zone is way to high. I understand that certain sections within this zone feel like their local population is above where it should be but that situation is few and far between when considering the zone as a whole unit. For the rest of us it seems like we have been making "baby steps" in recent years but at least these steps have been in the right direction. Unfortunately these steps in the right direction could easily be erased if too many antlerless deer are harvested. There are options available to those select few with a "high" population. They should be instructed to enroll in DMAP, with or without their neighbors. Although I wonder if they would be able to get their neighbors to "buy-in" because as I said above the vast majority of landowners and/or hunters in the Juneau County Central Forest Zone do NOT believe the deer population is anywhere near the point where such a large increase in tags is justified. Please don't punish the rest of us for the couple alleged "hotspots" in the zone. 1000 tags MAX!

I hunt with four other gentlemen on a property north of New Lisbon in the "Forest" region of Juneau County. This property is a farm with woods along the Lemonweir River. Adjacent lands alog 8th Avenue are also farmland not forest. It is difficult for any of us to obtain doe permits. Trail camera surveys of the property have shown an increase in deer, does in particular, over the last three years. with our fields in corn last year we saw many traveling bucks during Oct. but none during gun season. We practice Quality Deer Management are are seeing larger bucks. I passed on a buck [have him on film] which has my associates questioning my sanity. [ just wasn’t the one I was chasing] It would be nice if this if the farmland acres along 8th Avenue north of New Lisbon were moved to the Juneau County Farmland designation with additional doe permits available. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Although I think there is a small increase in herd we have seen very few deer the last 5 gun seasons. Hunting pressure is much less on public land, maybe because of the very few antlerless tags available, fewer hunters may be leading to less deer movement. Predators are still a major concern, bears, bobcats, wolves, and coyotes all seem to be on the increase. Also concerned about loss of major stands of oaks due to logging which seems focused on oaks and creating more pine/jackpine habitat. Snowshoed some areas in February, most of the deer sign was in the better oak areas, very little activity in recent cutovers. I understand the importance of doing the cuts, just wish more oaks would be left, how long do oaks have to live till they produce mast, 40 or 50 years? If oaks were not that important why are foresters talking about deer impacts on regeneration? I am grateful to be able to hunt the public lands of Juneau county in the forest zone.

We have been hunting in the Meadow Valley/Sand hill area for 30 year and more. For some reason, you, the DNR, think that you have to keep the deer population down by doing some very unthoughtout ideas. 30 years ago you had party tags. that was fine. Then you give everyone a tag. Then you gave everyone 3 tags. Once the deer were wipe out, almost completely, then you brought the wolves in. Now you have nothing. The businesses that survived on these hunting seasons, with thousands of hunter coming into the area, like us and we spend a lot of money, are all but wiped out. That is a shame. There is no reason that there should not be thousands of deer running all over the area. that would great help out those businesses and it would also give hunters a great place to want to hunt that don't have anywhere to go where they live.

After hunting this area for over 40 years. I believe the answer is to go back to a 9 day only hunting season with random draw (hunter choice) tag. Making it a one deer tag not an extra tag. And not having to sit at a computer for hours to get a tag. No more youth hunt, holiday hunt, muzzleloader, antlerless season. Only a 9 day gun season. This will get hunters back in woods during the normal season. Hopefully getting some of the interest back in gun season. There are very few hunters in the woods during the 9 day season. This year with the late opening would have been improved with more hunters in the woods moving deer. There is strong evidence a sizable number of deer taken during the youth hunt are not shot by youth. The youth need to hunt during the gun season the get the tradition of deer hunting. Crossbows should go back to seniors and handicap only.

I’ve been hunting Meadow Valley since 1972 I have never seen so few deer year after year for the last 10 years in my life. I bow hunt and gun hunt The public lands of meadow valley and the Necedah national wildlife refuge. I feel there should be zero antlerless permits available for this area of the state for the next three years. Back in the 70s there were tons of deer and it was very fun to hunt. Now I have a son who I’ve brought up hunting with me and he does not enjoy hunting mainly because he sees no deer. He hears my stories of when I was Yung seeing 50 deer by 9 AM of opening gun deer season. When you hunt various locations throughout the season and you see little or even no deer this is a major problem. The restaurants and bars are virtually empty when you used to not even be able to get into the door. This is another really sad thing to see.

I believe the Central Forest map has been draw wrong. The southern border of the zone should be STH 21 instead of IH 94. The area between STH 21 and IH 94 has far more deer in it than is being reported. I would estimate that it is very close in numbers to Juneau Co Central Farmland zone. However north of hwy 21 (we own land and hunt in both areas) is having a hard time with getting deer numbers up. Near the Necedah wildlife refuge and private lands west their is little farmland and lots of wolves. If you could track the deer kills to their exact location in the Central forest I would estimate 80-90% are killed south of HWY 21. I would suggest either redrawing the line or including a smaller zone north of Hwy 21 so that you can build up that deer herd while increasing the tags south of Hwy 21.
Being none resident I was told I could only harvest one buck per season, I was fortunate enough to have two full weeks to bow hunt last year. I had what I would call a management buck on our property that was obviously injured. I wanted to harvest a mature buck and wanted my two week hunt to last more than one day so I did not harvest the wounded buck. Just my opinion but the time spent hunting with a bow a person should be allowed to purchase a second archery tag and harvest a second buck. In my two weeks hunting I seen at least 15 different deer on our 25 acre property I wasn't fortunate enough to harvest a buck by my choice on waiting for a mature buck but I think Wisconsin DNR is doing a fine job I really enjoyed my time hunting up there and plan to come back this year.

I only hunt the refuge, mostly with a gun. It used to be a great week of seeing deer. The last few years are maybe getting a little better, but still way way down from numbers from after the big kill off when there was over 10k bonus tags available. A week long tradition of seeing a few deer has become a weekend or long weekend of seeing no deer. I also believe extending the gun season would hurt the fragile population more and give archers less of an opportunity to harvest as well. Also because it didn't seem like some of the bubbles I clicked on for answers worked I would support youth antlerless tags being valid for 2020, I hunt only public, I seen less deer sign can't be less deer when I also seen none the year before and the refuge is still overcrowded.

Please continue to increase the herd! We can not manage the predators so we must take them into consideration. The predators are going to eat, and the hunters need to SEE deer also. To accomplish that goal the herd must continue to be increased. The carrying capacity of the land is far from it's maximum load. I spend time in the refuge and I do not experience an abundance of animals. During my 49 years while hunting this area I have seen deer populations fluctuate. What I haven't seen is such a prolonged period of low population density which is what my time in the woods tells me. Please keep the antlerless tags low to accomplish the goal of being able to SEE deer on a regular basis. We are not there yet! Thanks for your time and consideration!

The deer were all killed off about 10 years ago. Now there is no hunting pressure which makes hunting large public tracts even harder. The overall numbers seem to be increasing in the past two years, but many are antlerless. I believe that 100 public antlerless tags is too low. There would not be a noticeable amount of deer killed by hunters. The wolves and coyotes kill way more deer than we would. It is hard for hunters to keep going when they can't harvest an animal for years at a time. This is making the lack of pressure worse, and younger hunters lose interest. Many areas are so thick that it is hard to confirm a bucks antlers and get a clean shot. I feel a couple hundred more public tags would help this scenario a little bit.

I believe that the management in my unit is typically good. I have had a hard time obtaining an antlerless tag in the last couple years. As a traditional archer, I would like to have the additional tag for an opportunity to harvest a doe. I took the survey last week and there are proposals that I find very concerning. Extending the gun deer season is simply the wrong thing to. Crossbows, In my opinion, have no place in the hunt whatsoever. One of this units greatest resources is the Necedah National Wildlife refuge. I love to hunt here, but as an archer I don't like the idea of others crowding it with long-distance deadly weapons while I'm camouflaged and trying to earn my harvest.

I believe the efforts of the CDAC have helped the deer numbers in the Juneau County Forest Zone tremendously. However, I still think the focus needs to be on increasing deer numbers in general. At this time the State does not have the tools/ability to manage the apex predator in the area (wolves) as they remain protected by Sec. 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Therefore I believe we need to continue limiting the antlerless harvest for the foreseeable future until we once again have a healthy population. I believe I've seen a slight increase in the deer numbers over the last 5 years, however it is still challenging to keep kids Interested in deer hunting when they are maybe seeing 1 deer a day. Thank you for your time!
The way antlerless tags are distributed is frustrating. It doesn't seem to matter if I log in at the prescribed time to get in the E-line, the tags have always been gone prior to my pool ever getting a chance. Perhaps you should consider not giving antlerless tags to people that: A) Don't own the private land on which they hunt (non-taxpayers) B) Received one the year (or years) prior. I know plenty of people that seem to get tags each year they're available. You should certainly have data on who receives them each year, by DMU, so they would be ineligible until everyone else has had an opportunity. It's frustrating to not have deer in the freezer because all you see on the land you own and pay taxes for are doe.

It is my belief there is plenty of farmland South of Hwy 21. I believe the management unit should be shifted to Hwy 21 instead of I 90-94. I count deer on a daily basis South of Hwy 21 and in a 20-mile drive have seen almost 200 deer on numerous occasions. I believe the deer population is healthy and although we have some predation our numbers are up from previous years. As a landowner in the Central Forest Land unit, we have seen an increase in bucks as well as does. Part of this may be due to planting food plots within our woods but it seems the numbers are significantly higher than in previous years. I believe with the farmland close by, as well as the deer we have seen, we could be included in the farmland unit.

I've hunted public land in Juneau county for 44 years. In the last ten years the number of deer seen has been very low. I have gone two years consecutive without seeing a deer. That is with an average of hunting 5-6 days 6-8 hours a day hunting various ways: stand, still, and doing drives. I have never been one to have to fill my tag. What is more disappointing is the fact I haven't seen deer in general. I know the tourism economy benefits greatly from deer season. My feeling is that if you increase your product public interest will increase as well as revenue for the state and the local businesses. Thanks for reading. Looking forward to the final recommendations. Sincerely a devoted traditional hunter.

I have been hunting this unit my entire hunting life. Numbers have never been lower. Last year I spent 4 days hunting this unit saw very few deer. Spent a lot of time walking around with snow and came across very little amount of deer tracks. Used to have opportunities at deer almost daily in this unit. Now you’re lucky if you get one opportunity throughout the season. I think there should be very few public land antlerless tags available if any at all and the private land tags should at least be cut in half or more from the proposal. Much of this unit is public so why should there be that much of a difference in availability of tags between public and private? Tags should be very limited for both.

The DNR should make it simple: Each person gets One buck and One doe per license and no Bonus tags, No special hunts! Make Bow Hunting from Mid-Sept to Mid Nov. Then Gun season from Mid-Nov to Feb 1st but allow bow hunting and gun hunting in blaze orange. Make all hunts Party hunts to encourage "hunting Parties" to help with local businesses, the economy and to help with the hunters that can't get off certain weeks but would like to hunt. Do NOT Do ever again: Earn a buck, party tag of does or buck only as most of us hunt to eat! We also need to be able to hunt Wolfs, they are a Real problem with Safety as well as I have trail cams with Wolfs tearing apart my deer and other wildlife!!

I believe there should be one license that can be used for bow / crossbow. Why have separate licenses when some of us want to be able to switch up from time to time? The idea is to get more people out in the woods and harvesting animals, why make it more difficult? I disagree with the idea that bow hunters have given about those of us who choose to hunt with a crossbow. That somehow we have an unfair advantage. Their vertical compound bows have so much advantage over the bows of 20 years ago. I see no reason to punish crossbow hunters for their success last year by shortening and limiting their season!
WHY DOES THE DEER POPULATION NOT EXPAND WITH FEWER ANTLERLESS DEER HARVESTED AND OVER WINTERING CONDITIONS NOT BEING AS EXTREME? THIS IS PRIME WHITETAIL DEER HABITAT WITH NO DEER HERD EXPANSION. IS THIS DUE TO THE WOLF (YES). I HAVE HUNTED HERE FOR (46) YEARS AND THE DEER POPULATION SEEMS TO BE STAGNANT AT AN ALL TIME LOW. I USE TO HUNT WITH A GROUP OF (25) HUNTERS. NOW IT IS JUST ME AND MY (4) KIDS. THE OTHER HUNTERS HAVE QUIT HUNTING DUE TO A LACK OF DEER SIGHTINGS IN THE MEADOW VALLEY & NECEDAH WILDLIFE REFUGE AREA. WHY LITTLE TO NO RECRUITMENT OF THE WHITETAIL DEER??? THANK YOU.

I live in Juneau County. I keep a spreadsheet on high deer sightings in my 20 acre field. In 2018 thru 2020 I have seen 33 to 37 deer many times. This spring in 2 fields a mile or so away I counted close to 60 deer. My woods has no oak regeneration. We have way too many deer in my area. I also would like to see the Juneau County farmland zone moved north to Hwy 21. Getting doe tags easier than the online application process might help trim the heard here. I think land owners and the hunters there would manage the doe kill with common sense. Thank you.

My family hunts un Juneau central forest (7th and 28th street) Clearfield. We usually have 6-7 family members hunting bow and most of gun season. Leave Wed. for Thanksgiving. We hunt very hard as sit all day. Out of our group we hardly see any deer. Very light population. Out of the 7 hunters we pick up 1 deer. Many of our group have stopped hunting because the lack of deer. My son's 27 and 30 have stopped hunting this area and hunt in Western Wisconsin. Please increase the deer population in this area. It would be good to bring back our family tradition of hunting together.

I've hunted this unit for nearly 20 years and this past year was the worst I've seen it. The doe to buck ratio is ridiculous. There are way more doe than buck in this unit. The DNR needs to give everyone a buck and doe tag and stop limiting the amount of doe tags for at least 1 year. I saw 0 bucks and 15 doe in a week of hunting. I pay for an out of state license. 160 dollars I contribute to the state of Wisconsin and I feel I get screwed by only being allowed to shoot a Buck. I am currently looking for a different state to hunt and spend my money on a tag that is worth it.

Please consider reducing the antlerless harvest to zero. With the amount of wolf deprevation in the Necedah wildlife refuge along with Hunter not registering their kills appropriately we DO NOT have the amount of deer the habitat can support. Year after year I fill this out and believe i/we are not listened to. We don't have the deer around that the cdac wants to believe. I spent almost 4 weeks in the woods sun up to sun down and saw 7 deer all year. Yes 7 for the year, I kept a log.. please reduce the anterless to zero for 1 year and let's see if we get a rebound. Thanks

I would like to see the central forest zone boundary line changed to HWY 21. I live and hunt in the zone south of 21 and deer are very overabundant. Our forests are being over browsed, and farm fields are being destroyed by the amount of deer in this zone. I also believe CWD will have a huge impact on this heard in the near future as the abundance of deer is so high. Please give the CDAC the ability to move the boundary lines of this zone. I would also like to see the CDAC be able to bring back earn a buck as it is a great tool in managing the deer heard.

Thank you for proposing an increase for the number of PUBLIC LAND antlerless deer permits. This area is some good hard hunting--the best!--and it would be a bonus to have an option at a doe along with our buck tag. That said: 100 permits for antlerless for PUBLIC LAND feels way too low. In addition, I’d like for the committee to consider proposing a separate crossbow season--perhaps for early January, somewhere in the late season. Call it what it is: a crossbow with a scope on top is damn near a rifle; it is NOT bowhunting. Thank you.
Cutler Township is paid federal funding to maintain existing roads within the boundaries of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and the boundaries of Cutler Township. Instead of maintaining the roads, the township has erected ROAD CLOSED signs which prevents hunter access. Please use whatever influence you have to find a way to re-open the roads so there can be hunter access to the areas of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge within Cutler Township. Without access, the statistics about all wildlife within that public land is invalid.

The deer herd in the northern third of Juneau county, north east Monroe county is under heavy wolf predation. These areas also have large areas of public hunting lands. I’ve been noticing the herd dwindling in these areas. Most human hunters have already moved on and the wolves are not far behind. The wolves need a place to be and I’m afraid that as they move south in search of food they will in counter more resistance due to denser human population. We as humans can easily find great deer populations to the south and west.

Hunted this land for 40 years. 2019 is my last year in the public lands west of the refuge. I saw couple of deer this year and "0" last year. I hunt pretty hard, always have. I do see a great deal of wolf sign. With cameras, it helps see we have wolves and not deer. You have mismanaged the resource and the Federal Protection of wolves has met its goal of replacing the hunter. You have replaced my 40 years of sport with the wolf - good luck. At this point, I feel the wolf is managing the herd. We humans are not.

Deer hunting in this area has been on a downward spiral for the last 20 years. Most every change you have made has been for the worse. When I was a kid there was no special hunts or tags and I still hunt every year to this day. There is very little left in keep people hunting. No back tags no tags for deer might as well be no licensees too. No one gets excited anymore and the kids that have been coddled bail out when something else comes along. Bring back back tags , and carcass tags and let people hunt.

Antlerless tags for this unit should be included with license just like it is for farmland zone. If anything the bonus antlerless tags for this zone for public land needs to go way up From 100. Private land gets 1900 but public gets 100 that’s unacceptable. I hunt in an area with thousands of public hunting ground and see so many antlerless deer. Probably about 8-10 for every buck. Way too many of them. Since it’s mainly buck only all the bucks I see and get on camera are small 8 pointers or less.

Our private land location is in the Central Forest Zone, but the topography looks the same as the Forest Zone areas in southern Juneau. A better boundary for Central Forest would be Highway 21 instead of the Interstate. North of Hwy 21 there is much more forest including Necedah Wildlife Refuge and other State owned forest properties. We see very few deer when we hunt the public land above Hwy 21, but we have seen wolves above Hwy 21. How about a wolf hunt to help the deer population?

I honestly think having a 6 point or bigger buck to be harvested will help let the smaller ones grow.. and do a lottery system for antlerless deer for residents only . Back tags should be brought back . And actually taking the deer to a registration station to be registered. There are too many deer that i know about that are not being registered and does harvested and taken to does zones.. and maybe extend the season. Final thought .. possibly 1 buck tag to be filled for the year..

Deer numbers in my opinion are WAY too low for this area. 8 of us gun hunted by Necedah again (why I don’t know) and saw 3 deer. 5 of the 8 are kids. It’s imperative to get the message across to those that set the season quotas that the lack of hunting opportunities (ie: youth hunts, crossbows, muzzleloader, special antlerless, etc etc) aren't what is keeping harvest and interest low, it’s the NUMBER OF DEER ON THE LANDSCAPE that is too low!! Stop issuing so many tags!

Please move the wolf south. We pay tons of money year after year to hunt deer. We see five wolf to every one deer. They even take naps by our tree stands when we’re hunting. We can’t get our families 30 and under to hunt deer anymore. They sit outside in the cold day after day and see nothing. You have managed to kill youth and new hunters from the sport. Many of our generations enjoyed hunting together. Now that cycle is coming to an end because of to many wolves.
The last 10 years, hunting has become less enjoyable. I don't care if I personally do not get a deer but, it would help to at least see a deer. We encourage our younger folks to get into and enjoy deer hunting and they have lost interest because nobody sees a thing. 2019, opening day morning, I counted 7 shots. Last year maybe 30? I would guess that there are maybe a half the hunters now, compared with what it used to be like. Hunters go hunt in other counties.

As a land owner I would like to go back to the "plastic back tag" because when you have trespassers on your land you can at least have chance of getting their hunting I.D. number. I would recommend this for the whole state. I would also like to see a longer deer season from 9 days to 14 days because as a divorced parent and visitation issues and problems. The child of the divorce might only be getting 2 days out of the whole gun deer season.

I just feel like for a few years we cut back on how many tags are given out so that way instead of goin out and hopefully seeing a deer you can go out and see plenty of deer it makes hiking more enjoyable and hunting all around because shoot a deer isn't all of it being in the woods seeing them is awsome. Harvesting on is a bonus but could be come a more normal thing if we get the deer population back up alot which i think is a good thing.

I have enjoyed hunting for over 40 years of my life. In the past 10 years I have seen the amount of deer declined dramatically. Not only in this area but many areas of the state. My opinion is there are way too many doe tags being handed out. We are not going to get more Hunters involved if they are seeing less deer in the field. Just because there are extra days does not necessarily mean they are going to see more deer.

I have three comments pertaining to Juneau county central forest hunting. BAN BAITING!!! I'm also a little concerned over the loss of the Hardwood bombing range for public use. Hunters now crowded into surrounding public land. I think registration numbers are off due to hunters not registering deer. Yes, I know, violators will always violate, but, I believe the new method is easier, and easier to accidentally forget.

In the last 10–5 years I have seen a dramatic reduction in deer sightings while hunting. The wolves, bears and cars are thinning the herds out plenty, we don't need to take even more with all these anger less tags you give out. If you feel compelled to kill does why don't you try using the old party doe tags. Another thing I would like to see is going back to the old age limit for purchasing a deer license. Thank you!

My family has owned a cabin in Juneau county since 1951. We have seen the down fall of deer hunting up there. It's not even fun anymore way to much work for little reward. I have actually had better luck bear hunting up there than deer hunting. Let that tell you something. I have been seeing more deer lately the past few years but it's not back to what it use to be years ago. Need more deer simple as that.

I've been hunting for over 20 years now and I can't believe how many hours I have spent on stand without even one deer walking by. I own 72 wooded acres with fields on 3 sides. I'm sickened by the amount of tags giving out in 54b, our group of hunter's stay out all day until dark and never see any deer. Our same group use to pass up all doe and small buck and still fill our tags of nice bucks. ThanksDNR

In subtracting the choice permits filled from the total number issued I think only 16 went unfilled in out whole unit in Juneau county. In our group of 11 hunters we failed to fill 4 of these permits. That means for the whole rest of the Juneau county woodlands only 12 permits were unfilled? Either my math is wrong, or there are a lot more deer in other parts of the woodlands...or ??

I have noticed a definite decline in the antler-less deer population over the past few years. The heard numbers are continuing to decline in this area. Also I have noticed that quite a few mature Doe's are without fawns. I would like to see Juneau, Central Forest adopt a zero antler-less harvest for the 2020 season. Then reevaluate for the 2021 season. Thanks for your consideration.
I hunt the Necedah area and it is a joke compared to what it used to be. I've been in the woods in this area since 1977. I'm not a biologist but I can tell you the biggest problem there is, WOLVES. You don't need to give out more doe tags, the predators keep it in check. Also you better get on board and raise the price to out of state hunters, every other state has.

I would like the public lands permits scale back to 50 from 100 because there are more predators in the central forest zone then the DNR admits to. I and my family have been hunting this area for 50 years and have seen first hand how the numbers of deer can go up or down but until the predators are managed that will be the only way to managed the deer herd. Thank you.

Instead of offering 100 antlerless permits for the central forest zone, why not authorize those 65 years old and up an option of antlerless. After spending the past 55 years deer hunting, my hips and knees and feet are worn out. I am not disabled, I just can't walk very far anymore. Those under 18 and those over 65 should get a little help with the harvest. Thanks.

On my central forest property I see way to many does to bucks. Furthermore most if not all does had fawns/yearlings with them. Biggest problem is landowners aren't getting any or few of the PRIVATE antlerless tags!!! They go on sale at 10:00 a.m. when we are working to pay for our property taxes !!! All land owners should receive a doe tag to manage their own herd.

Thanks for the video and information. There were 50 public tags for Juneau County public land. I was the 6th person in line about 5 minutes after the tags opened up. They were sold out. I don't know how else to get them. There shouldn't be any bonus tags in this area if there can't be more antlerless available. Doesn't make sense to offer bonus.

1900 is ridiculous. I bow hunt, gun hunt and Muzzleloader on my 48 acres north of Necedah. I have not harvested a buck in at least 6 years, and that was bow. I have not shot a buck during the gun season in about 10 years. I do food plots and have plenty of water on my property. This number will completely decimate the population through there.

Over the last 3 years I have hunted mostly on private land in Juneau County central forest. I have been unable to get an antlerless tag in the lottery for either public or private land. On my property I have seen about 20-30 each season but have been unable to harvest one because I haven't been able to draw a doe tag.

The zone should be split in two with Hwy 21 being the divider. Predation seems to be a huge factor north of Hwy 21. Between the wolves, bears, coyotes and bobcats, there are a lot of mouths to feed. Consider reducing the public land tags to 50 or even 25 to allow minimal harvest and hopefully increase the population.

I still see far to many hammerhead does, (Small headed short snout Does) Never have young in the spring, they appear as older dear (when examined after harvest) have no benefit to the overall population. Education of hunters to identify and remove these deer as part of the antlerless harvest is important.

The number of deer is drastically lower then years passed, we need to keep as many does as possible. Twenty years ago you couldn't drive 40 mph at night on G north of 21 for fear of hitting a deer. Now your lucky to see one all the way to (25 miles) Rainbow casino.

Have seen a significant increase in herd size in southern central forest area. Mostly I am seeing does and few bucks. Obtaining an antlerless deer permit can be nearly impossible with past quota numbers. Hope the proposed increased will help to obtain a permit.

The control of the predators in this unit would be very beneficial. When you see more predators than Whitetail deer in this unit. It is hard to get excited about hunting and trying to pass the culture of Deer Hunting to young people of today! Thank you.
There is way to many wolves in Juneau County! Especially in Central forest land. Something needs to be done! Also young game wardens harrasing law abiding hunters is out of control. If it continues to happen i will be filing lawsuits against the state!

Instead of making the deer season longer, put a 30 day Muzzleloaders season for December. Other states seem to do well with this. Also would like to see a wolf season opened. Saw more wolf sign in the refuge vs deer sightings and sign. Just a thought.

I would like the DMU's be by county and not forest and farmland. As for public and private I think they could also be combined. I have great hunting opportunities on both sides of the interstate highway that divides Forest and farmland in Juneau county.

Harvest of Wolves black bears and coyotes is the only way this DMU will be able to sustain the same amount of tags available. First time bow hunters should not be able to use the antlerless option to be used during the rifle season.

I believe we need to realign Central Forest. The deer in CF travel to and from Farmland, and the divider limits a doe tags. Farmland gets 2 tags per licence, I believe. And CF has to apply for the bonus tag. Doesn't seem right.

Let's go to a 14 day season starting 2 Saturdays before Thanksgiving and ending the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This will align the rifle hunting season more in line with the rut. I find the earlier in November the better!

I'd like to see more public land permits, I hunt both and seen lot of does in my area on both and and yet you wish to give more permits to private then public and this makes no sense to me. I wish this can be changed.

In the 20 years I hunted in Juneau County central I've never seen the numbers so low. There used to be 15-20 deer along hwy 21 from the county line to Necedah in the evening. Now your lucky to count three.

1900 bonus tags and only 500 antlerless shows the DNR just wants to make money on the deer herd instead of manage it for hunter satisfaction. 1983 UWSP Wildlife Management Graduate. Keep politics out of the DNR.

There are so few deer in this county due to mainly wolf predation that we are thinking about selling our deer hunting cabin and property and hunting in a different county like Green Lake or Washara county.

If quotas for antlerless deer are low, non-resident hunters should be excluded from getting them. Property owners actually living in these areas should be considered before any other group.

Their should be more antlerless public deer permits. Due last season private land owners buying both public and private antlerless permits. I don't have private land to hunt.

Availability of Harvest Tags for residents that live here full time. Maybe preference point could be used for areas with limited Harvest Quotas? Thank You for listening.

I believe the public herd is still very low. I hunt all season in this unit and I cover miles of public land. I believe we are still in need of rebuilding this herd.

I feel the number of non resident tag should be limited especially in the necedah wildlife refuge, every year more and more out of state hunters flood the refuge.

I want the opportunity to harvest a doe on public land if possible. Too many private land tags, not enough public land tags for the number of public acres.

My family's woods used to be a "T-Zone" and I never saw the reason as to why this was changed. If we could get it back to "T-Zone" that would be preferred.

I believe that the turkey population has great impact on the deer herd. Decreasing the turkey population should bring an increase in the number of deer.

I am disabled and only hunt on my property. I have seen more wolves, Bobcats, and coyotes than deer. I saw 2 deer last season, and my daughter saw 0.
I believe that using protein supplements and deer growth should be allowed to help bring up the buck population and produce better herds.

Why are land owners getting all the kill tags?? Public land hunters need a fair chance. The application system for bonus tags sucks.

Deer are there but don’t move n become very nocturnal. Pictures on cameras at night and after seasons but they are there thanks.

Antlerless twg should be available for private land. Have not hunt in my land the last three due luck of antlerless tag.

Just a regular deer hunt no antlerless hunt(s) what so ever. There is no deer leave them alone for at least 3 years. Look at the correlation between car/deer accidents and doe harvest. Then allow doe tags to be sold on that data.

47 years in this unit and very dissatisfied with deer populations. Drastic decline over the last 20 yrs.

There are far to many does throughout the zone and it’s showing with the smaller bucks being seen.

Need to go back to in person registration so that there s a more accurate count of the deer kill.

We need to have a wolf hunt in the area. There are far too many. That is all we see and hear now.

Wolf sign everywhere, deer population much lower than it has been. Been low since 2006

I am glad that there is limited doe harvest for central forest so the herd will grow.

We need to build the heard so until we meet that goal no doe tags should be awarded.

Not in favor of longer gun season or shortened season for crossbow hunting.

Too many hunters on public lands and not enough access to private lands.

All deer harvested should be tested for CWD and results published.

Central forest boundart should exist north of highway 21 not I94

Extremely concerned with the wolf population on my property.

No anterless season allowed on central first public areas.

We saw more wolves this year than deer, that is a problem.

Consider allowing bow hunter the chance to tag two bucks.

Deer are populated every year, not enough hunters in area.

Wolves killing a lot of deer on public land in this unit.

extend the muzzleloader season till the end of Jan.

Leave our deer seasons the way they are.

Extend muzzleloader season to Jan. 31

More save place to hunt . Big land

Doe to buck ratio is too high

Too many wolves in the area.

Please no 19 day gun season

Buck only for awhile

Bring back back tags

10946
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Kenosha, Southern Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

95 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 77
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 15
   - I hunt in this unit: 77
   - General interest in this unit: 27

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 57
   - Bow: 53
   - Crossbow: 36
   - Muzzleloader: 26

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?  
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 15.09
   - Maximum: 51

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?  
   - Exclusively Private Land: 37
   - Mostly Private Land: 11
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 6
   - Mostly Public Land: 7
   - Exclusively Public Land: 15
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 1

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?  
   - Not at all crowded: 10
   - Not too crowded: 13
   - Somewhat crowded: 7
   - Very crowded: 2
   - Not applicable: 3

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?  
   - Many Fewer: 12
   - Fewer: 28
   - Same: 38
   - More: 4
   - Many More: 5
   - Unsure: 8

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020  Kenosha, Southern Farmland
## Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
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</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmland Zone Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>16</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
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<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

- **If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...**
  - Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 38, Oppose 49, Unsure 8

- **If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...**
  - EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 58, Oppose 31, Unsure 6

- **If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...**
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Not applicable in this DMU

- **If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...**
  - ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? *(Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for  Kenosha, Southern Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.

4798  
My husband said that when he was a boy, someone told him that they saw a deer in Western Kenosha County. My husband could not believe it - at that time, deer were only found "up north." Now, they are everywhere, and we live in a subdivision. There are often 7 of them in the herd we see that come right up to the house and chomp on my plants that are right under my windows. They began coming into our vegetable garden and made us give up on anything but tomatoes and peppers and cucumbers. They decimated the spinach, lettuce, kohlrabis, broccoli, beet tops and then the beets themselves, and on and on and on. It takes all the joy out of living in an area where we had planned to make a food supply for ourselves. And flowers? Hardly a chance of seeing them grow untouched throughout the summer season. It is depressing to see the decimation of our plants and vegetables. With all the possible problems they will happen to the food supply because of CV_19 or other things, we think that the deer hunting season should be extended year round! There are so few killed during hunting compared to the actual number - raising the number that may be culled from the herd certainly would not cause deer to become extinct, and we might have a chance of actually being able to can and freeze food for the winter. Thank you for reading this.

4799  
Very disappointed that cdac recommends no bonus tags for Kenosha county. We continue to fall short of the quota, yet refuse to make any bonus tags available. DNR estimates point to an increasing herd, yet no bonus tags. Listening to the last meeting, the impression early on was that there were going to be no tags. It sounded predetermined to this listener. As a property owner in Kenosha county, who only bowhunts, you force me to make a choice of private or public land, basically denying hunting opportunity. 2019 saw 123 antlerless deer harvested. The quota, for increase of the herd, this year is set at 175. That is 52 deer under the quota harvested last year. If you sold 25 public and 25 private tags at a success rate of 3.1% we would harvest 1.5 more deer. At 50 tags each that would be 3 deer. Still well below the quota to increase. Your refusal to make bonus tags available makes absolutely no sense. Not to mention the fact that you also deny the DNR the revenue from selling those tags. I would ask the council to reconsider there recommendation of 0 public, 0 private Bonus tags and consider selling 25-50 private and public tags for the 2020 season.

4800  
'- Get rid of group tag hunts and tags for infants or kids who don’t hunt. Folks just want more tags. It’s cheating!  - Stop blaming crossbows for 2019 weekend gun hunters. Corn still up, fields wet. Moving gun up, restricting crossbows won’t help. Crossbows still up close and personal, real hunting, matching wits with the whitetail. Group deer drives and pooling tags isn’t really hunting. Those part timers want a deer, clock the time like the rest of us. -I pay taxes....just have tags for the counties specified and drop the public or private! This is especially true if herd numbers need to be brought down. - I buy an out of state bow tag for IL. They charge me $400! We let them use our roads for free and hunt for next to nothing, yet they soak WI with tolls and for hunting crazy fees. About time we do the same! -Of you have to have an antlerless gun hunt, holiday or otherwise, let us bow and crossbow hunters use our tags for bucks and does!  -Open more metro area public lands.

4801  
Overall saw fewer deer during the fall hunting seasons. Since I hunt archery, muzzleloader and gun hunt I am out hunting over and through most of the fall season so this is an observation made over the 3 month period. Just not seeing our objective of "Increasing the herd" being made anytime soon by doing the same game. To many doe tags. I actually spent more time last fall harvesting coyotes to help on future year deer populations but as you know without impacting the predators year after year they will thrive and return. Maybe this is the best it gets. Thanks for the CDAC team efforts, I do think this is the best way to be able to achieve the county goals.
With an overall decline in harvest numbers from 2018 to 2019 and a fairly flat population, I do not understand the need to add bonus sub-metro tags to 50 (25/25 public/private). If the overarching goal is to increase deer population how is adding 50 deer tags helping? I understand the bonus tags are added revenue and 2019 success rate for sub-metro was ~3% for people getting a sub-metro tag, but the people buying the extra bonus tags are probably the people that filling those regular sub-metro tags YOY. Thank you.

All I can say is I've heard rumors about extending the gonna seasons and that's a huge huge mistake. Harvest numbers were down because of the warm weather and second because of the date the gun season started this past fall. After the rut and warm weather is only gonna keep the deer in bed. Do not extend the seasons!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Holiday hunts provide a good last chance to fill unfilled tags CWD is a concern Hunter crowding on public land is very bad in Kenosha county (saw 8 people in same field morning of deer opener). Would consider a system of allocating opportunity, and would like to see more private/public partnerships for access.

I have seen less and less deer in Kenosha County over the past 10 years. Now I consider it lucky to see a few deer throughout the hunting season and continue to look for other hunting opportunities in other counties.

I do not support the extending the 9 day gun hunt. I also dont believe that the archery season should be shut down the week prior to the 9 day gun hunt as it is the week where most archery harvests are accumulated.

I don’t understand how you think that baiting deer is creating a problem with CDW. The deer hang out and eat in groups weather or not you are baiting them, so why not allow for baiting?

I hunt two counties , why can’t we split the antlerless tags that come the gun and crossbow licenses between the two counties. Or if one only use it in eather county.

Lifting the baiting banned on the unit. One CWD deer found in Walworth County on a deer farm should of not shut down baiting especially in another county!!

I believe the seasons should be set. Archery for a set amount of time then gun, or vice versa. Going back and forth between the two can be confusing.

Deer numbers are up! Tag availability is what shows the lower kill numbers! Plenty of deer in both public and private!

No need for gun doe hunts after November and does are bred. Need to increase the doe numbers to get more bucks. Thanks

Don’t change anything-bow, crossbow,gun,seasons,tagging, quotas,units subunits metro etc everything is working fine!

I would like too see statewide baiting reinstated. It is also helpful for other units with higher deer populations

Over the last 30 years the number of deer has dropped considerably. I would like to see the numbers increase.

Would love to see parks be open to a limited amount of hunters to help control the herds in these areas

I think they should have antlerless bonus tags for this area.

The baiting ban needs to be lifted, everywhere.

Bring back baiting.
Kewaunee, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

258 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 127
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 31
   - I hunt in this unit: 240
   - General interest in this unit: 32

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 229
   - Bow: 123
   - Crossbow: 118
   - Muzzleloader: 102

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.65
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 172
   - Mostly Private Land: 39
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 14
   - Mostly Public Land: 3
   - Exclusively Public Land: 11
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 1

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 9
   - Not too crowded: 28
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 6
   - Somewhat crowded: 9
   - Very crowded: 7
   - Not applicable: 8

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 27
   - Fewer: 78
   - Same: 110
   - More: 29
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 2

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Kewaunee, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 134 Support, 91 Oppose, 33 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 171 Support, 69 Oppose, 18 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 59 Support, 189 Oppose, 10 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure
- Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? (Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Kewaunee, Central Farmland
Right now on my property in western Kewaunee county we see very few deer. I saw a few during the archery season. I saw none during the gun season. Our hunting party of 4 saw only 2 deer a doe and a fawn on opening day. on a neighboring property 5 does were shot and the other neighbor took 2 does. 1 buck was shot north of us. There are too many doe seasons. The late doe season and the holiday hunt. As for the crossbow season leave it alone. The same goes for the traditional 9 day season the week of Thanksgiving. Hunting pressure make the deer nocturnal starting with the youth gun hunt. If the 9 day gun season changes or the archery season bow and cross bow season change. I am done hunting. I will close my property to deer hunting. I will stop purchasing my patrons licence. I started hunting in 1968. In the 60's and early 70's there were far less deer yet we saw more deer and has enjoyable fun filled hunts. Hunters should stop bickering over the crossbow and archery seasons. compound bows are just as high tech as cross bows. There should be less focus on shooting monster bucks and more focus on appreciating each deer that is taken.

I believe the youth hunt should be eliminated or moved after the season. That is good bowhunting time and some of the blame for more bucks shot on cross bows but there has to be an impact with the youth hunt. Shooting gums during that time affects the deer's patterns. I think the youth hunt should be moved to the anterless hunt weekend after the deer season. Have the anterless season in December like normal and if you are under a certain age and didn’t get a buck during the season you can be allowed to shoot a buck during that time. The option for public and private license should be removed as well. Just buy a hunting license like you used to be able too. The 19 day gun season is also absurd. Gun hunting is not what it used to be and making 19 days is way to long. After opening weekend the amount of people out hunting is not what it used to be in the past and I feel more people are frustrated with the gun deer season then in the past. Making it 19 days will not improve this.

I have been deer hunting for 32 years and have had good hunting seasons and poor hunting seasons. I and my adjacent land owners do not want to go back to deer seasons like right after earn a buck which depleted deer numbers. As the last deer season was structured there is to many deer hunts, my children also hunt and they don’t understand why there is basically deer hunting for 4 months with the anterless seasons etc. Young hunters now days don’t appreciate hunting as much with all the seasons. To much is not a good thing. I understand the deer numbers are up and that’s good and is better than down. Deer hunting is extremely important to families and friends and we don’t want to have a major decline in the deer population. There is also a a lot more traffic on roads even on side roads which I live and more cars more deer being hit. Hopefully we can have a happy medium in the deer herd opinions. Thank you.

I’ve hunted Kewaunee county most of my life. I’ve been stuck hunting public land for the past several years. Last year I saw zero deer. It seems to be getting worse every year. I have been getting more and more frustrated to the point of just giving up deer hunting entirely. I know that I’m not the only person that feels this way. You have to be seeing a drop in hunters every year. Kewaunee county has very little land that is open to the public. I know that there is private land that through tax programs that are available to hunt but to find them is really tough. I believe that if the land owner benefitting from the tax programs, the land should be posted with signs identifying that it is open to the public. When I was land owners would have no issue with hunters, but that has changed now. Bottom line we need more access to available land.
The discussion of discontinuing use of crossbows during November was discussed and that is something I was very opposed to. That wasn’t addressed here but I fee that I wanted to express my opinion regarding this issue because allowing the use of crossbows has brought so many people back to the sport of bow hunting. I know I am in the transition where I am using both weapons depending on the time of year and amount of gear I have on and many like me feel the same way. I feel if there is a change in allowing crossbow hunters only to hunt September and October you will lose some hunters. Another aspect I’d like to see return is in person registration. I know there is a cost but I believe it helps prevent poaching and u ethical hunting harvests with having to register deer in person.

Kewaunee county MUST come up with a number of deer that need to be harvested per hundred acres, or per 40 acres owned. If you own or occupy 100 acres. You need to take how many deer to do you’re part. Otherwise people just won’t get it, they need a number to reach. Also, agriculture department is hearing the deer by not regulating the crop rotations. A 300 acre family farm used to have multiple crops, deer wouldn’t have to go too far. Now it’s 700 acres of plowing and manure which makes prime hunting place inaccessible, and no reason for deer to be there. You’re methods of deer management are based on a different time, with different circumstances, and are completely irrelevant now.

We should give the CDAC committee praise for doing what is right for the county in there effort to control the deer population. They are using all the tools that are given to them to help control the heard. It is disappointing to hear people continuously complaining about deer hunting interfering with other hunting going on at the end of the year. All hunters should be able to work together in the hunting community no matter how long deer seasons go. Look at the big picture and understand that the deer population is one of the biggest problems in Kewaunee county. Stop complaining that it’s interfering with other hunts and work together to make the best choices.

If CDAC truly wants to control the antlerless deer population they would bring back earn a buck but use it in a different way then it was used before. I personally was not a fan of earn a buck because it was jammed down hunters throats every year. If you brought back earn a buck and used it every other year and made it that if you shot an antlerless deer in the off year that you could carry that tag over into following year when earn a buck was in effect I believe most hunters and land owners would except this proposal and you would get much closer to the two to one ratio that is desired for antlerless harvest.

Very disappointed in deer numbers this past year. Very few deer seen. My son who is 14 is discouraged to want to continue hunting with the decreasing deer herd. There are not the deer you say there are. I attended a conference in Madison and at the same time there was a insurance conference going on at the same place. There state lobbyists admitted that the numbers are being driven by the insurance industry. Great way to ruin a great tradition in Wisconsin. I’m not the only person who feels this way. We are not seeing the deer. I’ve been hunting over 40 years.

My observation with many days in the field in late season month of January there is no significant reduction in the doe herd. Way too cold for hunters to harvest a doe. The only hunters out there are the die hard buck hunters trying to Bait in a Trophy Buck !! If the DNR wants to reduce our Forest Damage before its too late for future generations we need to reduce the doe herd. Your up against a brick wall in that Bitter cold month of January, only answer is BACK TO EARN A BUCK !! Ask a warden, HOW MANY Antlerless HUNTERS Does HE OBSERVE IN JANUARY !!
I hear talk of an extended gun Deer season. I would be in favor of this. The rut in our area is usually 1 week before gun season. I would be in favor of extending the gun deer season for 1 week before the regular season to capture the rut window. I also would like to see hunters be able to hunt on Kewaunee County property. Many deer gather there because they know they are safe. This is not fair to the tax payer that though their taxes purchased that land in the first place. At least let us go into these areas gun less to drive them out.

Delete the youth hunt. This is an unnecessary hunt that does nothing to promote the hunting tradition that WI is famous for. There is absolutely no reason why youth need their own mini season outside of the normal hunting seasons. The whole idea is that a youth learns to hunt in the conditions that are normal to the seasons that they will hunt as adults. This has been a poorly conceived hunting season since it was introduced and has done nothing to increase the likelihood that a youth will become a hunter in their adulthood.

I would like to see a 15 day gun hunt starting on 15 November. This would do one of two things for the hunter. Getting a chance of nicer weather. I am thinking that would do well for young and older hunters that don't like the cold better weather. I also think this would be a good promoting tool that may bring young hunters in to our gun deer hunting season, and maybe even bring back a few older hunters. That can’t stand the cold anymore. I know some would not agree with me, but sometimes change is for the better. Thank You

I don’t think you need too have so many different hunts in one years time its foolish. Why have a 10 day muzzleloader hunt, its not the traditional way it used to be now your better off taking muzzleloader out for the 9 day gun season. And the stupid youth hunt can stop at anytime all your doing is making the bow hunters angry. All the hard work that bowhunters put into their stands and food plots and the next youth can come in and shoot 200 yards with a rifle at a trophy you've been after all year.

I would like to see a either a antlerless only or 1 buck tag filled with either bow or gun hunters chioce but only one buck the doe numbers need to be thinned to get better buck movement in the unit My thought is there is no reason Kewaunee county can’t produce thropy bucks but need to stop this harvest of 2 bucks a year also a longer 15 or greater gun deer season is a great idea for farmers getting crops off later due to weather and gives more chances with work to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

The deer herd is perfect right now. I am a father of four and love to take my kids out. We use the bonus tags when we hunt with the kids to get them the experience. The holiday hunt is a great opportunity for me to get out with the kids during their Christmas break. If the herd gets severely decreased due to longer hunting seasons or more available tags, the kids lose interest if it is boring. As you can tell, I am hunting for my kids not me. That is why I took the time to do this. Thanks.

I feel we have to many hunting seasons. I have 3 kids that hunt and also there friends and we all hunt together and they all get burnt out of hunting. They wonder why we are shooting deer for basically 4 months. The kids now are the future of deer hunting in our state. I understand we have a strong population of deer but if we go back seasons like after earn a buck and have low deer numbers, children will lose interest fast. Hopefully we can all agree on a deer hunting framework. Thank you.

I strongly oppose extending the archery season. There are areas with plenty of deer, and with all the seasons plenty of opportunity to harvest. Like many others I am passionate about archery season. But by the end of December I’m sick of deer hunting and move on to other small game. Maybe if deer seasons were shorter it would put pressure on hunters to harvest does sooner. I’m guilty of saying “I got time yet” then as season goes on deer get more nocturnal and I need to move on.

We do not need Earn a buck or anymore doe only hunts. Also don’t need to extend the 9 day gun season. The firearm season should be only the 9 day gun season and a 4 day tzone after the muzzleloader season. Get ride of these extension in January and holiday hunt they are ruining the normal hunting season for everyone and making it easier for people to go trust passing and other violations continue to climb. During these extension.
As a hunter in Kewaunee county, I believe the deer population is too high. I believe hunters who are willing to harvest does should be given every opportunity to do so. I believe antler less authorizations should be transferable to family and friends. I don’t believe there should be a charge for them. If we need to harvest antler less deer, give the hunters who are willing to harvest them the tools to do that.

I hunted a lot this past year 4-7 days a week. I typically saw does when I was out hunting. However I only saw three bucks all bow season, two of which were 3 year old deer and the third was a yearling. That is concerning to me that I hunted so hard and I only had three encounters with bucks two of which were on private land. Even on cameras I had out I had very few bucks traveling through.

With the earliest gun season in 2018 to one of latest in 2019 I was a little disappointed with number of bucks I saw during gun season. Although I believe 2018 was a good number season so makes sense 2019 wouldn’t have as many numbers. Although I was unable to shoot a buck I did harvest 3 does with crossbow. I would keep things the same as 2019 for 2020 season and probably 2021 season.

I am most worried about the spread of CWD in Wisconsin and find it to be the biggest threat to the Wisconsin deer population. There is an extremely high doe population in Kewaunee county. I am in favor of earn a buck because it is the best management tool we have and CWD is a lot more serious of a disease than what people uneducated on the subject think it is.

There needs to be a cwd sampling kiosk in kewaunee county. More hunters would have their deer tested for cwd if they didn’t have to drive to Green Bay to leave the head at a sampling kiosk. Early detection is key! Even if there haven’t been any cwd positive deer tested in the county yet, it doesn’t mean there won’t ever be.

Please discontinue deer baiting in Kewaunee county and state wide, I am very concerned about CWD. I support making the gun hunt first Saturday closest to November 15th I think it will help with harvesting more deer, first time in many years I didn’t get a deer in Kewaunee county in 2019.

I feel it may be beneficial to extent the overall 9 day gun deer season to a 15 day gun deer season. I feel that weather is such an important part during that season. If that was done, you could eliminate the holiday hunt but allow the crossbow/bow season to continue until December 31.

I see a lot of deer sign but rarely deer. We had 30 tags in our group and got one small doe. Mine as well had 1,000 tags. Who cares if you don’t fill them. If issuing so many tags is trying to harvest that many deer that strategy is failing. We shoot everything we see.

Private land owners need to shoot more does. Some of them think the more does on their property the more bucks will be around. There’s no shortage of deer at all in kewaunee county, the DNR should tranq and transport a few trailer loads to Jackson county.

Based on scientific proof and historical data if we are serious about harvesting more deer overall to meet a sustainable population then the gun season needs to start earlier to coincide with the last part of the “rut”. Not after the rut

An early to mid-October antlerless-only gun deer hunt could eliminate the need for more antlerless hunts in December and January. Far more hunters participated in past October antlerless deer hunts than do in the late season hunts.

Far too many hunters in my area, Casco/ Alaska lake that REFUSE to shoot does but will shoot the first 1 1/2 years old buck they see. Then not hunt anymore for the year. These people need to be required to kill does!

I think changing to a single Buck tag not weapon specific, per hunter per season, or a earn a buck that you don’t have to shoot an antlerless every season, you just need to shoot an antlerless renew buck opportunity.

My family and I have hunted kewanee county our whole lives. This past season was one of the worst in memory. The number of deer sightings were down and the number of mature bucks in the area killed were down.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4854</td>
<td>The biggest issue for this region that a lot of deer were unseen and harvested was due to all the corn left on the farm fields that I feel was why there wasn’t a lot of harvested deer this past season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4855</td>
<td>I think the current season standard of the Saturday before Thanksgiving to the Sunday after is perfect and should be kept. Cross bows should be only usable for the 2 weeks preceding gun and after gun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4856</td>
<td>To many broken up hunt seasons, I would like to see archery season, youth hunt, gun season, muzzleloader season, finish that with the antlerless only, and archery till the end and no holiday hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4857</td>
<td>Too much indiscriminate liquid manure saturation of the soil and waterways. There is no control by the DNR as to the amount of manure applied, or depth of soil being applied on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4858</td>
<td>I don’t believe we should extend deer season as it just ruins the following year for hunting. I have hunted for the past 8 years and still haven’t tagged my first deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4859</td>
<td>Introducing wolves into this ecology is not appropriate. They were reduced for a reason. DNR numbers must be verified. Numbers are not increasing but decreasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4860</td>
<td>I also propose an antler restriction for hunters excluding new hunters. An example of a suggested restriction is a four point minimum on one side.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4861</td>
<td>Information on car kill deer is not accurate because the number of cars, along with the time drivers spend on the road increase every year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4862</td>
<td>Please don’t shorten the archery season for compound and longbows. Put crossbows back as before for handicap and disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4863</td>
<td>In an effort to reduce the deer population, earn a buck should be utilized to increase the number of antlerless deer taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4864</td>
<td>Keep working on what’s best for our state’s deer population. You’re doing a great job but rarely hear this from citizens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4865</td>
<td>Way too many deer in Kewaunee County. Deer crashes are very numerous. We need less deer for the safety of people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4866</td>
<td>Make a longer gun hunt for bucks than 9 day. Start on Nov 15. Allow bow hunting during gun season on private land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4867</td>
<td>I feel the seasons should be left as they are. No extended gun season and no shortening of the crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4868</td>
<td>I think Door County is doing a better job of managing its deer herd. Kewaunee County should follow their lead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4869</td>
<td>Everyone needs to start shooting does in our area. There are too many, 60 in a field at a time is ridiculous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4870</td>
<td>High water in the woods swamp, was our major concern last year, as we couldn’t access half our hunting land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4871</td>
<td>Limiting crossbow hunting would lower the deer kill. A lot of people took up hunting because of the crossbow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4872</td>
<td>I think they should open gun deer on the 15th of November till the end of the month. Seems to work for MI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4873</td>
<td>I would love to see a minimum antler restriction on bucks! 3 points or greater on one side as the minimum!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4874</td>
<td>The early bow season lasts too long into November and affects deer movement negatively in the gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4875</td>
<td>A muzzleloader season should be extended for all of December. And maybe an early muzzleloader weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4876</td>
<td>Pumping liquid manure not only pollutes wells, creeks, rivers, it drives deer off that land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4877</td>
<td>Too many bucks shot with cross bow!! Need to restrict to October only and no late season cross bow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4878</td>
<td>Issue a second buck tag after harvesting an antlerless deer for that specific weapon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4879</td>
<td>Do not change the crossbow season. The season should remain the same as archery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#:</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4880</td>
<td>Overall I think the county committee is making the correct recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4881</td>
<td>Need to find a way to get hunters to take more does. They could donate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4882</td>
<td>You do a great job and opportunity to provide feedback is appreciated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4883</td>
<td>Better education on QDM vs shoot everything in sight is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4884</td>
<td>Dnr makes it way to easy for people to poach deer! Way to easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4885</td>
<td>Start deer season on 15 Nov till end of Nov every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4886</td>
<td>Too much corn standing has impacted the deer totals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4887</td>
<td>No crossbows to healthy individuals during the rut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4888</td>
<td>I just want cleaner water in Kewaunee county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4889</td>
<td>Stop Baiting in this county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4890</td>
<td>No more wolves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
La Crosse, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

312 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 231
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 41
   - I hunt in this unit: 282
   - General interest in this unit: 64

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 262
   - Bow: 168
   - Crossbow: 108
   - Muzzleloader: 87

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.59
   - Maximum: 62

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 201
   - Mostly Private Land: 41
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 17
   - Mostly Public Land: 7
   - Exclusively Public Land: 10
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 6

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 6
   - Not too crowded: 19
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 19
   - Somewhat crowded: 13
   - Very crowded: 14
   - Not applicable: 4

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 39
   - Fewer: 84
   - Same: 133
   - More: 42
   - Many More: 10
   - Unsure: 4

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

La Crosse, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Support: 146  Oppose: 128  Unsure: 38

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Support: 180  Oppose: 98  Unsure: 32

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Support: 41  Oppose: 254  Unsure: 17

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID: Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>2.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The proposed rules extending gun deer season an extra week and limiting crossbow hunting to October are absurd and ridiculous. By limiting crossbow hunting to October only you are taking women and children that mab can't pull a vertical bow back efficient enough to kill with it and putting them on the sidelines. I thought The objective is to get kids and beginning hunters out in the woods? If anything add on to the back side of the gun season into December and eliminate the antlerless season and muzzleloader hunt and combine them all. This would allow the gun season to catch the secondary rut and keep both sides somewhat content. The people that aren't seeing deer in lacrosse county need to try and hunt a different way and put a little more effort and skill into it. Other cause there is deer everywhere and on neighboring farms whole crops are being decimated by them. May we should look at putting together workshops on basic woodsmanship and classes teaching people how to hunt skillfully.

I live out in the country in east central LaCrosse county, have for almost 35 years. I currently think the deer population in this area is perfect. I see deer more days than not but not too many. I believe the biggest reasons for decreased hunter numbers is something I hear a lot about. Not having as much fun anymore.... and I attribute that to the attitude of "does are for kids and the elderly and the REAL hunters only shoot wall hangers". The days of just hunting for fun and camaraderie are long gone and it's a darn shame. The harder problem to fix is the overall deer kill. Part of it is mentioned previously, the second part is much more difficult to fix. So many complaints about not seeing deer BUT, they're there.... but no one is moving the deer like we did in the 70s thru the 90s..... some due to pure laziness but the biggest problem is the amount of people that now own the hunting land. Take any two thousand acres in LaCrosse county....8-10 people used to own it and now it's closer to 20 or more, therefore access is the problem! How do we fix that??

I have been hunting the current private property for 15 years. I have requested advice from DNR forester and deer biologist. I bow hunt about 15 or more days during the archery season and 5 to 6 days during the gun season. I see most if not all my deer sightings during archery season. Gun season has been a huge disappointment. I have many neighbors that experience similar results. I may not be an expert hunter, but I control my scent, choose stand location considering wind direction and approach. If I see 6 deer total for the entire archery and gun seasons combined I'm lucky. Maybe I am expecting too much, but it would be so awesome to see several deer and have the luxury of holding out for that mature buck or managing does because there are 20 of them in the field on any given hunt. I do believe there are some areas in LaCrosse county that have higher deer populations. The largest sightings I have of deer are in the housing developments. The deer know the safe zones, and I'm not sure how to manage that. Thank you for your time.

I wish to see the Holiday Hunt go away because i believe that deer are hunted enough with firearms during 9 day gun season and muzzleloader season to follow. I enjoy archery after the muzzleloader season and would be nice not having firearms come back out during that period. The question concerning deer to vehicle accidents can be easily eliminated, i drive to illions often and on the toll road on I90 they have tall fence on both sides of the interstate. there are zero dead deer on the side of the road. at least for La Crosse County, i would be very impressed if i saw tall chain fence on the interstate COMPLETELY eliminating accidents and or deaths caused by deer. also it honestly distrubs me to see deer lying their smashed up and guts hanging out, head decapitated, on the side of the road. it sadens me and is disgraceful to such a beautiful animal. i dont like to see deer die that way. i like archery from the mid september to january, one 9 day gun deer season and the muzzleloader season after that.
There is already the T Zone hunt and you really don't see many people out for that. Also most hunters know that the T Zone hunt is doe only. It surprises me that some of the ones who I know hunt the Holiday Hunt don't realize it's doe only. If it's still in the cards, much more info has to go out or call it a Holiday T Zone to get the point across. I don't really gun hunt and my favorite time to hunt is during December. My business is slow and I can spend time in the woods. That's when some nice bucks show up in the fields. Now I can't touch them for most of December. Can't hunt January much because business takes off after the holidays and I work 7 days a week. Would like to see archery(xbow or regular) up to gun, then 9 day gun(if have to buy a gun tag to bow hunt so be it) then archery to first Sunday in January. Nothing against gun or xbows. I hunt traditional. Would like to see 1 buck per hunter per year and no group hunting for bucks. Would solve a lot of infighting. Thanks

One concern I do have is with this fairly new registration system. I feel that some individuals may not be registering deer, therefore making the harvest data not as accurate as it should be. I spend lots of time creating deer deer habitat, monitoring the deer on the property I hunt and I feel the deer numbers are stable and at a good number. There are a sufficient number of opportunities to harvest deer and a good number of survival rate. I am concerned with any plans to increase the number of metro bonus tags or other increase of antlerless tags, along with being concerned about lengthening the hunting seasons. I feel the population should not be decreased in any way. I also monitor each deer I harvest for CWD, controlling this disease is my only real concern with the current model for hunting seasons. I feel if we increase length of seasons more deer will be killed and pressured, this still needs to be fair chase and give deer the opportunity to survive as well.

My concern is how we will ever get this herd in check on private land in the county. I own and farm 550 acres. I have huge amount of crop damage and every gun season have fifteen or more Hunt my farm. If they don't have theredeer the first day chances are they won't get one as these deer know where these refuges no hunting areas are after the first shots are fired and head there and stay there til we'll after the 9 day season is well over. Years about the neighbors all joined together to hunt and help one another get a deer. Not anymore One neighbor put an 9 ft tall fence on the property boundary so as to keep the deer from coming on my land?I welcome bow and muzzle loader hunters as this is the only way to possibly curb the herd growth. In the winter and spring I see herds of 40 or more deer from my home. Just my 10 cents worth.

Weather this gets brought up or not doesn’t matter to me just as long as someone reads it and I’m sure it’s been brought up before but I’ll voice my opinion. I believe that the kill numbers would be up some if you had to go and register your deer at a station instead of on your phone. How many people forget to do it or they just don’t do it because they process there own deer at home. And for the northern and some central units the wolf pack is doing what it’s intended to do an that’s thin the deer heard so there your not going to have a high kill count so your quota won’t be met. And last but not least, with the sport of deer hunting trophy deer people are doing there own deer management “let them go so they grow” just some thing to think about even though I’m sure it’s been brought up already. Thanks Have a great day

I bowhunt and gun hunt across many areas around La Crosse county. The herd numbers are down. I believe a better idea is to make available a bonus/antlerless tag to hunters every other year. Give the hunter the opportunity to make the decision on when to claim a bonus tag. Most hunters know how many numbers of deer are in their hunting areas and can make a better decision on when to request/use the bonus tag. For example, I hunt with 3 friends on a consistent basis. We all don’t need a bonus tag every year nor would we use all 4. If 2 of us request a bonus tag each year we would know the other 2 would be eligible for a bonus tag the following year. This would help improve the overall herd number in La Crosse County and give land owners and hunters a little more stake in the quality of the herd.
The real problem with deer hunting in Wisconsin is the lack of hunting land. Private land is becoming almost unattainable unless you own the land. Public land is over hunted and often not feasible with distance to drive to hunt. I am not sure if this is where we offer opinion on consideration of extending the hunting season and eliminating cross bow hunting in November-leave the season as it is. With the lack of land to hunt making these changes will not improve license sales-young people are not attracted to hunting like it use to-no where to take a young person out to hunt. Bottom line-Wisconsin deer hunting is becoming a sport only land owners may partake in. A lot of my gun hunting is done at For McCoy because that is the only available option and I have been hunting for over 50 years.

Deer are way over hunted as they are chased from early September through January. by the time gun season comes around they are dug in so hard that after the first 2 hours on opening day that you seldom see a deer the rest of the week as they know where to go where they will not be bothered either on land no one can hunt or large properties that are only hunted by a few people who are sitting in stands and not moving around. also after lunch on opening day most hunters quit the season because they know there is only a very slight chance of seeing a deer the rest of the season. after the first 2 hours of the season you w very seldom hear a gun shot the rest of the season. it has been like this for a number of years now. i know because I usually hunt 6 to 7 days during gun season.

Problem starts with your new method of registration NO Tags. All phone in. Anyone can kill a deer and not do your phone in! They do their own cutting up and nobody knows. That deer didn’t get counted by you. I’ve taken deer in to be butchered and all they ask is did you register it. you can say yes and nobody ask for proof. No Tag. I have my own land for many years and have seen a major decline of deer. I have no idea how you come up with counts but you’re way off. New housing editions going up and taking habitat away from wildlife. To bad their flowers and garden get hit, it was wildlife territory long before. More people driving deer are going to get hit. Time you don’t listen to the insurance company. Don’t screw this up. Listen to the people that are in the woods.

The DNR doesn’t have true kill numbers for deer. The online registration while a technology of the times has made it to easy for people to harvest deer without reporting them. This also took away a huge revenue from bars and bait shops for registering deer. So please do ask question concerning local economy. The last two years in my area was the worst I have seen the doe population in the past 7 years. About 60% of the deer were bucks or nubbin bucks. Also the extending of so many deer seasons has started to destroy the history, tradition and excitement of the sport. Deer season use to be cherished. Now the season seems to run for 1/3 of the years. So many of the changes and suggestions I find to be piss poor. Please Try again.

Am retired & bow hunt a lot from Oct.15 till season closes & only seen a total of 19 deer in the extream amount of time I spent in the woods bow hunting. The total kill has dropped off sigenfcenty the last couple years & the DNR tries to blame it on weather instead of the amount of over kill that they continue to support by allowing the excess amount of doe tags to be issued. Another reason it the over kill with the Xbow, seeing that they killed 19% more bucks that the rifle hunters they should be taken out of the bow season & given their own season from Sept. 15 till Oct. 15 or after the rifle season.

I don’t believe we need to sell extra antlerless tags for any season. It should be only one of each sex per tag. For years I’ve seen the deer numbers decline in my area especially in the area we hunt. This opinion is shared by all hunters in the area. I see more bucks then does every year for the last eight years so having a antlerless only season for all would be ridiculous. I’m all about maintaining a healthily deer population but I’m my opinion they are over hunted with bonus tags, even with declining amount of hunters.

For the most part the deer management has been pretty decent…. I think there are opportunities to encourage large land owners to allow hunters to hunt maybe a later season. In this area there are some pretty big tracts of woodland that either doesn’t get hunted or only on a very limited basis. These large tracts end up being sort of a sanctuary and end up holding deer that could have been harvested if they would be pressured to move … Don’t know what incentive would get these lands available but $$$ usually helps.
Would like to see Baiting return with a smaller amount allowed say 1 quart the reason for this is that it stops the deer for a better more humane shot The small amount would not result in multiple they’re feeding on the bait pile..... would like to have you consider something similar to Houston County Minnesota where they only allow bucks to be harvested if they only have four points on one side this again creates a safer hunt And creates a Hunting experience filled with anticipation and hope.

I realize that hunters are probably already harvesting deer in the DMU and Metro Zone in relation to demand but providing additional antler less/bonus tags can’t hurt anything and may actually result in the harvest a few more deer, helping maintain current population levels. My main concern is a lack of testing for CWD in the DMU. I would support MANDATORY TESTING of any deer harvested in DMU townships adjacent to any township in a DMU that had deer testing positive for CWD.

Bad weather, especially on an opening weekend seems to impact harvest numbers considerably. There may need to be a provision to allow some “make‐up” hunting opportunities in early December to overcome these impacts. These opportunities should include the allowance of filling a buck tag, as well as antler-less, as that will generate more interest in hunting. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity to give an opinion.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions and viewpoints. How will having less time to hunt and or less tags available in any way help Ensure hunting traditions can continue with in the great state of Wisconsin? Why do we continue to only have within the gun deer hunt 9 days? Why have we completely changed and gotten rid of back tags? How has getting rid of back tags helped raise the safety and awareness of hunters?

Over the past 8 years or so, If we see more than 2 deer per day, it is a good day (bow hunting or gun hunting). That is hunting all day, not leaving the woods on private land. We still have gun hunting days that we are in the woods all day, and see no deer. We sit, drive, and still hunt. Seeing 2 deer per day is hard to keep the kids interested, but seeing no deer is very frustrating for all of us.

I think that the CDAC should provide as many hunting opportunities as they can without harming the population of our deer. Responsible and considerate harvest of our wildlife resources should be encouraged within legal means. If we can find a way to encourage new hunters to hunt, especially a youth season or a mentor/mentee season, we should do those and have special seasons for new hunters.

Particularly since cross bow season was liberalized to all interested hunters the age structure of antlered deer has noticeably changed for the worse while antler less deer numbers have increased. More antlerless deer need to be harvested to help decrease the opportunity for disease spread and ideally less immature bucks would be removed from the population. Thank you.

Large mature whitetail bucks are in recovery mode at this time of the year. They are very vulnerable to hunting pressure and need food to recover. That makes them patternable to kill late in the year. Sounds like a great situation until that mature buck has lost his antlers and now was harvested as a antlerless! If archery is to be extended make it antlerless only!

Very high concern of over harvesting of doe. Too many special doe hunts and crop damage issuance of same number of tags year after year . Loss of interest by our youth to get into hunting due to the lack of seeing deer. I work for a school district and it is unbelievable how the number of students taking off for deer season has dropped in the last 8 - 10 years.

Cross bows should not be allowed during our bow season,they should only be allowed for handicap hunters,Cross Bows are not Bow Hunting, Personally I feel they should be banned,or if they have to be allowed they need their own season,NOT DURING THE RUT,THEY ARE RUINING BOW HUNTING as a private land owner they are not allowed on my property. Thank you.
This probably does not pertain to CDAC, but they should not eliminate the muzzleloader season because people have a chance to hunt more land because it is after the rifle season and some landowners are more willing to allow hunters to access land. I know I can access more land during the muzzleloader season than I can during the rifle season. Thanks.

Close deer farms to reduce the careless spread of CWD. Provide DNR wardens the authority and directive to enforce trespassing violations. Hunter identification should again be mandatory through required display of "BACK TAG". Removal of the back tag requirement can only lead lead to increased game violations and trespassing.

Too many antlerless. Your responses from public land hunters should reflect that majority hunt within a few hundred yards of roads and private lands and don’t spend much time scouting and preparing for a successful hunt. There are way more deer in the woods than what people think they know. Good luck and make wise decisions.

I don’t think we should extend the season at all, leave it exactly how it is now. Don’t mess with something that could hurt the population with over-hunting. I’ve seen what longer deer season do in other states, and over half the deer in other states I’ve hunted are no bigger than my chocolate lab that’s a year old!

Air rifles have come a long way. I would like WI to be able to allow air rifles that have 150 ft-lbs of energy for harvesting deer. They are extremely accurate, safe, will not damage hearing, and less dangerous at distance. Many states are already utilizing this form of management with great success. Thank you!

Please get rid of choosing public or private for deer tags. Many of us have to hunt public but if I get the chance last minute to hunt private I would feel safer but I have to pre-select for my tag making it hard to change where I’m hunting. I buy a Wisconsin deer hunting license but you limit where my tag is valid.

I personally would like to see baiting allowed again in La Crosse county. I think it helps keep hunters more interested in hunting as most people have a limited amount of time to spend in the woods, and baiting often increases a hunter’s chances of seeing and possibly harvesting more deer.

We have way too many properties that do not hunt and/or allow hunting. The DNR needs to work with landowners to promote hunting and get the deer moving. You can give me all the tags you want but if the only deer I see are on property no one hunts then it’s a waste of everyone’s time.

A lot more deer were killed than what were registered. Ever since we went to online registration I personally know multiple people who don’t even register deer anymore or to even buy a tag. I should be seeing more deer than what I am and I hunt almost everyday of bow/gun season.

I mainly hunt in the La Crosse metro unit which includes the bluffs. I would like to see the education of the public about wearing blaze orange during the gun deer season, also limit the number of dogs off of leashes. I saw plenty of deer getting chased by dogs in 2019.

I would like to see the seasons to stay the same deer hunting is a tradition in the state of Wisconsin and should remain at nine days season during Thanksgiving week and I think both seasons should remain the same whether you using the vertical or crossbow.

I would like to see where if a holiday hunt is held again, bow buck tags still remain valid during that time. With all the "anterless hunts" that go on in Dec, it makes it very difficult to find time to hunt with a bow and fill a buck tag. Thank you.

Myself and all my other hardcore bow hunters usually shoot a doe within the first month of season before the rut. That leaves us hanging during that damn holiday hunt when we have off work for the holidays to shoot a buck during a possible late rut.
I hunt for food alone. Outside of the various hunting seasons I think very little about animal populations or the factors that affect them. I trust in the DNR to use the information they gather and their expertise to manage the deer population.

I hunt Van Loon wildlife area, 1st by duck hunting and then archery deer, had a lot of high water, lots of ducks but few deer for 2019, where do they go I don’t know but the few deer that were around I only witnessed a few tracks.

I think private land within the metro zone especially has too high of a deer population density. I like seeing the deer but they are browsing down too much forage which just causes too many invasive species to thrive.

Kill numbers were down because of the weather this past year. That is the only thing that hurt the hunt. I heard a bunch of explanations, but the weather plays a HUGE role in the harvest numbers.

Crossbow should be during gun hunting. It is more like a gun than bow. Many gun hunters are becoming discouraged because crossbow hunters are killing to many trophy bucks before the gun season.

I personally liked Earn a buck. I think the mature buck ratio has gone down since it was removed. I think that program provided good herd management and balance. Bring back Earn a buck!

Need program to link hunters to private landowner who would like antlerless deer shot. Some type of incentive program to increase private land antlerless harvest.

Open the muzzleloader season to hunting with center fire handguns. Same effective range as a muzzle loader and more incentive for hunters to continue their season.

2019 deer hunt did not see any mature Bucks and deer population was less than previous years so encouraging the deer population to result in more “shooter” bucks.

I am interested in opportunities to reduce the spread of CWD northward, a sustainable deer population with broad Age structure, an opportunity at a mature buck.

In La Crosse County in the public land the deer over browsing it’s out-of-control I think we should focus on these areas to help get the forest back to normal.

Live in a condo area and people have feeders out for birds but are frequented by deer and the deer are causing excessive damage to a lot of trees and shrubs.

I believe that some sort of tagging need to brought back. It is very important to me as a land owner that all deer are registered and accounted for.

The crossbow season should be shortened and should be limited to those over the age of 50 or those who are disabled or have a note from a physician.

Limit the number of antlered deer to one per year. If you harvest a buck with a bow, you cannot harvest another with a gun/muzzleloader.

I think we should consider a longer gun deer season maybe of 2 weeks to give everyone a better chance to harvest deer.

About time for 1 doe tag & 4 deer tags to apply for party tag again. Heard is in worst shape than it was in the 60's!

Limiting crossbow season while extending regular bow seasons or having special archery hunts would be a good thing.

Why is the La crosse metro unit not shotgun only. Rifles should not be allowed in this zone for safety reasons.

I would be in favor of limiting crossbows. I would prefer returning to needing an exemption to use a crossbow.

Crossbow for elderly, disabled, children, or can’t shoot a bow. More food left on public lands like Iowa does

I think this area can safely carry more deer. Would love to see buck hunting only allowed every other year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4952</td>
<td>I believe the county CDAC is doing a good job and thinking of all the aspects when setting numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4953</td>
<td>I think there should be a longer gun deer hunt and start it a week earlier like Minnesota.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4954</td>
<td>Eliminate youth hunt, bring families back together but hunting the traditional old seasons!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4955</td>
<td>Do not have earn a buck that will cost you hunters and land available for hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>not enough public permits and too much private land not available to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4957</td>
<td>I wonder how much underreporting is occurring since the switch from in-person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4958</td>
<td>Extend the gun deer season into muzzleloader season if the quota wasn’t met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4959</td>
<td>Traditionally keep late season bow/crossbow extended to January 31st.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4960</td>
<td>Take away extending seasons. Put the back the way they were in 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4961</td>
<td>I feel strongly that hunters should be able to start baiting again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4962</td>
<td>Seems to be too many seasons and very few deer over the past decade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4963</td>
<td>start the gun deer season earlier and make it last into January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4964</td>
<td>my opinion is to leave the hunting season the same 9 day season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4965</td>
<td>Antlers have become to important to hunters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4966</td>
<td>Do not extend the deer season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 97
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 57
   - I hunt in this unit: 217
   - General interest in this unit: 43

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 208
   - Bow: 133
   - Crossbow: 75
   - Muzzleloader: 64

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 21.62
   - Maximum: 60

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 22
   - Fewer: 71
   - Same: 102
   - More: 20
   - Many More: 11
   - Unsure: 3

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

229 forms were submitted for this unit.
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT : 106 103 20
If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 129 73 27
If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 27 184 18
If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  
Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020  Lafayette, Southern Farmland
Lafayette County, as far as deer hunting success goes, is a textbook example of 'have' vs. 'have not'. If you have forested land on or near the place at which you hunt, you're more than likely going to have (at least) an opportunity to harvest a deer. If you're surrounded by fields, chances are that your hunt will be less successful. As someone who is fortunate to own land with forests and pastures, I see the damage caused by the deer herd first hand. The woods are struggling to regenerate. While I am extremely fortunate to have mature oak, walnut, hickory, and other species, I do see a disturbing lack of young trees. The 4-8 deer I see *every* day browse saplings to nubs, carry Lyme disease carrying ticks onto our property, and make it easier for invasive vegetation to spread. With all of that being said, I believe Lafayette County, the DNR, and all hunters (especially those in southern farmland units) need to get serious about controlling deer populations. There is no reason to manage deer as some limited resource that needs conservative quotas to 'ensure the future of hunting'. Rather, I would argue, the deer population needs to be reduced drastically. I would love for the return of Earn-A-Buck, expanded hunting seasons across the board, and making available unlimited antlerless tags. In fact, I believe that, in certain areas of the county, a spring antlerless hunt should be opened up for an even more effective means of population control. Realistically, those with Ag-Damage tags can already hunt, why not help these farmers (who are likely busy with other ag-related work) by allowing 2 or 3 weekend hunts? It would allow hunters to get into the woods after a winter spent cooped up indoors and it would be more effective in keeping deer populations in check than the fall hunt. I realize the spring hunt will likely not happen. That's why, in order to maintain the herd in Lafayette County, we need to maximize the opportunity for hunters in the fall. We need to allocate more non-resident tags (I would offer 1,500 as a minimum), make available as many resident tags as needed, and we need to allow longer seasons for bow and crossbow alongside expanding the gun-hunt to 19 days, keeping the antlerless and holiday hunt as an option for those who wish to participate. We saw extended bow season having but a minuscule effect on the total number of harvested animals so there is, statistically, absolutely no negative effects of allowing bow hunters in the woods for that extended season. The Lafayette County CDAC did a good thing last year by maximizing the hunting opportunity for all. Please, at a minimum, do the same this year. Prioritize hunting opportunity. Do this through extended seasons, a holiday hunt, antlerless only hunts, and by increasing the quota.
I believe the Antlerless quota of 4000 is high when there was only 1362 reported to be harvested. Also, bonus antler less tags of 2000 is also high. If a hunter is given 1 free tag with each weapon (archery/crossbow, gun) that would be a good amount for free tags. Then it might drive more people to buy bonus tags if they truly want to harvest another deer, also hopefully make a little profit from that. With that being said, I don't think the deer numbers are enough to actually harvest 4000. With the decreasing fawn to doe ratio does not seem like a good thing to try and harvest more antlerless deer, plus loosing fawns mostly during the summer due to predation. I also took into consideration of deer vehicle collisions going up last 4 years, I believe it has to do with just the fact there are more people on the roads during the year. But I also would like to mention the relationship between total number of bucks harvested vs antlerless harvested since 2006. The bucks has stayed pretty consistent threw the years. But the antlerless has fallen off. I truly believe it is because people will register a buck kill but not a antlerless deer. I can't remember the year it switched from having to go somewhere and registering your harvest to doing it online but I think it is around the same time the big decrease is in the total number harvested. So I think there are some buck harvest that go un registered, but there are many antlerless deer un registered. I am opposed of having a Holiday Hunt (Antlerless only) because I don't think the deer numbers are where they where when I first started hunting. Also, some bucks loose their horns during that time. I heard of a few people just in my area shot bucks that thought they were does during that time. Also looking at trail camera pictures, I get many bucks starting to shed where I hunt during that time. One other thing I would like to see go away is party hunting for a few reasons. I believe it is dangerous since the entire state can use rifles. Lots of very small bucks, that people might think are does get shot. But also I have noticed from experience, neighbors are pushing their woods then deer come out and run through where I am hunting and disturb other deer in that area. All of those deer run off and out of sight for the remainder of the day. The last point is most deer are not shot and killed with an ethical shot. Many deer have to be shot multiple times or not even recovered. That is waist the tasty venison!

Ok, i will admit that i did not take the questionnaire to serious. All i really wanted to do was get to this point. I know from hunting for 22 years that our doe population is to high and the tradition of the 9 day gun season is gone. As a hunter that practices QDM having to many doe makes harvesting and even growing world class bucks very hard. As a father that's teaching my girls the traditions of the Wisconsin 9 day gun season, i am finding it harder to keep them interested in comparison to my father teaching me. Below are three small things from the past that i think could rejuvenate the Wisconsin Deer hunter, and help with population control. Earn a buck tag- This was awesome! It really helped the Doe population, made hunters get out and push deer around if they wanted to fill there tags and freezers. Harvesting a doe during the archery season would work to get a buck tag that could be used with archery/ gun. Earn a buck does not apply to archery season. As it is hard enough to harvest a deer with your bow. traditional 9 day season- This is how every hunter in my generation grew up hunting! This meant, everyone got together like it was a holiday and hunted hard for 9 straight days. Know everyone half assed everything because there will be another season, or a nicer day, so i don't out of bed or sit in the cold. Thats just not what hunting is about. IMHO. No more online or over the phone registration- who knows how many deer go unregistered with the new rules. Not to mention all the small town restaurants- bars that lost a lot of business. It was quite a tradition in Blanchardville-Argyle- Hollandale to shoot a deer and run it in to town to register get breakfast and tell stories. Some of my best memories as a kid were getting eggs with my dad at Husies and telling all the old timers about the buck my dad or i shot. i hope this finds someone well thank you for your time.
This year, 2020, is only 2 days earlier start than last year. This year Nov 21st vs last year Nov 23. Its going to be another down year as far as kill counts for the 9 day hunt. Get rid of the doe only Dec 4 day hunt and the holiday hunt. This county for sure does NOT need them. Noone even goes out for them. Deer numbers are absolutely nowhere near what you report. Its getting ridiculous with your numbers that you come out with. Absolutely do not extend the 9 day to the 19 day hunt that was proposed. Here's what I do... And every single person I know does. I have cameras. I target 1 buck a year. Hes usually target buck til I get him or someone else does. I shoot does every single year up to as many as I know I can eat and that's it. Im not going to go out and kill deer just to kill deer. Im after 1 buck and whether I get him with the bow I will not shoot one with the gun. In my opinion every single hunter state wide should be allowed 1 buck per year. Up to you what weapon you shoot him with. I would also like to see an antler size put in. 4 on each side for people 18 and older. Let the deer experience life and mature before being mercilessly killed. You think this will deter hunters from participating and I 100% guarantee you it will bring more hunters out than it will deter. I know guys who quit because everyone just shoots the 1st thing they see. You guys give us free doe tags to use. No reason to be shooting small yearling and 1 1/2 year old bucks except for kids. Make it about the sport not the kill.

I've been hunting deer for over 40 years in Lafayette county. There has been alot of changes in those years from a 3 day hunt, to buck only, shotgun only and taking 8 buck tags sent in to get a doe tag. Years ago land was posted so you knew where you could hunt, now they don't have to post their ground so not knowing who owns it hard to ask. A lot of big acre farmers now. Season was short so alot of hunters out got the deer moving. We use to set up drives that got them moving. Now people sit that goes back to not knowing who owns the land we can hunt on. In my opinion season too long need people out at same time. Opening day is pretty good but after that if weather is cold people will wait a couple days. I like the holiday hunt to get out hopefully with snow on the ground but I don't see why just antlerless. Trying to keep deer population down so I'd think all deer should be harvested. CWD control in my opinion should be done by the DNR picking up road kill and testing them, this way can narrow down where it is most common. I travel alot during the week thru Wisconsin and see alot of road kill that are not removed. Just an opinion from an old deer hunter.

We process our own venison and are concerned about CWD. We harvested 2 deer and spent several hours looking for a place to have our deer tested for the disease. We went to Yellowstone Lake where they have collected in past years and there was no testing. The DNR website was vague on resources available to hunters to get testing done. We finally called and talked to someone who told us there was only 1 testing site in our area and that was about an hour's drive away. This most definitely had an impact on the number of deer we decided to harvest. Had we had easier access to good testing we would have taken at least another 3 animals. It is also disheartening to me that our deer herd is at a "maintain" level, which I agree with, yet we have neighbors who get many ag or crop damage tags and kill many does, effecting our deer population. I would support cost sharing for high fence to prevent damage, but not handing out a fist full of ag tags effecting all of us. In many cases ag tags are being abused, not as a tool to prevent damage, but to fill freezers.

Just my thought on the harvest numbers from 2019. I don't believe that extending the gun deer season or having any other special hunt will bring up the kill numbers up. What i can tell you is that if u do extend the gun season at all, the license sales will drop more. I do believe that the numbers are down due to a lot of passionate hunters being more selective on what and how many deer they kill for many different reasons. Like myself that has hunted every year for the last 28 years in the same area and actually study the herds. Not just fly over in the middle winter and see 50 deer in a group and say that's too many for 1 area. Then turn around and try to add a holiday hunt or something stupid like that. That is probably every deer for 5 miles in every direction. Us hunters have put the time, effort and money into keeping the population up. Leave the 9 day season alone and get rid of all the extra seasons. Otherwise there will be 4 less archery licenses and 3 less gun licenses in my house alone not to mention all the other hunter I've talked to.
I do not agree with extending the hunting season. I think if you are looking to take more deer, you should go back to the old days. Automatic two buck tags and two doe tags. When you register one, you could make it an option to give more depending on the zone. Due to land constriction in most areas, some people only ever see bucks, some only ever see does. I can count on two hands and the amount of bucks I witnessed on camera. All hunting season we only saw a handful of the same does whether it was in person or on camera. I think we need to do something to open up land to be able to be hunted. Where it’s a tax break for landowners or something. There is property I know of in Lafayette and Dane County that have over 400-600 acres that no one is allowed to touch for any kind of hunting. You want more deer harvested, open up the state parks to more tags too.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. With that being said, CWD is a very real concern to me. Not only from a consumption standpoint but also for my passion for this amazing resource that we’re tasked with managing and responsible for protecting. I ask you to please take this disease seriously if not for yourselves but for future generations. I also want to thank you for once again offering the holiday hunt and the extended archery/crossbow season. I’m very appreciative of this season as it’s a great time to hunt with friends and family. This additional opportunity also allows those who weren’t previously successful and those who want to harvest more deer the opportunity to do so. With that being said, I fully support and thank you for preliminary recommending the holiday hunt and the extended archery season.

One of the major issues that contributes to the quality of public land hunts during the archery season is the small game hunters (squirrel/pheasants). I experience this on several public properties but Yellowstone in particular. We will hike 2 miles back to get away from everyone just to have bird hunters come through at 4pm. I am all for sharing public land with anyone that wants to be outside but during the rut when guys take off for vacation, I don’t think it’s unreasonable to close small game hunting by 2pm so that bow hunters can at least have the evening sits to themselves. I myself am a pheasant hunter and they have my full support but a bow hunter never screws up any of the bird hunters or squirrels hunters so I believe it’s fair to close the woods to them at 2pm, at least during the rut.

The public opinion is opposed to having the holiday hunt. In 2019, the CDAC voted FOR the holiday hunt. They are supposed to represent the public, but instead went against the public for no certain reason. We should not have a holiday or extend archery season. This is a time where people need to try other types of hunting such as small game and pheasant hunting. It seems as if everyone is just set on deer hunting. Onto another subject. The buck to doe ratio in the county is horribly skewed, and the quality and quantity of bucks is not there. The CDAC and DNR need to do more about improving the buck to doe ratio and the quality of the bucks. We do not need to increase deer numbers, but we should work to improve the deer herd health.

I live in Lafayette County where County Road G meets Hwy 23 North. We have few deer here in the block of County G, O’Niel Rd to King Rd. This area has been over hunted and deer travel corridors taken out by farmers that once connected abundant herds and habitat. Also DNR keeps handing out crop damage tags to my neighbor like candy canes and he slaughters the deer - I once was able to hunt and have my choice of a nice buck from this area every deer season. Now I have to try and find another property to hunt due to the reasons above - in my opinion Southern Unit needs to be broken up into sub units to manage deer more locally instead of lumping the numbers all as one unit.

Hunters cannot seem to kill enough deer each year. There are too many deer being killed by autos and not enough harvested by hunters. I have a suggestion as to how to increase the deer hunting kill and decrease the number of automobile deer fatalities! I propose that the insurance companies and the DNR, in concert, put in play a bounty/bonus program that would pay hunters to shoot more doe. This would save the insurance companies a substantial sum of money and allow hunters to harvest more deer. Thus also reducing the deer population and auto repairs! The amount of each bounty/bounty would be determined by the DNR and insurance companies! Your Thoughts?
4980 Why don’t you have the muzzleloader season in place of the worthless holiday hunt. The current muzzleloader season falls directly behind the gun deer season. The deer in Lafayette county are very pressured deer. They need time to settle back down and they are easier to pattern as they are going from food to bedding. I as a landowner get tired of patrolling my property for tress-passers during a time when you have morons out shooting does..look At Iowa and the trophy opportunities that they have compared to Wisconsin.

4981 I would like to see a 2:00pm daily closer for pheasant hunting on public land for a two week period during rut. I am a archery hunter and pheasant hunter but as archery hunters take vacation walk sometimes over a mile set up only to have their hunt ruined by two guys and a dog, this has happened to me and fellow hunters on numerous occasions, please consider this option as it is used on other public land where waterfowl is abundant, thanks and I do appreciate letting the public have input.

4982 I do not like the use of crossbows during the deer rut that should only be open for archery season hunting, last week of October through end of November excluding the deer gun season. I feel crossbow hunting should have a shorter set season separate from archery, &/or allowed use with bonus antlerless tag only to cut numbers in high deer populated areas. I would be okay with wounded veterans that cannot draw a minimal pound bow to use a crossbow during the entire archery season.

4983 Leave the hunting regulations to 1 buck and 1 doe per hunter per season. Continually changing of the regulations is driving hunter out. These confusing regulations and the fines that follow a hunters mistake are not worth the headaches for some. Bring back the 3 day wait to hunt after purchasing a liscens. Bring back the registration stations. Enforce tags to accompany game to processors and taxidermist. Anyone can kill and still have the animal processed with out question.

4984 I hunt in north East Lafayette county near the Pecatonica River. I found three small bucks dead, probably year and a half olds. I also found two antlerless dead. I could not tell how they died. They were all close to a miles worth of proximity. It was fairly alarming. I strongly believe in raising the cost for non-residents to hunt in our beautiful state, substantially. It will help pay for the cost of CWD. A hunter friendly CWD test would be nice.

4985 I have lived in and hunted this unit for many years. Last year was by the far the fewest amount of deer that I have personally seen. Reminded me of hunts in the mid 1990's. The areas we hunted had a lot of standing/surrounding water, and a lot of crops (mainly corn) were still up. I would like to see a Buck harvest, however, if the data supports an antlerless only hunt, or a large antlerless quota, I am on board.

4986 If testing for CWD was more available and results more timely we would shoot more deer. Without testing many family members will not eat the venison. We process our own and do like to eat it. During the 2019 hunt our family only harvested 2 deer. There was 5 of us hunting last year with the opportunity to harvest many more. If more convenient testing was available we probably would have harvested at least 6 deer.

4987 I would like to see the county be on a antler point restriction. This area of WI is capable of producing large numbers of large bucks. The antler point restriction would decrease the demand for someone to shoot small bucks for the sake of shooting a deer. Having those people shoot a doe. This will help maintain the overall population and keeping the Buck to Doe population at a better level.

4988 CWD is a definite problem and needs attention and solutions. However, there are too many deer tags for one hunter, And there are too many gun seasons. It doesn’t seem to be an effective way to manage deer health problems, is more dangerous, interferes with other hunting, etc. we need encouragement of hunting from the broader population and a focus on alternative mitigation practices for CWD.

4989 I don’t believe crossbow’s should be allowed during the archery season that precedes the gun season, unless an individual is over 65 or has a disability. Too many deer were harvested in our immediate area with crossbow during the early archery season. Many archery hunters have switched from a bow to a crossbow to improve their harvest success rate.
Please do not hold the holiday hunt due to conflicts with other family recreational interests at this time of year. Even if we choose not to hunt, we do not want to interrupt the neighbors while they are hunting season. Also, the harvest of about 90 deer in 2019 shows that this season is not an effective population control measure.

I do not support a longer hunting season or a holiday hunt. The deer numbers were down from what I’ve seen and people I’ve talked to. It’s too much of a sport for people, killing just to kill. It would be nice to build up the population. Late harvest and late season had some effect but I don’t think people need more tags.

I think there are too many deer in the area and I realize that over last 5 years they have eliminated all fence lines, small patches, and other general bedding areas outside of the timber, I think Holiday Hunt should be eliminated. I also think predators are playing a role in the decrease of population.

I would like you to consider eliminating the use of crossbows during the archery season. We would like to see crossbow use be limited to a disabled permit holder. We are seeing a significant loss of young bow hunters with the availability of the crossbow and scopes being used during a primitive weapon season.

My recommendation is to promote more coyote season hunts to reduce the fast growing predator population and increase the deer herd. I also would like to see an antlerless only season one year to create some real trophy buck opportunity. In turn the DNR can then justify raising the nonresident tag cost.

Please consider a 2:00 closure for pheasant season during peak rut, I hunt pheasant and deer but on several occasions had my archery hut obscured by pheasant hunters after taking vacation and walking sometimes over a mile to get set up, Thank you for allowing my opinion.

When you see very few deer during a season, it seems senseless to increase the number of harvest tags. Only seen 3 deer on opening day and 6 deer total for the gun season. Our property borders state hunting grounds and shooting was down drastically in this area.

I would like to see the muzzle loader season moved up and start the end of October into the 1st part of November. Make this a separate tag there by increasing license revenue while providing more opportunity for the non bow hunter to participate in the rut.

Extra bow seasons is a waste of time unless you are a land owner and are able to plant food plots and pattern them. Not fair for people who hunt land that food plots can't be planted. And drags the season out to the point people get sick of deer hunting.

I think you guys have a tendency to over-analyze everything. Let's stick with tradition. Bow/Crossbow hunting and the nine-day gun hunt. That's it! Stop this holiday hunt, youth hunt, and every other stupid idea you guys come up with.

The program that has worked to reduce deer numbers in the past was Earn-A-Buck. Lets go to work on our elected officials to bring it back selectively in certain counties or zones. Thanks for the work you do CDACs!

Youth hunt= yes... extended archery/crossbow= yes... 9 day gun hunt= yes...muzzleloader=yes.... No holiday hunt, no antlerless only.. more free antlerless tags for archery/crossbow and firearms season

I completely agree with Lafayette CDAC and their recommendation to keep the season structure similar as 2019. Please increase public lands bonus permits to ensure they do not sell out. Thank you.

Eliminate the holiday hunt people are traveling and getting together with family and not out hunting. Look at the data does it still support a holiday hunt. How many does are actually harvested

Get rid of the holiday hunt and extended bow season. 89 deer killed in the holiday hunt. Not even worth having. The deer numbers are not out there like the DNR says.

I am 63 years old this year and I have used a crossbow the last 6 years and I hope you don't shorten the season. I heard you might shorten it? I'm not for it.
I would strongly prefer more options for comment and input about the schedule. Specifically I would like to see the Gun Deer Season start sooner.

I support all types of hunting it is about being in the outdoors what ever weapon you use should not matter thanks

The holiday hunt had very limited deer harvested so I question why have one. It didn’t achieve the goal of increasing deer taken.

Could you continue the archery hunting during the Holiday Antler-less hunt, allowing bow archers to kill antlered deer?

Allowing tree stand to be premitted in this section. It is unsafe to put up and take down stand in the dark to hunt.

I would like to see the gun hunting season start date be similar to Michigan and start the season on the 15th November

I would like to see the season go to a split season. I think you would get more hunters out and get the deer moving.

My only additional comment is there continues to be a large number of does observed on the private lands that I hunt.

I feel that the ability and availability of crossbows is adversely impacting the ACTUAL archery season tremendously.

I would like the 9 day season extended to a 16 day rather Than all of the extra hunts

Needs to be more push to dimish coyote population. They are hard on the deer herd

Please STOP changing things every year. Its driving more people out of the woods!

Get rid of the crossbows unless you’re disabled or under 65 years old

If a doe only season were put in place we will hunt another deer unit.

I like the Holiday. It provides more opportunities to hunt

No longer gun season 9 days is ENOUGH !!

Earn a buck and antler restrictions

No 2 weeks firearms deer season !
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

545 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 186
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 146
   - I hunt in this unit: 515
   - General interest in this unit: 82

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 498
   - Bow: 256
   - Crossbow: 227
   - Muzzleloader: 186

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.99
   - Maximum: 70

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 201
   - Mostly Private Land: 74
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 92
   - Mostly Public Land: 47
   - Exclusively Public Land: 90
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 11

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 15
   - Not too crowded: 70
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 57
   - Somewhat crowded: 83
   - Very crowded: 70
   - Not applicable: 8

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 147
   - Fewer: 180
   - Same: 157
   - More: 39
   - Many More: 10
   - Unsure: 12

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My grandpa’s land is in Langlade country. His land borders right next to Shawano county. Now last year the antlerless tags given in Shawano were 6 and yet no free tags were given in Langlade. My Day my grandpa and I have discussed this topic about why we see so many does and there offspring of that year throughout the hunting season. We believe this is the answer. We know that purchasable tags are allowed for Langlade (1500 I believe). But we think that is not enough. We find it very annoying how the border right next to us gives out SIX antlerless tag and right to the north you believe that the deer population needs to be maintained so you sell antlerless tags not give them for free with your purchase of buck harvest. This is not my most upsetting point however. When I was too young to carry a gun I would hunt with my dad, just sit in his stand with him, but I remember ever single year he would come out with an sizable buck (8 pointers with good spread) my dad has agreed with me as well. This was around the years of 2006-2012. My grandparents also have four head mounts of 150 class buck that came out of that land in the early 2000’s I believe you guys say that the deer population was low around that and even if it was I don’t care because the quality was superb. I was able to hunt in 2014 and got a spiker, fine for a first buck, and then next year an nice traditional 8 pointer in the youth hunt but that would be the last time I ever saw a buck. For four seasons with as many hours as I could on stand I would never see an antler. My dad only seen 1 small scrap rack and my grandma with 2 1/2 year old buck. This with all we got in four years of hunting what used to be prime land. My point is that from our stand point you guys are always worried about the population, which is important I get it, but you also need the ratio of the deer to have a quality deer herd. I know you guys know this but it’s hard to believe you enact it. The population may actually be too high in my opinion because this last season I kept track of the deer I saw. Knowing some were definitely repeats my numbers were 41 antlerless deer and 0 bucks. That does not seem like a healthy population to me. The deer were always one medium sized doe with one or two or even three very small does or maybe antlerless bucks with them. Not only is there an overwhelming number of does but my dad said that years ago you used to see big does and now it seems like there all the same size. Small. Now obviously the deer are reproducing to get this high population but if they are it can’t be big healthy genetic bucks doing it because we obviously would have seen them being that four people are on that land throughout the summer (not hunting deer) and bow and gun season. Please come up with a way to maintain the population AND a healthy ratio between the deer. My dad said you guys used to do a buck/doe tag. He said if you didn’t see a buck that you wanted to harvest you would shoot a doe and then the tag would be filled. This in my opinion would be a great way for hunters to not be forced to shoot a buck to get meat in the fridge. Leaving some bucks to grow a little is needed to bring back the healthy land we used to hunt.
First of all I would like to thank the committee for their work on trying to maintain a health deer herd in Langlade County. My job with the WI DOT requires me to keep records of all winter storms in Langlade Co. this year we had over 90 inches of snow fall and with the three rain falls we had this year we had one of the densest snow packs in a long time making it nearly impossible for the deer to paw through and very easy for predators to run down deer. I also understand a late opener can bring down the gun harvest but down over 40% is excessive. Another thing to take into consideration is that the car deer kill was down 35% in Langlade Co. from 2018 to 2019 there was only one year in the last ten years that there were fewer car deer collisions. In the areas that I hunt I have noticed a steady decline of mature bucks witch in my opinion is do to the underestimating of are winters the amount of predation by bear, coyote, wolf and bobcat and the extra hunting pressure. (bow, crossbow,gun,muzzleloader,Tzone,back to archery). I also think not having to tag your deer has resulted in people getting there deer home and not registering it. In my opinion as high as 15-20%. All these things considered I believe have lead us to over estimate the herd in Langlade Co. A health herd is a well balanced herd buck to doe as well as age class. Langlade Co. is going in the wrong direction when it comes to age class and i think the buck herd in general will fallow that same decline as the mature bucks have. The second thing I would hope the committee would reconsider is the support of an eradication zone in another county without first talking to that county's CDAC committee. A vote to support whatever decision that county made would have been a much wiser choice. Eradication has not worked in the south and will not work here if all the people in the eradication zone are on board and even if you could eradicate the head in that area the DNR has told us that prions live in the soil for years so once deer come back they can be affected again. Is the DNR prepared to buy up all this land and maintain a fence around it the way they have with some deer farms!! If they want to combat CWD start where it is coming from DEER FARMS!! and not destroy our herd. Thanks again for your time and commitment to Langlade County's Deer Herd.

BRING BACK BAITING TO SAVE THE SPORT!! With all other options for today's youth, if they do not see a deer, they will have no interest! They in turn will not hunt as adults and not teach their children to continue the sport. These deer have just as much as a chance to get CWD off of twigs and farm fields as they do on any bait being put down. Not to mention adults lick their young! Adult deer go nose to nose with other adult deer! Your killing interest of thousands of people! Part of the most exciting aspect is putting out bait for them to eat and look at pictures of what's coming in! No one wants to go freeze their butt off week after week in hopes a deer might get close enough to shoot with a bow. They have no reason to come to you and will keep distance without reason! To say it's ok for private land owners to add food plots in their backyard but then tell the ones that don't have their own private land that we can not put anything out to attract deer is ridiculous. So deer won't get CWD on private land but will on public? It doesn't make sense. Our group of 32 will not hunt Langlade county due to unfair restrictions put on public hunters! Your numbers are not down due to the timing of the season. They are down because people are no longer hunting. Why? WI DNR has taken all the fun out of it. Don't you overlook the transportation of wildlife into the fenced hunting areas? Isn't that where this disease started? So essentially the DNR allowed this into our area. And now all hunters have there “rules” due to this? Yet deer farms are still going, single fenced?! Let your mistake run it's corse at this point. Why punish us?! Less kills mean more infected deer to roam on and spread to others. A baited deer that gets shot won't be able to spread it to other deer for another year. Your going about this backwards, and killing the hunting future right along with it!
We find hunting to be horrible since the baiting ban. We just bought property in Langlade County only to find out the ban was extended two more years because another deer was found on a game farm land far away with wasting disease. We are in fact so disappointed with the baiting ban in the way it is being implemented we firmly believe this is a money-making racketeer put on by the DNR since they do not have to share the money with any other agencies. We have contacted both local and National media to try to bring attention to this fraud on the hunters. Being very experienced just a few miles away in Michigan, we have found baiting ban to lower the number of licensed sales, increase the number of deer being hit by car and increase the number of deer that are exposed to the disease. So it is crystal clear that Wisconsin DNR is doing this on purpose for the millions of dollars in baiting fines are collecting every year. The deer kill in Langlade county in our area was down over 50% and I know in the County hole it was down 43%. This state requires baiting for a good deer kill! As long as you’re scamming your people you will not receive near as many license sales and the deer are going to overrun your state. We are going to not purchase any more licenses or do any more hunting until the baiting ban has been lifted. Nobody’s going to drive miles and miles and travel to your state to not see deer. Wisconsin will suffer with higher and higher deer numbers every year and less and less amount of hunters but I guess the four million dollars in fines charged to the four people that own land in your state and their hunters oh, I guess you guys will make some money either way.

I listened to the entire video and not once did he mention the bad storm in July of 2019 where it knocked down 1/3 of the forest in the northern zones!! It was next time impossible to hunt and most people did not even venture into the woods as it was a complete jungle. It was next to impossible and impassable to walk through that most guys opted out of the gun hunt. I was hunting the crossbow season from Halloween through Thanksgiving which is suppose to be the rut. Well, I don’t think the rut ever really happened as I only seen one buck chasing a doe in that period and I hunted hard morning and evenings everyday. The gun hunt was way down due to no one trying to get to their stands cuz it was impossible and if you would shoot a deer then good luck finding it or dragging it out with the 1,000,000 trees down. How many deer died from the storm??? No one will ever know and no one will ever know how many guys that bought tags did not even venture into the woods. I sat all day gun hunting off hwy “U” in the lower post lake area and maybe heard 6 shots all day and only one close!!! What does that tell you? No deer cuz nobody out hunting them cuz of the very poor conditions!! Crossbows take more deer cuz you opened it up to anyone that wants to own one. I have a disability but that doesn’t matter anymore and I definitely don’t think you should change the season as the way it has been set up for years works. And please stop making the antlerless hunts during the rut when we’re trying to bag a trophy. Keep the doe hunts till after the gun seasons So, in a nutshell, the season in Langlade was way down due to the nasty storm of a lifetime!!

Started hunting age 16, in 1966. It was fun than because there was a healthy deer herd with many and most of them harvested where bucks. We could penetrate the woods, STAYING ON LOGGING ROADS, with our vehicles to set up sitting stands and for driving. Now after a area is logged county and STATE, block off the woods with dirt berms, boulders or gates. The DNR has lost hunters interest with nolonger the large numbers of hunters to move the deer around. You make road hunters out of those who continue to hunt. A deer can get kicked up, run 300 yds and than not even know its gun season. Lucky you here 5 shots on opening day, unlike years leading up to yr 2000, within 20-40 mins. the woods was full of deer and hunters, either seeing another hunter, gun shots or deer. Deer were moved around. DNR make it known that you NOW cater to the forestry and logging industry over the hunter. If you care about the OLE Wisconsin traditional deer hunt than take a look back at and the way it was and the changes you have made the last 20yrs. for the worse. Give us our deer herd back and give us vehicle access to our tax funded land. Publish hunter watch dog for those who tear up the woods, off of a logging road with a heavy fine. When its time to log, let the loggers come in with a cat and level the road, they can do there part as well. BUT I highly doubt that what I proposed would ever be considered. Coming down to the DNR saying they have the hunters interest and concerns but will do as they please and submit to the higher powers of the forestry and logging industry.
I’ve been hunting county land my whole life in northern Langlade county and we’ve been hunting with a zero antlerless quota for years. I supported this for a long time believing it would bring the population back but I’m not so sure anymore. We and all the neighbors that hunt the same land have not shot does for about 10 years with the hope for an increased population and have not seen the population get better. I do see deer. I normally have about half a dozen does and 2 or 3 scrub bucks yearly. Occasional decent buck that only shows his face at night. But it’s been that way for all my years hunting there. My mind has shifted to predators and rough winters being a reason. I’ve personally seen wolves where I hunt. Reports of mountain lion by locals but never laid my eyes on one. Winter can’t be changed but predators can. I FULLY support a wolf season to come back. Also... considering I don’t get an open line to communicate very often, I feel I should say this on here. I am wondering why I have to wait 11 years for a bear tag in this area? There’s been nights bow hunting in September I’ve seen 6 different bears. I like a healthy population of black bear and don’t feel they effect the deer herd. But at the same time, I may only get a couple bear tags in my life in the area I love to hunt. Wish I could see that number get better and be able to get my young kids some opportunities! Thank you!

Wisconsin needs to become a lottery state as far as hunting is concerned. The southern and south west part of the state I feel deer numbers are higher than in the northern part. With all the proposed rules coming in I feel that it would do more harm than good. Adding more time to the rifle season would be devestating to the deer population. As it is now, after opening weekend of gun season the deer don’t move. More deer are killed during that week of gun season than all of bow season. I would go as far to say in certain parts of the state to take away gun season for a year or two and extend muzzle loader. Also, I definitely don’t want a "quiet period" the week before gun season. For the northern half of the state that is usually peak rut time, most of us bow hunters would miss out in the peak rut. If too many people are complaining that "their deer" are shot during bow season, they can possibly invest in a bow. There are several different types of bows for everyone to use. People don’t need to solely rely on gun season. I have hunted Wisconsin all my life and have never really complained as to how the seasons were ran. These new rules possibly coming into play are not good at all. Everyone I spoke too about these rules did not like them either. I would definitely listen to everyone commenting on these and take them into serious consideration. Thank you

Need to split unit into public / private units. or north and south if that is easier. On the video you said that data shows that people are hunting more on public and that is why more deer shot on public. My opinion is that logic is incorrect. Less hunting on public is because THERE ARE NO DEER. I saw more wolves this year than deer. Wolf - 1, deer - 0. Last year in 7 days I saw 1 bear and 1 deer. That was hunting for 7 days on 14 different square mile sections of public. The low number of deer is disgusting. I know that the land can support more deer. My kids won’t hunt with us any more because they went 3 years in a row without seeing a deer and while hunting hard. The 7 deer that live on all the public land in the northwest converge on several bait piles. One of our 10 guys shot a buck this year and another last year. Bellies were full of corn. What that means to me (I don’t bait) is that I need to find the baiter and hunt near him or I will not see a deer. I find the deer piles during bird hunting easily. I suggest you look in areas where you see the same truck every day. Either allow baiting for all of us or get serious about enforcement. Also, don’t turn a blind eye to the beat trails in February leading to a non-hunter’s huge bait pile. They are easy to spot. DNR should do their job.
| 5033 | Though this survey is focused on Langlade County, oversight must be considered with the abutting counties such as the Menominee Indian Reservation and the detrimental impact that their hunting practices have on Langlade County. Particularly, factors to consider are abutting counties deer density in contrast to the known harvest permits and predator population. Langlade is a very unique county geographically and from a hunting perspective the far east end of the county is much different than the southern portion of the county and equally different than the northern or western part of the county due natural and agricultural aspects. I’d strongly recommend suggesting a lottery system with a minimum antler length criteria (maybe for first time or disabled hunters any size antlered buck) for the firearm deer season much like a bear season permit to both improve the overall quality of the hunt and to regulate hunter density in the process. We as conservationists should strive to have an overall healthy deer herd but also not lose sight of the trophy potential that exists if the right measures are in place. Increasing the odds for hunters to harvest a mature buck will bring revenue to the State of Wisconsin, increase property value, and bring about better overall herd management over time. Thank you. |
| 5034 | I have Gun hunted langlade county for a long time. I do agree that at one time there were too many deer which was not good. Now I don’t see enough deer at anytime of the year to even think there are enough deer to sustain population. Deer sign can also show a lot of information and when the trails during the snow season show very few tracks there just aren’t any deer. there may be more deer in the farmland area of the county like around Antigo but in the north, there are very few. I am not a person that thinks he should be guaranteed success during a season, but it would help if a person might even see a deer during the whole season. That is ridiculous. My other issue is with baiting. I do hunt mostly public land and when i would follow a decent deer trail, everyone of them ended at a bait pile. I was surprised that I saw that many. One person out of 12 of us shot a deer and guess what, its stomach was full of corn. Amazing since their no homes within a mile of where this deer was shot and there aren’t any corn fields for miles around. I do my best to hunt legally and ethically and this is really not a good representation of how we should be hunting. I am not against baiting but if some people are going to do it and get away with it, something must be done like maybe a hotline or something. |
| 5035 | We own Property that borders Shawano county, and some that is in Shawano County. The fact that Langlade is closer to a reasonable doe harvest number. Versus Shawano County which has an unreal amount of doe tags is very frustrating to us. We have neighbors who feel that is necessary to kill every deer They see. Because of the fact that Shawano county has so many doe tags, and that some people are unscrupulous and will call in one shot in Langle County and register it as a shot in Shawano county is very much hurting the deer population in our area. I will leave the same message in the Shawano county page as I own property there too. But the astronomical number of tags given in Shawano county is very much hurting our deer herd. On top of this the cross bow hunters need to have a limited length of season. You have created an extra season for the slobs that hunt in our state. These people only do it because it is easy and not because they want to hunt seriously. We have had a large number of increased wounded deer by people who don’t take the time To track an animal that has been wounded. The mortality of deer wounded by crossbows is sickening in our area. It’s great that you are introducing more people to hunting, but the means by which it is done is hurting the normal hunters attitude. |
5036 I feel that we are not getting accurate information when assessing the overall heard and we are killing off way to many deer. Instead of making seasons longer and getting rid of crossbows, get the youth involved by allowing crossbows as they are easier for kids to start with. Extending gun season doesn’t help anything, I feel like your throwing random ideas at a wall and seeing what sticks?!? We need to stop making such dramatic changes and focus on what we can really do to improve the overall hunting experience. This was a very harsh winter and I feel like giving out so many bonus antlerless harvest tags is killing off our heard, and it needs to stop! If all the outside factors aren’t killing enough we keep handing out all these extra tags letting people demolish the heard, but it then you want younger generations to want to hunt? If you want them to hunt have a healthy heard available so they can enjoy watching them as much as they do harvesting them. If your looking to make more money start charging out of state hunters a lot more for tags than you currently do, every state around us charges a pretty penny for a an out of state license and WI doesn’t charge much at all, it’s crazy to me!! It’s an easy way to make more money for the organization.

5037 My biggest concern after watching the video, is you guys are worried we didn't kill enough deer again and trying to find a way to change something again to kill more deer. The deer just aren’t up here like they have been in the past. Look at the graphs that go back 20-25 years on the deer killed each season, way higher. And it continued to be every year, majority of them bucks, because it was hunters Choice back then. Since then t-zone was implemented, and many other antlerless hunts, and things have never been the same. And never will be again if we keep doing that. And now with the positive tests of cwd in Oneida and Lincoln county, the guy in the video wants to create a 350 mile radius area, that anyone can get a antlerless tag and as many as they want if they fill it. There will be no deer left up in these northern counties at all if your going to give everyone antlerless tags. Herd will be gone. Say goodbye to any of your deer license sold for up here in the next few years. It's not like down south wheere they've done that and it recovers quickly, up here that will decimate the herd. I surely hope you're all smart enough not to open up this 350 mile management area. Thanks for your time

5038 How do you expect only 1500 anterless deer to be harvested when your making available 5,000 anterless tags? You invite over‐harvesting and it happens every year! I know because I live and hunt here for the past 30 years! Way too many hunters in this DMU are of the opinion that "brown is down" regardless of sex or size and they use NO judgement or self control in shooting everything that moves. They further state on a very regular basis that “I might as well shoot whatever I see because the neighbors will if I don’t”! In addition to over‐harvesting there is way too much poaching of deer taking place on a regular basis in this DMU. Just listen for the number of single rifle shots you hear just after dark every night and you'll know what I'm talking about! Too many locals feel that they are "entitled" to shoot as many deer as they want to. Plus, dads and moms shooting deer for their children (babies through 8 year olds) is OK with them too as long as they bought the kid a license. It’s pathetic and old to sit on stand day after day during ALL of the deer seasons and see NO deer or maybe one, even when I’m hunting on my own private property!!

5039 I feel your numbers are inaccurate due to natural death, car hits , other animals and the comparison of apples to oranges of the 2018 to 2019 season (that is less hunters , less land e.c.t ) and a lot has to do with the bait ban the deer are heading to private land , food plots , fields the only people that suffer from the ban are those who hunt on public land and the ones that should be are deer farms that we are told are supervised by the DNR in some cases you have even funded them and again took away from public land hunters cwd will run its course just like the fish epidemic did years ago and there is nothing the DNR does will stop it it is hurting not only small business but WILL effect hunting as a whole we have a group of 27 that if the ban continues will probably not hunt 2020 which will reflect on our children well you can see the down word spiral it will have in years to come which also reminds me of a article put out some years ago by a DNR director warning that this would happen if thing didn’t change and if we didn’t have land our children would be hunting inside a fence I for one was not brought up that way nor will my children
I do not think that the state has done a very good job with the Deer population. I spend a lot of time in the woods during the hunting season, both bow and gun season. Over the past 10 years the amount of deer I see continues to drop. This year I saw more bear and wolves the past two years than deer. This year during gun season I only saw two deer in the nine day hunting season. Bow season I saw a few deer but no bucks. Ten years ago I would see deer every time I went out. Now I would be lucky to see them. Very few on my deer cameras too. What use to be an abundance of deer is now next to nothing. We are thinking about going to South Dakota to hunt deer and not even waste our time hunting in Wisconsin anymore. All my years of hunting I have never seen the population this poor. It is sad to see such a good natural resource wasted by very poor management. You should all be embarrassed with your performance.

Please separate public and private antlerless. I see deer on the side of the road and fields of private property. Public land has a significant less member of deer. There isn’t many hunters on public land anymore to make deer move. Most of the people I know that hunted public have stopped for two reasons. Not as many deer and access cut off for the state or county. People are lazy and won’t walk to stands. Can’t help or change that but please allow more access to public land. It’s turning people away from the sport. Look at what crossbow has done to the deer harvest numbers for the archery season. Allowing access would do the same. I would love to show a biologist or anyone the areas that I used to hunt buy access has been blocked by gates or piles of dirt. Young kids are lazy and us older life time hunters are getting old. The quality of the hunt goes down. Please take these two points into consideration. Thank you.

I feel that all of the seasons should remain as is. Each and every hunter should have a choice in which method or tool to hunt with. All parties should respect each hunters decision as to the choice of weapon. There are some hunters that cannot psychically hunt with a compound bow and still want to enjoy the time spent in the field. Without the crossbow season kept in tack, they may feel that they are being singled out. If the rut is taken away from these hunters, they may give up hunting all together. I doubt that the state of Wisconsin would like to see that. Somehow, the DNR should help educate the die hard compound hunters that back when the compound first came out that they were the new form of hunting tool and the long bow hunters needed to adapt to the “new style of hunting”. We hunters should all get along and enjoy what our wonderful state of Wisconsin has to offer all of us.

I really appreciate all the data you provided. As one might expect, it is very hard to make a single plan that fits an entire county. I would like to voice my concern with respect to the numbers. I own land, managed for deer hunting, on the eastern side of the county near Hollister. 4 gun hunters, hunting 5 days, never saw a single deer. This is the first year that has happened and we have owned the land 11 years. I disagree with your possible cause for the decline being due to season timing since I also saw an over 50% reduction in deer on trail cameras from September through November. You can check those numbers by looking at my Snapshot Wisconsin camera if you would like. I am not sure what to do about it if other parts of the country are different but I can only share what we are seeing. This is why I suggest reducing the number of doe permits.

we don't need all these crazy amount if doe tags. Look the population just started to go back up and then the flood gates are opened on does. Limit these! My group always buys extra tags so we have them incase we have a real need to harvest more does, but usually the group only uses a few. Let's get real on the wolf imacpt and CWD. Wolfs need to be thinned ! That's a fed thing. CWD needs to be addressed, this sit on our hands crap and look the other way and tell people to stop baiting is NOT the answer. Other states are aggressive and fighting it and we need to get back and get aggressive. If we do not address the 2 above items, the. The questioner will not be worth a crap...why? Because we won't have a healthy herd to hunt! Thank you for letting me provide my opinion via this manner and thank you for reading this. Stay safe and healthy!
In my opinion the suggested harvest quotas for Langlade County are pretty much spot on. In the last three seasons (I bow and rifle hunt) my sightings of both deer overall as well as the population densities of individual age classes and sexes has really been consistent. Regardless of where the gun season has landed on the calendar has had no effect, to my hunt anyway. In my opinion last year's gun deer season harvest numbers can be directly attributed to not when it was held, not the population of deer, but the weather. A very warm opening weekend followed by a rain/snow maker into the middle of the week and another weather maker for the second weekend left but a couple good hunting days for Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday. And in the north those good hunting days were difficult as well with the wet heavy snow severely limiting visibility.

In regards to the percentage of antlerless permit distribution don't use percentage of private verses public land in the county, use the percentage of deer populations on public/private land. I watched the video for Langlade county. My observations contradict some of what was presented. I saw far fewer dear kills on the roads. Tracks, rubs, scraps, sightings were all far less than 2019. I started hunting in October and spent 60 plus hours with a crossbow and 5 days during the gun season. I am 71 years old. Two of my grandsons hunted for the first time this year. What a great time but they each only saw one deer. I am not sure how long they will stay interested. With no oversight I question how many does are shot on public land but registered as taken on private land, if resisted at all. Please go to Buck Only on public land.

I believe baiting should be allowed. When it was legal we saw many deer and had a most enjoyable hunt. We hunt private property and harvested two to three does and usually at least one buck. Letting many does walk and we're selective by size. The last couple years with no baiting sightings have gone way down although we know the deer are there. Limiting the amount of bait to a dozen apples and a couple cups of corn is all that's needed to draw a deer in. It would be eaten up quickly and would not create a disease hot spot. Having the luck of hunting along an agricultural field is far more productive than trying to pattern a trail in the middle of woods. Fortunately we don't all live on farms. Allowing food plots is no different than baiting and has the ability to create a disease hot spot when small in size.

I believe that the current time put on DMU's that border another county with confirmed cases of CWD is too long. I can understand perhaps a year at most unless another case is found. And the current practice of trying to control CWD was addressed by another state (sorry I cannot remember the exact state now) and they found that that state doing the same as Wisconsin is now made no affect to controlling CWD - just my thoughts. Also, it makes no sense to me (and many other hunters in Langlade) that south of Hwy 64 we cannot leave tree stands up overnight. It is how more dangerous as a hunter to carry all of that in while it is dark out and then again in the evening. I know that the number of hunters are dropping and perhaps that because of the current laws. Just my thoughts.

I sit on another county CDAC and it's my opinion that we need to drastically increase the number of antlerless tags available on private land. Currently, we estimate that the doe to buck ratio on our 500+ acres of property is around 25:1. Our ability to harvest more antlerless deer depends solely on the availability of antlerless tags. It's no secret that private land typically holds more deer because of the habitat we provide. That said, private land owners need more tools at our disposal to manage the herd. Langlade is also one of the most difficult counties to manage because technically only the northern half (or so) is what most would consider "northern forest". The southern half should be categorized as "central farmland". Keep up the good work everyone!

I disagree with the public and private doe tags that we have to buy. I wish you bought a doe tag and it was good for both. I buy a doe tag and hunt 50/50 public and private and would shoot a doe using my own judgement for what I see in the area or if I have shot a buck and need to shoot a doe or not. I usually had better success on bucks on the public land and would shoot the does on the private land if needed. I hunt private that boarders alot of public but legally could buy a do tag and walk 10 yards to far and not have the proper tag. This just does not make sense to me and I know people complain about people shooting all the does on public land but I don't really see that by me and there are not alot of hunters that even go into the public land I hunt.
first off, thank you for letting us share our thoughts. I have three young sons I'd love to get into hunting. My oldest passed hunters safety last year and we tried youth hunt and the 9 day gun hunt. Saw nothing. I just don't see how I can raise a hunter when we don't see deer. I need your help. I hunt the same public land I grew up hunting. Northern half of the county. Every year I see hunters driving around and taking doe from public land. Sometimes I've had the chance to talk to them and find many have private land but come to public to fill doe tags. I therefore don't understand why die permits are based on the % of public land. Not many private land owners seem to take doe on there own land. Don't let doe be taken from public lands.

One issue that I have not seen addressed are the storms that devastated hundreds of thousands of acres of forest in July of 2019. The 20 min. video summarizing the Langlade county 2019 deer population and harvest statistics failed to mention this when presenting the decreases from 2018 to 2019. I am not a biologist, but I would assume that this will have a significant impact on deer population and habitat over the next several years. I do not have any suggestions to "fix it". However, I speak for a lot of hunters in Langlade county when I say it would be beneficial to hear the DNR/CDAC acknowledge this impact, and offer some insight on what to expect from the deer population as the loggers move out, and the forest begins a long road back to recovery.

There have been way too many antlerless permits given out for the 2019 hunt! Langlade county was the 3rd highest county in the state for antlerless permits and this is just ridiculous because the deer are just not here! I hunt in the southeastern side of Langlade county i.e. Jones Springs area. I did not nor did any other hunters in the area hear very few shots the entire season. This entire area has been destroyed by the July 19th storm! The forest is flat in our area and there are very few deer around! Either they were killed during the wind storm or they moved out. You have to take in consideration the July 19th storm and I'm thinking that it was not part of the process when determining anterless permits. Please look into this and thank you!!!

I would not support the recommendation of a CWD zone aggressive harvest. I don’t believe this will mitigate anything other than reducing the overall population. I believe this disease is here to stay and the cure shouldn’t be worse than the disease. Slaughtering deer to “save” them is not a strategy I support at all. I also believe we should roll back to the old DMU’s with some modifications and reestablish the rules from the 1990’s. For example, southern Langlade county (south of Hwy64) should be managed differently than the rest of the county. Completely different habitat and carrying capacity. Also, the current rules/seasons are too burdensome with multiple seasons within seasons. Go back to pre-Dr Kroll. Please.

It seems very obvious that that latest possible 9 day gun season had a dramatic impact on gun harvest. I don’t view this as a valid reason to extend the gun season. While I am a bow hunter, I absolutely DO NOT support limiting or removing the crossbow season. I personally know hunters who have taken up crossbow and stopped gun hunting because they enjoy it more, and are generally more successful. It also afford hunters a better opportunity to hunt during the rut, which hit before gun season in 2019. I have never had any confidence in the predator kill and vehicle kill numbers - that data is in no way empirical. My area gets hit HARD by coyotes - is like to see more focus on controlling that predator population.

Hello, thanks for asking. 4 of us hunted this year for the first 4 days opening weekend of gun season all on private land where we have done a lot of work in the last few years to improve the habitat. We saw no deer at all. Trail cameras showed almost no deer. I do not believe this had anything to do with the late season or the weather. The other thing we noticed is there was very little shooing within earshot of us. The woods was very quite so we could hear a long ways. We need to build the herd back up. Giving out more antlerless and bonus tags is a bad idea. We are considering bypassing the Wisconsin season and going out of state this year.
Our group (9 hunters) hunt both private and public land. We are seeing a major decline in the deer herd we believe is due to a major increase in the wolf population. We are now getting more wolf pictures on game cameras in early November than deer pictures. (North West of Antigo) Our wolf population has skyrocketed the last 5 years. I believe we need to harvest less antler-less deer to make up the difference until we get a wolf season to get them under control. I hunt every day during the nine day gun season and the last two years only observed 6 deer total where 10 years ago I would see at least 6 per day. Thanks for your hard work in this area!

I hunt off of Diamond Roof Road and I haven't seen a buck in the last 10 years. I believe the area has no underbrush for the deer to eat, wolves are a problem, private land hunters are baiting and harvesting too much and there are way too many hunting seasons leading up to the gun deer season. I have been hunting in the same location for over 23 years and my father and grandfather both have been in this area over 70 years. Please do something to bring some large bucks back to the area. It is getting to the point that I will not continue hunting and I will not bring my 3 boys to carry on the tradition if it doesn't change soon.

Have historical weather patterns been considered in making recommendations? Our group was without power for extended periods several times, due to snowstorms, during the 9-day deer gun season. Several hunters decided to end their season early due to continued snow forecast at the end of season. There are significantly more deer in the area we hunt, most likely due to an increase in planted crop land. The number of deer does not change my intention to hunt, it is family tradition. Youth hunts and considerations make to support new hunters are very important. Thank you for making this public comment period available online.

Too many people are buying private land doe tags and using them in the large blocks of forest crop tracts that are owned by timber companies. I was told by a warden that using the private tags there is a gray area since the land is private but open to the public so either tag will work. The age for the youth hunters needs to be fixed. As it is now, a infant can buy a license and hunt early. This can continue until he reaches 18. Way too much early hunting. Could they allow youth hunting for the first 2 years that the youth buys a license to get him interested? After that the youth should know if they like it or not.

I see fewer deer in our forest. We need the deer to keep down the undergrowth vegetation to keep down the wild fire danger. In this era of species extinction I really think we should refrain from calling deer a "Harvest." These are wild animals and belong in an ecosystem of predators who may depend on them: bear, wolves. I suggest that the "hunters" find something else to do. I am ok if someone needs to eat, but the trophy hunting now has really run its course in civilization, All humans need to leave wild animals alone and get over the idea that we have a right to own them and take them for fun.

I recommend going to a buck only harvest except for the youth antlerless harvest. I have seen a steady increase in the number of deer over the last couple of years on my trail cameras. I have not seen as many during hunting hours. Ever since the Earn a buck and tzone years around 2008 our population around Elcho has been very low. There are high numbers if wolves and bears that must be addressed! Until that is then I propose a buck only season. I am someone who harvests at least one antlerless deer a year. So I am not adverse to shooting antlerless deer in general.

In my opinion I believe that baiting should be allowed but only in a certain quantity. Like there shouldn’t be 100lb bags of corn being dumped at once but an amount that will keep deer in an area for hunters. Or allow baiting before season and when gun season hits (because most people only gun hunt) that’s when there could be no baiting. Or just allow small buckets or corn and lures that can be cut up or spread out easily. Because I feel that more deer can be more at risk from lures being in a huge pile rather than spread out in small pieces or very limited sized piles.
Every year its the same talk, saw less and less. sometimes its to the point where none were seen. buck contest pools are lucky to see 1 in 20 with anything on them. most hunters want to go "up north" and hunt in the woods, not go to the city to find deer. the problem with having too many deer in counties like Waupaca and so few in the northern counties needs to be addressed. This is what’s hurting the sport and the overall interest in it. most hunting groups have shrunk to just a guy or two, when 15 to 20 years ago it was cabin full and more kids on the cots.

Same as forest county to many antlerless permits over years past with some rough winters no chance for herd to rebound our crew consists of about 12 and the last few years party hunting have been getting worse for seeing deer in general and we cover lots of country just to find small pockets of deer numbers just aren’t there also some rough winters past to years hasn’t helped, used to see 30 deer in a season now lucky to see a dozen not many with horns most bucks don’t have chance to make 2.5 years old before harvested.

I personally witnessed more wolf sign than ever. Additionally, fawns and other deer that were present in summer were not seen during the fall. The number of deer on trail cams was drastically lower in 2019 that in 2018. Overall deer sign and sightings were down significantly. Multiple days spent in perfect weather conditions in early Nov produced zero sightings and dramatically less sign than previous years. In my opinion the amount of deer is drastically lower than in most of the years (42) that I have hunted.

I have been hunting in Langlade County for 42 years. I have seen deer populations go up and down. In the past 6 years the DNR has put so many rules, regulations, and seasons into deer hunting that from year to year you need a manual to keep up. Many of my friends have quit hunting because the anticipation of deer season is gone. Go back to a 9 day traditional season. Let a hunter get a doe tag every fourth year. Bring back tagging stations. It would bring back the tourism money to the northern part of the state.

I would like to suggest splitting the county similar to Oconto County. I believe it is very unrealistic to set quotas and manage the county when there is a vast difference in the landscape. I personally have been hunting the eastern public forest lands for 32 years and have seen a drastic decline in the deer population. Splitting the county should help to better manage the deer population by distinguishing the farm lands from the forest lands. Please take this into consideration and thank you for your time.

Sure would be nice if the experts who are recommending we shoot more deer and then ask why hunter numbers are down is for them to actually take a walk out in the ackley wildlife area or any of the public land and tell us where all these deer are because the deer are not here like you say they are I’d gladly take anyone of the experts out and walk the ackley wildlife with them when there’s snow on the ground and count deer tracks it’s VERY DEPRESSING I’ve hunted ackley for 22 years and I’m also a logger.

Please do not change the crossbow season. We as hunters are attracting youth and women to the sport when hunter numbers are dwindling. Because traditional archers are whining we have to change a ethical legal way of hunting? I hunt with both and it should be my decision to choose what I use. Deer are not being over harvested, so why the problem? It sickens me to hear traditional archers complain that all the bucks are shot before they can hunt. Season is the same for both, so get out and hunt.

Please stop killing does! We need the deer herd to rebound! The stats you have given means nothing to me! We are seeing low numbers of deer! I have 3 grandkids that i am trying to get into hunting! They lose interest because they are not seeing anything! Please do not change the crossbow season, leave as is, i am finally getting one of my grandson's to hunt with a crossbow and trying hard to get my granddaughter into crossbow hunting! PLEASE NO DOE HUNTING FOR AT LEAST A YEAR! THANK YOU.
I think it is unfair that I have to pay extra for antler less tags these past few years in Langlade County. Other Wisconsin residents get antler less tags for free with their licenses. And there were plenty "bonus" tags available for purchase last year throughout the season, so don't say it's to limit to harvest - that just isn't so. Give them to us in Langlade County like others get them. We are essentially being taxed again, for the same thing others get with the license. It's a rip-off.

I have owned deer hunting land in Langlade county for 20 years and have seen deer populations decrease dramatically. I believe such is due to the predators of bear, coyotes and wolves along with some years of over harvesting with too many antlerless tags being issued. In addition, I'm a gun hunter and by allowing such a long season for archery, especially cross bows, it has affected the gun season decline. 1st, cut back on the bow season and 2nd, do something about the predators!

Please do not consider a antlerless season for Langlade county. I would like to see one buck tag with the option of purchasing a antlerless tag. Because I have been very selective in the deer I harvest, I have seen an increase in the population of deer over the last 6 years where I hunt, but still not to the numbers I would like to see. Neighbors around me have also been very selective to keep the herd numbers up. Sometimes hunting is about seeing deer rather than shooting deer.

I am rather surprised that we have yet to address a proposal for antler point restrictions on the buck harvest. With the possibility of hunters harvesting a buck both with archery and firearm equipment. I find it rather disturbing that we aren't addressing this issue. Something that should be considered is the harvest of Bucks with 4 points on one side. Until we do this we will struggle to balance the buck/doe ratio and certainly with the size bucks being harvested.

I think you should do away with private and public doe tags. If you want a certain number of deer harvested sell a doe tag to use anywhere in the county. Last I checked deer do not read public signs and will cross in and out of public and private lands. If your goal is 1500 deer harvested let all hunters have equal opportunity to harvest not just private land owners. If you sell most of the tags to private owners other people have no reason to hunt this area.

I commend the committee for reducing the number of antlerless tags available. I do believe the deer herd is decreasing at this current time and not being maintained. I believe this lead to the decrease in harvest number not the DNR smoke screen of a late season and bad weather. I only ever hear excuses of lower harvests and not actually listening the majority of hunters who are out the woods. Kudos for reducing the harvest quota. That is the right choice!

Our area got hit hard in July an the few deer we had know what happened to them u keep handing out more bonus tags every year an wiping out the few deer we have also what the hunters don't shoot the bear coyotes an wolf do to the population. Also u want more hunters but in our area u keep blocking logging roads off your not going to get hunters to walk more than 500 yards from there vehicle. Open the logging roads back up.

There seems to be an abundance of coyotes in the area I hunt. Some nights I can hear three different packs going crazy. I have to believe they are taking a decent number of deer out. Is there data on just how many? If it is a lot is there some sort of incentive (bounty) the DNR could provide to encourage people to hunt/trap them? I hear more people getting in to hunting them just for the challenge of it, but maybe there is a way to get even more.

Hello. I'm just saying I abide by the laws an have not baited in the past 3 years. But neighbors around me have an my son an I have not shot a deer. I think baiting should be allowed in my area. We hunt the allotted time an still have not seen any deer. I see them on camera. But not during hunting hours. My son has been in the youth mentoring program an goes with me but I think he is getting discouraged because we haven't shot a deer.
I feel like the deer population is healthy in Langlade county but I hunt in the southern portion of the county. I am concerned about CWD. I do not support major changes to the rifle season length or bow season at this time. I think lengthening the gun season could create a higher buck harvest rate which may not be good for herd quality over time. I of course am basing my opinion on my experience and not on data, for what that is worth.

Hi, I hunt where landage and Oconto meet where the forest is destroyed from all that vor-text storm that went through in July 2019. That part of old management unit 44 needs to let the deer come back. Once the forest is cleaned up, it should flourish with wildlife once it puts new growth of young vegetation that will support deee and other wildlife. So stop baiting by illegal hunters and keep the doe permits out of this area. Thank you.

Per my observations, deer populations have been increasing each year for the past 3-4-5 years. They are much higher than they were in 2017 and higher than 2018 and again higher than a year ago spring. The past antlerless harvest has not controlled the herd. Last years low harvest was late season -weather related, not at all indicative of the population. We should increase the antlerless harvest or disease and a bad winter will.

The only opinion that I have is that the youth hunt should be allowed to kids that should be allow to go two season until they reach 15 years of age because by the time they would know if they want to hunt or not. Also you should only be able to hunt from daybreak to 10am like turkey season use to be that way the folks that like to use a bow can sit in the afternoon and evening and wear camo and not blaze orange for the week end

I think predator management should be taken into consideration especially in Langlade county. I think a large factor is fawn recruitment which is largely impacted by the number of black bears present in Langlade county. I think it's absurd that it can take a resident 10-14 years to get a bear tag. I think the numbers of bears has greatly increased over the past 15 years and believe it should be a factor when issuing bonus tags.

Please do not change the crossbow season. It is a ethics humane way to hunt. Let’s not pander to the traditional archers who claim crossbow hunters shoot all the deer before they have a chance. They should get out and hunt, you don’t have to wait for the rut to be an effective hunter. Crossbows get people out in the woods when hunter numbers are dwindling. Why wreck a good thing because a few people piss and moan.

I have a cabin in this unit. I have hunted there for 35 years. I hunted for 8 days last year. I never seen a deer. I beleive your deer count is way off. 3 year plans are nuts. I beleive you have to do it yearly so you can take into account winter kill sooner. also there is way to many preidtors. wolfs bears and coyotes are killing all the fawns. stop the doe tags for a while. also they should enforce the laws on baiting.

The reissuing of tags for any/all deer that are turned in for CWD testing could possibly be the easiest way to devastate the deer heard. It could potentially take one person/group/family that just likes to shoot deer and not manage the deer heard to over harvest an area. If a person wants to donate a deer for testing that is perfectly fine but they should not be rewarded for just shooting deer.

I am not a doe hunter i only ever hunt bucks the best buck hunting was when there was no doe hunting .it is very rare when i don't kill a buck but i can tell you since the introduction of wolfs it is getting darn hard.Sometime down the road cwd will cover the whole state so there will still be game farms .i hope Wisconsin can make enough money from that cause no one will be hunting just the wolfs.

I think where farmland is adjacent to public land the deer population is elevated. When far from agriculture the deer population is low. It would be helpful to give private landowners preference on antlerless tags in agricultural areas. The summer wind storm also created a lot of hiding areas and many trails are blocked. This creates congestion on open trails. These blow downs need to be cleared.

We hunt the county forest where it meets Lincoln and Oneida county forests. Deer population is way down due to the heavy snows of 2018-19 winter and out of control bear and wolf populations. Too many antlerless tags is drawing in too many hunters who have never hunted there coming in thinking the population is high when it is not. I fully support buck only for three years with NO junior tags.
There seems a wolf problem in this county as evidenced by local landowners with cameras are there any plans to decrease the wolf population to ensure adequate deer population for hunters. If you are going to extend gun season and bonus tags, those privileges should be the rights of landowners exclusively. Nine days of trespassers is enough. Perhaps the hunting age should be reassessed.

In regards to the CDW situation. The disease will spread, it is inevitable. Slowing the spread would be very difficult unless drastic measures are made to reduce the deer population which is not what hunters want whatsoever. I would hate to see it like it was 10-15 years ago when the deer population was so sparse. I do not support excessive shooting of deer to try to control cdw.

The 9 day gun season is too short. It leads to frantic gun hunting where people reduce their respect for the hunt, the deer, other hunters, and the landscape. The gun season should be increased in length, using the state of Michigan as an example. 15 days long, set day every year so sometimes you get a “soft start” on a week day. Leaving some good rut hunting days for archery.

I think predation on the deer population in Langlade county is High, with the amount of forestry to agraculture to include reservations gives prime habitat for predators to include Bears, Wolves and even mountain lions. Bears and Kyoties to be the major factors in the predation toll on the deer population. I reccomend bear and Kyoty hunting to control the populations...

I have observed hundreds of deer in late picked corn fields this spring. One field in particular had over 250 deer plainly visible. Based on the numbers of deer observed in these fields in comparison to numbers of deer observed in previous years in similar fields my guess is that the deer population survived the winter with good numbers that warrent high quotas.

In the area I hunt and live we have a lot of hunting pressure due to the public land around us. If a buck is killed it is never older than two years and it is rare to see a buck at any time but the doe population is out of control this is a very low quality deer herd. I would support the no buck kill for some years. And let kill a doe so the herd won't grow.

Hunting pressure is very low in the northern part of the county. I see an average of one to two hunters every three years! The deer numbers are much lower in the northern part of the county compared to the southern part. With the population numbers being what they are in the north you are going to lose even more hunters. Bonus tags help attract new hunters.

I live about a 1/4 mile from Shawano county where they give tons of tags away for free, and I see very many antlerless deer, yet if I want to harvest one I have to purchase a tag. I think the changing of the management zones by county was not the right move in general as the population in one portion of the county may be totally opposite in another portion.

Please drive around and look at all the deer that are on the landscape in Langlade County throughout the year. Just looking from your treestand during the opening weekend of gun season is ridiculous. There are many, many deer that are available for harvest. Now more than ever with folks out of work and the food supply chain disrupted. Let people hunt!

The current structure for the gun season is not conducive to annual goals or annual enjoyment. The 2019 season was too late. We should adopt a structure like the state of Michigan where the hunt is on the same days each year. Remove the volatility associated with the hunt timing and give hunters the best days to see peak deer activity in the woods.

The number of deer we have seen has gone way down in the past few years. Hunter numbers have been dwindling also. I've seen way to many fawns taken where the animal is able to be picked up with one hand. I believe that hunters can harvest fewer doe and bring the herd here back. All hunters should be skilled enough to tell the difference between a doe.
When this area was doing buck only we we finally starting to see some good numbers of deer. Since you have started allowing antlerless harvest deer sitings all but vanished. I hunt with a group of six, we bow and gun hunted roughly in the same area, we saw two deer!! Deer signs were minimal at best. Please go back to Buck only in this unit, please.

The problem with this unit is there is a substantial difference from the northern portion of the unit to the southern portion of the unit. The northerner portion is almost all big woods and almost no agriculture, and the southern portion is the opposite. Instead of dividing this unit east and west could you consider splitting it north to south.

Locals have less chances to harvest deer when tourists come here to hunt there are also poachers who reduce our chances along with others buying tags and having others fill them for them there are also baiting/feeding problems we have seen less healthy deer most look half starved Hence why they feed on crops an wonder across roads to find food

When I hunted Langlade county in 2018, I saw multiple does a day, but only one small buck. Almost every state has changed there buck only policy. Modern studies show, that you need to harvest does in order to have a healthy whitetail population. There should be no such thing as a “buck only tag”. Only either sex or antlerless only bonus tags.

Please, no shooting of does for at least two years ! I am trying to get my Granddaughter and grandson to sit all day with me in my stand ! it is very hard to keep their concentration on deer and the wildlife if there is nothing to see ! Eight deer seen in total sitting everyday except half of last saturday and all of sunday !! Thank You

We need to stop all the extra doe seasons. Hunters should hunt regular season schedules. The Northern zones have enough winter, and predator kill to support mass doe harvests. If anything private land owners that manage their property for whitetail habitat should harvest does based on the population of their particular property.

I was hunting in western Langlade County and eastern Lincoln County last year. Our family has seen fewer deer over the past few years even though we have more eyes in the woods with some of our children now starting to hunt. The population in the south and central parts of the county seems much higher but not in other areas.

Wisconsin's DNR has handled the CWD in an poor manner. I read an article years ago that someone in the DNR admitted they spent millions in a wasteful manner. I have zero confidence in the DNR's ability to manage any wildlife, such as the huge bear population, fish, deer, grouse, etc. You get the idea!

Due to the nature of my work, hunting times for me are fairly limited. Although the question wasn’t asked in this survey, if crossbow hunting becomes unavailable for the general public, I would no longer be able to justify buying a hunting license due to amount of time available for me to hunt.

I saw deer through the season, but very few. The winter again was difficult for the deer to find adequate food to eat. Trail cam pictures from March 2020 showed deer in very rough shape. Just thinking a feeding area for them is needed for them to more easily make it through in better shape.

The big wind storm most likely played a huge role in the ability to see deer. They were able to easily find large hemlock trees on the ground which hampered movement. All and all, it was an enjoyable season. We'll need to see what next season brings. Please, no kneejerk reactions.

I find that private land deer numbers are doing very well but the public land that I hunt is far from being good. I'm hard pressed to find good deer hunting on public land in places that use to support a good herd. It's tough to get kids into hunting if they do not see deer.

Need to consider buck only for a few years and not harvest so many antlerless deer which destroys the population. Also I feel we need to get the “real” numbers of deer predators established with bear and wolf populations as this is a big factor as well in my opinion.
Seeing fewer deer due to over harvest of does especially on public lands would like to see only youth hunters able to harvest does let the youth manage the does that need to be taken that gives them the greatest opportunity to get a deer and get hooked on this great sport.

I strongly recommend the Langlade County CDAC separate the county in two zones. One being southern (Antigo area) and the other being northern (Bass lake area). The geographic difference between the two area are significant in terms of topography, vegetation and habitat.

I think junior hunters and mentored hunters should be able to shoot either sex. Landowners and their families should also get anterless preference as many are contributing to improving habitat on their lands not only for deer but other wildlife species as well.

The storm damage that occurred in the Elcho, Post Lake & Lily areas with subsequent logging are going to have long term affects on the deer population for the next 10-15 years. Care must be taken order to keep from crashing the deer populations in those areas.

All these youth hunts (all not just deer) need to stop!! Young hunters need to be just that hunters, not given special privileges!! I can see with handicapped, but that's it!! Time to bring back the deer, duck, populations!! And true hunting tradition!!

We operate 1500 acre farm in eastern Langlade County, and western Oconto County. I have seen noticeably if you were deer this spring than in the past. I am in avid hunter And sportsman. I believe there are few were deer than the estimates indicate.

In Langlade County the amount of hunting pressure and deer seen might have been influenced by the tremendous storm damage from the July high winds. Still I support the recommendations to keep our herd healthy. Thank you.

I would like to see an open season on wolves and a reduced point minimum for black bears in Zone B. Also, make crossbows and bows the same, no added fees. I would love to see increased fees for non-residents for ALL tags and permits.

It is like 2 different counties if you split highway 64. To the South plenty of deer. To the north not so much. We call the triangle of 64 east/west, 52 north, and 55 north which deer numbers are not like the rest of Langlade County.

Please provide the estimated wolf and coyote population in Langlade. We are seeing less and less deer. We are very concerned with the lack of deer being seen. What is being done to monitor the population of wolves and coyotes?

There isn't the amount of deer in north county as there is in south. Much more farmland/fields in south vs woods north. Antigo has a very healthy deer population while Elcho/Post lake has very few and small population.

We have a very high amount of wolves in this county and the dnr needs to address it I found many kill sites this last winter and it just pushes the deer out of there winter grounds creating a tougher winter for them.

My son and I hunted on 240 acres and saw 1 deer all season. We did hunt enough times that we should of seen a lot more than 1. My son was discouraged and that's the last thing we want for this younger generation.

They should rethink the banning of using bait. Reason being people still feed the animals around there house. Hard to hunt deer when there main food source is around the houses in the area and not in the woods.

Think you should go back to the old way either a buck or a doe with your archery tag then their would be no need for all those tags every year and it would cut down on the number of bucks taken with crossbows.

You have to do something about wolves and coyotes, in the last year it has become relavent that the population in this dmu has become over run with canine and it makes for enjoying the gun season impossible.
We are concerned about the number of deer taken by wolves, coyotes, and bear in this area. It has influenced the lower number of deer seen and harvested during the bow and gun seasons in the area.

Some type of baiting rather than trying to turn hunters into farmers with the same outcome, help the farmers we now have that know what they are doing and save everyone a lot of time and money!

The deer I have seen in person and on my game cameras look good. Recently an unharvested field of soybeans near my home had 60 plus deer. This was a 40 acre field very near forested area.

ONLY GIVE OUT ONE ANTERLESS PERMIT PER PERSON NOT UNLIMITED TAGS THAT IS NUTS KILL ALL THE DOES AND THERE WILL BE NO REASON FOR ME TO HUNT IN LANGLADE COUNTY OR ANY WHERE ELSE IN THE STATE

There are too many predators, mainly wolves and bears...we see more of them than we do deer. Bring back baiting, hunting big timber with no bait is very boring and not very productive.

This is a largely wooded region with lots of public land and a low deer per square mile ratio. Stop handing out antlerless tags so the hunting can go back to how it was 20 years ago.

While I understand the need to raise prices at times for our hunting licenses, I believe our pricing for out of state hunters is extremely low. I believe we need to raise those fees.

If the rifle season is extended, which I support, the muzzle loading season needs to be adjusted. Follow Colorado's muzzle loading season structure and hunt early like bow season.

Bringing back baiting for deer would make hunting Langlade country good again until you bring back baiting you are just wasting your time and money hunting Langlade country

Whoever does your deer numbers needs to stop hitting the crack pipe before they are counting and listen to the people who are seeing more wolves and bears than deer.....

Your deer counts and herd objectives have messed up the population of deer statewide. You can’t count. CWD is a money grab for the dnr. Not a real issue in this state.

I hunted everyday in the area and never saw one deer and I sat everyday in an enclosed stand. Very very very disappointed season. I’m ready to give up deer hunting.

What about baiting.? There has been a ban for awhile now and even in the original county it hasn’t gone down so why not allow it just during the hunting seasons

Area of hunt was effected greatly by the wind storm of July 19, 2019. Either your unable to travel or its been clear cut, to an extend, to remove fallen trees.

My experience, as a landowner of 92 acres of wooded land is that the deer herd has wintered well and that the population of deer is too high. Thank you

The 2019 season is the first season in my lifetime that no one in our group was able to see a single deer, with very little shooting heard in our area.

I would certainly both enjoy and recommend a longer rifle season, and possibly extending the muzzleloader season to accommodate more days for rifle.

There should be a lottery draw for hunting wolfs in the northern forest they are destroying our deer populations in the north and must be regulated

In 2019 there was A lot of standing corn in Langlade county all the way thru January. I believe this had a major effect on bow many deer were seen.
I noticed multiple deer kills from coyote and wolves this winter due to the deep snow. Also say coyote chasing deer 2 times during rifle season.

Start a wolf hunt it is getting overwhelming on how many wolf kills we have had. We do not have that many deer anymore due to wolves and bears.

Bring baiting back if you want to see more deer killed I hunt Wisconsin I live in Illinois last year without baiting I didn’t even see a deer.

We should raise the out of state license fees, we should make this state a trophy state. No shooting small bucks!!! Educate on culling does.

Bring back baiting for deer and people will start hunting Langlade country again and actually seeing deer. otherwise it is a waste of time.

You should really start being truthful about cwd and that humans can contract it from deer. My dad died from cjd that He got from deer.

I would like to see a long gun season state wide. For those of us who work and pay taxes the 9 day season is not a good thing.

Every year I find body’s of deer killed by wolves. I hear more and more wolves each summer. Time to bring back a managed hunt.

Only give out one anger less permit per person in landlade an northern forest unit Not ONE PERMIT PER DAY THAT IS REDICLOUS

My concern is the large number of predators such as wolves,bear,and coyotes and the inability to control the problem.

You need to cut the county in half for doe permits there should be no doe permits in the northern part of the county.

There are a lot of predators in the area of the county that I hunt. Are there any plans to bring back a wolf season?

Bring baiting back to langlade county, so the youth stay interested in hunting and not just looking at trees all day.

Would like to open baiting ... in small amounts again .... in my experience, No attractants means no deer ....

Some of reasoning for less deer sightings in area was due to July storm that changed landscape dramatically.

Too many antlerless deer and bucks are over‐harvested. Bring back earn‐a‐buck especially on private land.

No more incentive to buy a license with low to no probability of seeing or harvesting a deer any more.

Keep the limited amount of doe tags and implement a point restriction of four points on one side.

Reduce the bear population. Reduce the wolf population. Too many predators in the county/state !

There was a lot of standing corn through out langlade county during all deer seasons.

the winter death rate was still high on and around my property due to predators!!!!

If there is a low deer season kill, consider a later season. Or Christmas hunt

I would also object to a 19 day gun season and a shortened crossbow season

Please allow baiting so I can compete with those that disregard the ruling.

Something needs to be done to better manage the predator populations.

Seen 4 deer all season and wish there wasn’t as many doe tags

the north 1/3 of langlade County should have no doe tags.

Something needs to be done about the wolf population
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5134</td>
<td>Raise out of state tags to over 300 like other states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5133</td>
<td>Opening up deer gun season on the 15th of November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5136</td>
<td>Please keep the feeding &amp; baiting ban in place!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5137</td>
<td>This unit does not need an antlerless only season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5138</td>
<td>I think the earlier longer gun season must come!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5139</td>
<td>Need reduce and control the wolf population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5140</td>
<td>State wide ban on baiting or feeding of deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5141</td>
<td>Raise out of state licenses to $500.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5142</td>
<td>More antlerless permits on public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5143</td>
<td>Seems like we got too many does</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5144</td>
<td>There are too many wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5145</td>
<td>Extend gun deer season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5146</td>
<td>Stop baiting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10951
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 275
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 144
   - I hunt in this unit: 578
   - General interest in this unit: 105

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 559
   - Bow: 259
   - Crossbow: 245
   - Muzzleloader: 192

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 24.98
   - Maximum: 68

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 250
   - Mostly Private Land: 116
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 100
   - Mostly Public Land: 50
   - Exclusively Public Land: 52
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 10

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 15
   - Not too crowded: 63
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 65
   - Somewhat crowded: 72
   - Very crowded: 94
   - Not applicable: 9

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 186
   - Fewer: 204
   - Same: 146
   - More: 63
   - Many More: 14
   - Unsure: 14

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>32</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>179</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>11</td>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private</th>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License</th>
<th>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 75 506 46

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
- VALID: 298, NOT VALID: 260, Unsure: 69

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
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The Wisconsin DNR continually uses old out of date models for projecting deer herd quota tags in all areas of Northern Wisconsin. I lived here my entire life, and hunted almost every inch of this area at some point or another. The Wisconsin DNR only cares about the amount of money they bring in and it affects the hunting as a whole. Our area is hunted hard due to the vast amount of public lands and the non-locals are the ones hurting our deer herd. Last year for example on Tuesday of Gun Deer season, I was driving south and was passed by a vehicle coming off an area exit with 4 fawns on the back of their SUV....4 fawns.... I am disappointed in the DNR continually allowing the killing of antlerless deer in our area as when compared to other areas of the state we have high numbers of wolves, bears, bobcats and other predators. The deer herd continually is under pressure from unethical hunters, native americans, and predators, and has never gotten time to rebuild as 2 out of 3 of the last winters we had record or near record snow falls also putting a strain on the animals. I would much rather see buck only kills for the next 3-5 years depending on how the deer herd responds as antlerless could open sooner if it builds quickly. I am disappointed in the DNR along with other hunters in this area where soon we might not even buy tags to hunt because there isn't the animals to hunt. With that being said I will give you an example, when I first started hunting at age 12, it was nothing to see 10 - 15 deer while sitting out in the woods naturally. Fast forward to when I am 30 years old, I am lucky to see 2-3 deer while sitting all day long during rifle season on private land.... Deer drives when younger, use to push 12-15 deer out a drive, now its a big deal if we push a deer out even on a drive on public land. Now I grew up different than the new age commercialized hunters due to the Outdoor Channel. I only shoot what I am going to eat for the year, along with the rest of my family. I actually enjoy sitting in a stand and just seeing / watching animals and it isn't a blood sport. Unfortunately, the last few years because of the T-Zones, lack of bear tags in our area, antlerless permits, and promotion of the reintroduction of the timber wolf, I am at a point where I am about to call it quits hunting in Wisconsin. I have not killed a deer in possibly 6 years if I remember right, it could be longer. I have bought a patrons license since I was 18 as I partake in everything Wisconsin has to offer, and I am at a point where I rather take my money and go out west to hunt, where the game wardens talk to you and are not out to harass you, you see animals, and you enjoy the experience. I really hope these comments hit home with someone in the department, as this is not an attack, but an honest observance of how things are ran. To reiterate what I would like to see in Lincoln County, is no antlerless kill for 3-5 years so our herd can get back to what it was when I first started hunting. Right now hunting to me is just family time as it is not enjoyable due to the poor management decisions over the past 18 years I have been doing this. Make the right decision with these deer council advisory committees and listen to the people that hunt in the area, especially the forested parts of our county as we are split between farm fields and forest. The farm fields can get their farm tags, and also private land owners can get antlerless where deemed necessary. But by having bonus permits available and allowing antlerless deer kills to happen, a majority of the kills in my opinion are on the public lands where our deer herd is down to non existent. I say that with a good understanding, my brother is a logger and in the woods all year, we still do deer drives, and we see more hunters and less deer in the woods every year more and more. Thank you for your considerations of my thoughts, as again the whole idea of these councils is to protect local deer herds and make hunting sustainable for the future. Right now hunting is not sustainable under your models at the DNR.
Start off saying I appreciate the Lincoln County CDAC board for what they do. For my input, I was out many days throughout the archery season, was out everyday during the 9 day gun deer season and most of the muzzle loader season and I truly spoke with a lot of hunters, mainly on public land (including MFL open). I would say it didn't matter if I spoke with hunters in Harrison Hills, Underdown area, New Wood, Tower Road, Wilson, Somo etc hunters are not seeing the deer on public land and this includes private owners that abut public land. I would never say everyone was disappointed but when I speak to the number of people I speak with, I will disagree with having the number of public land permits that the cdac has recommended. Now, I have heard members of the cdac board say if the deer aren't there you can't shoot them or people have to be there own conservationist. Although I agree to a certain extent I will say this, you have people that are conservationist but I think there are far more people that just want to shoot a deer no matter if the population is ready for it or not just because they haven't seen a deer this season, last season, or forever. For the cdac member that stated he would like to see higher public land permits to increase tourism, if you increase the number of public land tags that doesn't mean more deer will be shipped into Lincoln County public lands. Those tourist that may come, because of higher antlerless tags, will find out that it was a waste of time to come to Lincoln County and won't return. You need to first increase the deer population and then increase the tag numbers. I do believe that Lincoln County has to be one of the hardest counties to please hunters due to the break up of ag land and northern forest. You will never please everyone but I do believe we have to split Lincoln County into two separate units east and west. There are a good number of deer in the southern 1/3 of our county (with the exception of the southwest corner of the county) and work your way east of State Road 17 north to the County Line. Of course there are exceptions where deer populations are to low in this area but I'm sure you know what I am getting at. Finally, I found it interesting how the wildlife biologist brought up the CWD zone only after the cdac board voted on the quota for the antlerless tag numbers. Yes you need to go in order, to not get off track, but I believe most people listening in on the April meeting didn’t know any of this CWD zone was getting brought up. Also it was confusing during this CWD talk. It was stated this was a small zone which I believed, among others, was the 2 or 3 mile radius around the locations the CWD was actually located. Afterwords finding out this "zone" could extend literally west to the City of Tomahawk, south to County Road J, east to State Road 17 and then back north to the county line. I think this was very misleading on the wildlife biologist’s part and I would like the cdac board to bring this matter back to the table on weather the board approves this large area as the zone where a "liberal" amount of antlerless tags would be given out. I am up for the fight against cwd and believe it’s a serious issue but I believe this area is far to large. Lets focus and hit that immediate area hard (2 to 3 mile radius) and if find any more positives are found extend out. Thank you for your time.
There was no option that fit for me for the final question: How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDACs recommendations for this DMU? So I have included the following summary to clarify my reasoning. My reason for advising that we need more antlerless tags and even an antlerless only season, is because our buck to doe ratio is terrible. I see plenty of deer during the hunting seasons (as would most hunters if they put in the hours), but the deer I see are mainly doe and fawns. The majority of the breeding buck population is 1.5 year olds. In my opinion, we still have not recovered from the past -buck only - seasons we had in Lincoln County in the last 10 years- I think we had 2 years of it in recent times, on and off- around 2010? Can't remember the exact years. The combination of those past years hunting only bucks, the current increase of crossbow use which have made it clearly easier to harvest bucks(which I believe crossbows need a much shorter limited season due to there potency of kills compared to archery), the rise of wolves in the area, and recent deep snow years - have crippled the buck numbers and their age structure. We have a very young age structure of our bucks. I think the older bucks are getting worn down with the demands of the rut - with too many does to breed - they are easy pickings for wolves/coyotes or just starvation in the more recent harsh winters After losing so much body fat rutting intensely. Also the ban on feeding of these bucks to help them gain some fat reserves post rut because of the VERY few positive CWD results on the Lincoln County boarder has been the nail in the coffin for them. Overall, my recommendation to get a strong heathy balanced herd, with a productive rut, and a better chance to harvest more mature bucks, we will need a better balance of the buck to doe ratio. We will need higher doe kill. I believe that many people just pass a doe with more meat on her to shoot any little buck they see- status of getting antlers I guess. Harvesting more does will create a better buck to doe ration, and ultimately provide more opportunities to harvest a mature buck for hunters. But most importantly it will create a better balanced deer heard with the proper age structure to maintain itself. The deer herd is out of balance. We have a decent number of deer, but too many are does. We need a way for more does to be taken. Possibly an “earn a buck” type hunting season. Too many hunters will pass a bigger doe - with more meat on her bones- just to shoot a small 1.5 year old- spike, four or six point buck. This creates a dysfunctional unbalanced deer heard. As managers of the resource, it is not your job to please hunters all time, sometimes you need to take a stronger stance and do what you know is best for the resource- (the deer herd) you are managing. I ask that you seriously consider my requests. Thank you.
I just wanted to share that the effort I have seen put forth by hunters to harvest deer has decreased in my opinion and I feel like that led to the low harvest numbers more so than a possible low herd number. People seem to be confined to riding around in UTVs or trucks and not actually getting out and walking around. The bait ban probably has some affect also because that was the way a lot of hunters, especially tourist type hunted. Just set up a bait pile and sit and watch it. Now more effort and homework to pattern deer is required and people don't seem to be as interested in that, which is sad. I will also say that there was a crazy amount of "wildlife" corn being sold last deer season even though there was a bait ban. Obviously there was still a lot of baiting happening. I just hope that we can find a moderate consistent antlerless goal that ensures young hunters a better chance to see deer, not necessarily having to shoot one if they see it. If young people, and people in general can see more deer and not feel the pressure to shoot any deer they see I'm afraid they won't see another it will be better for hunting. I personally have had my best days hunting when I never actually shot at a deer, just got to see a lot and enjoyed being around them. One more thing I will add is that a big part of the hunting tradition was bringing the deer into town after harvest to register it, talk with the other hunters, grab something to eat and spend some money around town. With the change to by phone registration a lot of that tradition was lost, again losing more interest from hunters I feel. If there is one thing I would push for to have back is in person registration. People really seemed to enjoy it and I feel if you want to talk about having any concern about how hunting affects local economy, by phone registration seems to be the biggest limiting factor I can think of. People seemed to shell up in their cabins, no interest of coming into town much. Non locals would harvest their deer and then just head back home. In person registration gives people a good reason to come into town and spend some money. People want to check out the deer being harvested, talk with other hunters and so on. As I eluded to before there was none of that going on with the new registration. Thank you for allowing me to share my input and hopefully though long winded my opinions are helpful.

I have gone to past CDAC Meetings 4 years. The Area NW of Lincoln County is known as Newood Area. Formerly a good portion of Zone 32 during Quata System. The Forested area has seen a drastic deer population since Early 90's. Heavy Predation an increasing attitude of selling large amounts of Antler-less Tags. The hard winter of 2018 and severe cold took a further toll on the population. In a 160 acre tract of logging I found 7 dead deer 6 were fawns froze in a fetal position, Gave these pictures to our biologist. She had no way to make adjustments to compensate as Lincoln County is both Agriculture and Forest. She had to make a recommendation on county as a whole for Antler-less tags. Since Scott Walker made the management zones the county, there is no way a biologist can compensate for deer decline. 3 days of not seeing deer was enough. Buck kill very low: DNR has excuses for that/ late season, too many snow storms. In the past if the kill was low we compensated with a lower or no antlerless tags. now we seem to be more interested in how many antlerless tags we can sell. You wonder why interest in hunting is falling off. At the last CDAC Meeting for 2020, a gentleman made a comment from County Logging that he is not seeing many deer in the large tracks being logged in the Newood Area. Here is a fellow spending lots of time in the woods: do we value his opinion. My cameras for 2019 had about half the deer numbers and a steep decline in mature bucks. The last four years the question to the CDAC committee has been can Lincoln County be divided similar to Marinette County. Forested seperated from Agriculture, this would allow the Biologist to make adjustments and regrow the herd in forested area. How do you create more interest in Deer Hunting: give us deer to see keep the interest up.
I have two main concerns with the County proposal. 1. While I like increased opportunity when deer hunting, do any of you remember when we had hunters choice tags in the early 2000’s? Remember how many deer were on the landscape? This of course was when the DNR, now CDAC did not make thousands of antlerless tags available on an annual basis. I believe this herd has been mismanaged for years and the harvest numbers and number of animal sightings directly reflects my point. I believe the number of antlerless tags available should be reduced by 50% to bolster a fragile herd. 2. Your thought to have a sport hunt to "eliminate any spread of CWD" is insane. I cannot believe that this passed. The DNR increased tags in the southern part of the state when CWD was first discovered in Wisconsin. They used a similar approach, all this approach did was decimate the deer herd for a number of years. Guess what.....they still have positive CWD cases. All that you are going to achieve by doing this is a slaughter of a deer herd, you WILL NOT eliminate the spread of CWD. I believe this is a completely irresponsible action that will impact the herd, sporting opportunities, land prices and the local economy with few people wanted to hunt in that area. I know that everybody cares greatly about these topics. I thank you all for volunteering your time to sit on this board to represent the County and those with interest in this County. With that being said, please, please think about the impact and ripple affect created before making decisions that recent history has shown do not work. If we don't learn from history we are bound to make the same mistakes over and over again.

Dear numbers have been very very down for quite a few years. We used to have great hunting seasons years ago and at least see a bunch of antlerless deer and small bucks on our little food plots and pass them up so they can grow. But since the deer population is super down, possibly because of wolves and possibly for other reasons, I take that back, I know the wolves are taking them out to some degree 100%, hunters seem to shoot anything brown that walks by now because they figure they will be no chance of them seeing another deer. That's hurting the population around us even more. Sightings are down, trail camera pictures are way down even in the middle of the night with top of the line cameras that used to produce thousands of pictures, even fine-tuning our food plot which has always been an amazing attractant hasn't shown us nearly as many deer in the last couple years. I love that we finally aren't baiting. I feel like that screws up the deer, they're habitat, and the hunting season in general. So thank you for that. And I feel selfish wanting to make sure I have an antlerless tag every year so I can get some meat, but I would honestly rather see you shut it down for a couple years so the population can grow. Pretty much any Dough we see, only has one fawn with her instead of two or three like normal. Talking to guys at the bar, harvests are down. Sightings are down. The quality of buck isn't there anymore because everyone shooting whatever they can just to get meets. So as it pains me to say because I want some venison, I would like you to let the population grow so that future years can benefit from a healthier deer population.

I have four major concerns: 1. Lack of new hunters into the sport of hunting. 2. The impact of less hunters for our Hotels, bars, restaurants that need a boost right now. 3. Baiting bans are resulting in serious declines in success rates, that will have another hit on the economy and farmers selling feed for deer. 4. Covid-19 has hit our lower income residence harder than higher income hunters. We sell out of public land antler-less deer permits in the first hour. Lower income hunters tend to hunt on public land. Doing simple math, the hunters that can use the venison the most cannot get the permits to shoot does, and have a very low chance of bagging a buck. Our deer population is at a very high point, most of Lincoln county had a mild winter, we had the lowest number of deer harvested last year than at anytime in the recent past. Even if we were to double the number of permits in public land, using last years success rate we are talking about 300-350 deer total. When we estimate the population at 22,000. It is my feeling that by increasing the antler-less permits on public land, we energize the sport as more people will be successful. We help the economy with added tourism. And we just might put food on the table for some of the hunters that cannot afford to buy their own private land to hunt. And when I see a hundred deer come out of one small corn field that was left standing for the entire winter, do NOT tell me that baiting deer is the cause or effect of CWD.
2019 was a very rough season in our area. I understand part of the problem was the late start date. All of the proposals put forth on the Spring Hearing Ballot seem geared to make firearm hunters happy, at the expense of crossbow hunters. Moving the gun season to an earlier date and keeping all hunters out of the woods prior to the firearm season is not going to sell more firearm licenses. People either want to deer hunt, or they don't. Kids either want to deer hunt, or they want to sit at home and play video games. Keep it simple -- pick an earlier date like Michigan has done for decades (Nov 15th), and start the season on that date every year. Why punish crossbow hunters, when the statistics apparently show that the overall harvest has not increased since crossbows were approved for everyone. If it is so easy to shoot a buck with a crossbow, perhaps some of these people should pick one up and extend their deer season. If I had to give up my crossbow season, or my firearm season, I would quit gun hunting. I'm over 60, so the proposals won't affect me, but they will affect my son who is going to be crossbow hunting this year for the first time. If these new proposals keep us out of the woods on the best hunting days of the year, it will be easier for me to sell my land and find a new sport. I have a huge investment in land and equipment, and every day of the season matters to me.

I don't want to be selfish and say its all about me, I just want to see a deer every couple sits. And i want my kids to at least see one every now and again to keep their interest. I grew up hunting the 1990's in waupaca county, but I understand those were the "good ole days", when a 120" buck was a giant and I saw 15+ deer sitting in the oak trees. I love hunting for big bucks, but at the same time I like venison, and hunt for the experience - meaning I'm not afraid to shoot a spike just so my kids can at least come help track and drag one out. I have hunted lincoln county for 12 years now and have shot 3 deer in this county over that time frame. I hunt most weekends and take a week for november rut and a few days off for gun season. Starting late october and through november I hunt all day, dark to dark - sometimes all day sits in the same tree, sometimes 2 separate locations within walking or mountain biking distance of each other. I have to admit, I go elsewhere for the rut waupaca county and oneida county, because the sign just isn't here and I haven't found any sort of pattern that the deer follow in lincoln county (believe it or not, my big woods public land spots in oneida county have very predictable patterns), and I've wasted too many days here (wife gets mad we bought land and I choose public land instead lol).

I have hunted in the New Wood area for 55 years. There are almost no words that can adequately describe the decline in deer numbers in this area during this time period. During the 80's and 90's I would hear 400 to 500 shots fired while on my stand on opening morning. Now I hear under 10. This is not due to a lack of hunters in the woods. I did not see a single deer from my ground blind during the 2019 deer season. If the DNR is truly concerned about the growing disinterest in deer hunting, proposals designed to increase the heard should be put in place. For example, the DNR should discontinue selling antlerless permits in the area for the foreseeable future. More also needs to be done to reduce the size of the wolf population. Because there are so few deer, deer hunting season has become more of a social event that an opportunity to enjoy the sport and put meat in the freezer. If the proposal to lengthen the season is adopted, there will be little reason to go deer hunting and a Wisconsin hunting tradition will be destroyed. Perhaps none of this matters since CWD will eventually all but eliminate the deer heard. I suspect, and think you already know, that CWD is present in deer semen so there is nothing that can be done to stop it.
I am extremely disappointed with the management of the deer herd in Lincoln county. I have hunted in the same area for 27 years. New Wood is heavily forested with no agricultural land for miles. Over that time, it's my opinion that the population of herd has plummeted. I used to be able see 10-20+ deer per gun season. As I matured into a young adult that had gained valuable deer hunting experience, I regularly harvested a deer. From 2003 to 2011 I harvested a deer every year. Since 2011 I have harvested 1. I'm seeing approximately 2 deer per season during that span. Last year was the first time ever I failed to see a deer for the entire season. My hunting party hunts 8 of the 9 days and I regularly head out at first light and head back to camp at dusk. We regularly visit other hunting camps in our area and there are very few deer harvested. In favorable calendar conditions for 2018, my buck and a second one shot by neighbors 1 mile away were the only 2 deer harvested for multiple square miles that we are aware of. It's very discouraging to see the abundance of antlerless/bonus tags when there are so few deer being seen/harvested.

In the nine years I have hunted in Lincoln County there has been a drastic change in the deer population. When I first started hunting, I could sit out at my uncles shack at night and watch 10-30 deer per night make their way through the shack yard, to where now we are lucky to see a deer. The migration of wolves into Lincoln County, specifically the New Wood area, has had a huge impact on the deer numbers. This spring alone, my uncle and I have found 10 deer killed by wolves in only a 40-acre piece of land. The wolves numbers are continuing to rise, while the white tail numbers plummet. In my opinion there should be little to no antlerless tags sold in Lincoln County for the next 3-5 years in an effort to rebuild the deer population. Also, a wolf season NEEDS to happen yearly in this area. It's pretty sad when I drive through all of New Wood and not see a single track other than a wolf. They are taking over and eating everything in their path. If the Wisconsin DNR truly cares about people having a great hunting experience along with the health of the deer herd, these changes need to made ASAP. Thank you.

I would like to see deer hunting scheduled in the first half of Nov. (1-15) to take advantage of the rut! This season I did not see any deer the first 3 days of hunting & did NOT go out the rest of the season. All the deer were nocturnal on my cameras (3) & we did not have the people to do drives! This has been one of the worst seasons ever in my 55+ years of hunting!! If this situation does not change I will consider NOT going hunting! I have several grandsons coming of age (6-8) to go hunting BUT this scenario is not productive to interest them as future hunters! If the season lapped the rut, there would be more opportunities to see deer during the daytime hours! I would also like to say that getting rid of baiting (1 gallon) has been terrible for hunting. Previously I would see 2-3 deer come in to eat (NOT a big herd) & now nothing! Yet you allow neighbors to do food plots(.5-3 acres) & draw the deer to their areas! This is NOT fair to the people who can not afford to go that route! If there is nothing done to change this, soon there will not be many hunters left to do your deer management!

First let me state that i have been hunting Lincoln county public land for almost 10 years. During the rifle season i camp out and hunt the full nine days. From getting out there and sitting an hour before shooting time to make sure i get in my spot before other hunters to sitting to last shooting times. I've had years in Lincoln county public land where i didn't see a single deer the 9 days to where i have only seen two. The last two years i have seen the most deer ever and bagged my first buck from the area. It appears like the current arrangement is working. The only thing i would like to see happen is splitting the doe tags between public and private. I know too many guys that own land that buy public tags and shoot does on public because they don't want to shoot the doe on their lands. This is complete BS. It doesn't give the people that don't own land a chance at harvesting a doe. My suggestion would be to get rid of land type tags and just go to a general public / private either or doe tag, though i know that would cut into your money making plan. just my two cents.
I recognize the “barstool biology” that all too many have practiced over the years and I tended to side with the DNR and their recommendations more times than not, but this past year was so disappointing in our area. I spend hundreds of hours in the woods, build food plots and have numerous trail cameras throughout hundreds of acres of private and public land. This was the worst year I have ever logged dating back more than 20 years of keeping track. Numbers seemed to be concentrated in areas and there were essential dead spots for miles. I know that bad winters and wet springs and predation have created a perfect storm for declining numbers, but something needs to happen. I also think the only people that agree with all these youth hunts are the youths themselves, and that may even be up for discussion. outdoor sports should not be exclusively supported to drive revenue and too after that seems to be the case. Raising tag costs, adding youth seasons, allowing crossbows, reducing age to hunt and I don’t see any impact on helping the sport. Take all this for what’s its worth.

reviewing last meeting minutes antlerless success rate public land about 14% ,263 out of 1900 tags.private land success rate about 15.5%,699 out of 4500. But later in report on total antler kill was 263 public,913 private. Who is lying to who ? I have been coming to meetings since the beginning, notice that less people are coming. We use to take votes on what we think quotas should be, but last year no vote was taken. dnr. made recommended what they wanted the board quickly made motion to excepted quota numbers. NO recommendation from us. This year looks like our recommendation will go silent again. You are already voting to screw us that only hunt on public land, voting to raise quotas on public land. SUCCESS rates should tell you deer numbers are down. The DNR. should check their numbers because they are missing something. IT SHOULD NOT ALWAYS BE ABOUT THE MONEY!! You are having these meetings in name only. our opinions do not matter. IF YOU COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE MAKING ALL THE QUOTA RATES DO NOT WASTE OUR TIME.

I do not believe there is an over population of deer. I believe in the deer population needs to grow about another 25% to have it be back to the optimum size that I believe it was when hunting was at its best. I have lived in the area and hunted in my area my whole life and have watched and monitored deer population through game cameras extensively. I watch them browsing on my game cameras in the forest and I believe that the forest is very healthy due to management of the forest by cutting old growth letting new growth begin. I also believe in baiting should be allowed from September 1st through January 31st. As the hunter population gets older baiting allows them to have a better chance to harvest and maintain the deer herd. It is hard to compete for deer with people who have fields of soy beans and such food plots to draw the deer in if you are unable to create a food plot as such during the season your chances are greatly diminished because the deer herd up close to these plots.

I own 158 acres of prime deer property in NE Lincoln County. Food plots throughout the property. My property borders hundreds of acres of County Forest to the south. Over the past 5 years, I have seen a trend of declining deer numbers, despite my food plots and habitat improvement. Predators are a significant issue on my property, and I suspect the County Forest to the south. By late fall, my census is that only 30% of the adult does has a fawn surviving. I spend a lot of time in the woods, and the tracks, trails, rubs, etc. continue to decline. I also don’t believe that the archery harvest is a good annual comparison, because the length of the season allows adequate time to harvest a deer. All this having been said, I realize that my property is a small piece of Lincoln County, but myself as well as my neighbors are seeing the same trend. Please take this into your considerations. (If the 2020 deer harvest is declines again, rethink your indicators!)
I have lived and hunted here for 25 years. The first 10 or so years were awesome. Saw a ton of deer and harvested yearly. Since that time it has been a steady decline. Last year 2019 was the absolute worst. I hunted all fall be it now and rifle and saw the fewest deer ever. I also have grandkids that are hunting and are getting very frustrated on the amount of deer they don’t see. I highly recommend getting the population back to what it use to be to keep the younger generations interested. If it stays like this you are going to loose a ton of hunters including myself. I have been hunting for 45 plus years and I am about ready to say the heck with it. It is very frustrating to not see deer sitting so many hours every year. I know CWD exists but I think baiting should really be brought back. You are going to loose the younger generation more than you already have. I hope my thoughts and comments mean something!!

I've been hunting Lincoln County east of the WI river for 12 years. The deer hunting has been MISERABLE at best. I've attended Spring meetings to express my concerns, only to see DNR personnel dismiss others accounts of an anemic deer population. While I don't consider myself an expert hunter, I do hunt regularly and know what a "good deer woods" looks like. My simple 80 acres has all the makings of a good deer woods in the middle of heavy timber. That said, in 2019, I hunted as hard as I ever had. I only saw THREE deer in one group the entire year!!! I know you will dismiss this as just one disgruntled hunter so I don't even know why I respond to these things. There continues to be a MAJOR problem with deer numbers in Lincoln County. It's pathetic at best. We are either over-harvesting, poaching, or the predators remain at the top of the food chain. Too bad for the kids. They don't deserve this.

Completely forget about "earn a buck" and never implement that again - the deer population will never recover from that until humans are gone. Cut the doe tags down by 3/4 of what you had available last year. Implement 8 points or better for bucks - lots of people taking 1.5 and 2.5 year olds - LET THEM GROW!! Increase fines and punishment for poaching - make it not worth the risk - right now it's a slap on the wrist. Raise non-resident tag prices by 2-3X what they are currently - we pay BIG dollars if we want to hunt out west...why should we (Wisconsinites) give our tags away to non-residents for the price of a couple cases of beer? The deer numbers are laughable in Lincoln county - I started hunting up there in 2010 and it was like a deer farm on my buddy's 40 acre plot, and now, we're lucky to shoot a scrub forker on the last day for the freezer. Too many hunters and not enough deer. Period.

I saw two deer total in the 2019 deer rifle season. There were wolf tracks all over the area I hunted. I found three dead deer carcass remains this spring and am confident they were wolf kills. The wolf population in Lincoln county is underestimated (I have a single photo from a trail camera with 6 adult wolves on it from November 2019). The number of deer being killed by wolves is underestimated. Decrease the antlerless harvest and let the herd rejuvenate. And lets hope the federal government can get the wolf hunting/trapping season reinstated so the wolf population can be managed. Open deer rifle season the Saturday closest to November 15th and make it a 16 day season Limiting the hunting season for crossbows is counter intuitive .... you want more deer killed and you want more hunters buying licenses and hunting....so your answer is to reduce the crossbow season timeframe? That makes no sense.

I truly believe Lincoln County needs to be managed in 2 different zones. I know it takes special decisions but I know it also can be done. New wood is not the town of Pine river. We are consistently struggling with many obstacles not only winter and natural predators as well as the human predator. We cannot continue to hunt these animals for 3-4 months and battle nature via weather or predators and ever hope to have a good population again. I am a stout believer that there should be no doe tags available other than 1st time youth for the entire New wood area from the Wisconsin river west and hwy 64 north to the county lines. Say what you want but we don't have the deer.I have documented the decline for the last 12-15 years and see a much lower deer count constantly. How will we keep kids interested with deer hunting. You can't remove the producers-the does. we are getting below a sustainable count.
The forested areas of Lincoln Co. have very few deer. While we would like to see the hay day of hunting restored in Lincoln Co., it won’t happen until predator control receives more emphasis by the DNR. Sure, hard winters, changes in forestry practices, and agriculture all affect deer numbers. All these contribute to deer numbers, either adding or subtracting. But the total weight of the subtractions have meant fewer deer for years. Deer have been able to do better where there is ample corn fields and other crops, milder winters, and fewer predators. The young forest initiative, and uneven age cutting, should continue to be promoted. The CWD area is very focused, and a concentrated overharvest in the 2 square miles around the positives is warranted. A liberal harvest in the entire control area is not needed, and would be very unpopular with people who live in that area.

I live and hunt in Lincoln county 2 miles from the southern boarder. Deer population is very high here. There are way to many deer especially antlerless deer. They eat good all winter near the area corn drying facility. All summer in the area corn and bean fields. I daily see deer running together in groups of 10 to 12. My major concern if you lower harvest these numbers will increase. I am a small property owner only 17 acres but surrounded by much private, land that sees little hunting pressure, with no close public land. I don’t have the solution for this issue. My fear is the increase opportunity for CWD and vehicles damages. These deer have no reason to move to an area with higher hunter pressure as they have all they need right here. A no buck season my help but how do you decide a hunting unit and my neighbors would shoot the buck anyway and ignore the rule.

Lincoln county is a part of the Northern Forest unit however Lincoln county should be split into two with farmland area to the South there is a difference in the population of the deer as to the northern part where did becomes Big woods country. Also, the DNR needs to start to go back to the way it used to be of listening to the hunters and what they are seeing and stop making the excuses for the bad numbers. The bad numbers do not come because hunters are good it comes that over the past few years on our private property we have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of deer on our property even though we have done significant changes to it to increase the quality of deer habitat. It would just be nice for the DNR to listen to the people again and not just rely ge sex kill model to get their estimates of how many deer are there.

Good presentation. I can certainly attest to seeing fewer deer last year, and overall, hearing much less shooting in the woods during the gun season. But the theory regarding the timing of the season (early in 2018 vs. late in 2019) makes sense and appears to be supported by recent data. To me it basically boils down to two sets of opposing observations/data. On one hand, the lower gun kill and hunter observations. On the other hand, the bow kill heading into gun season and the early-to-late season change from ’18 to ’19. To me it makes sense to keep the same quotas and see how the 2020 season turns out. The only thing that gives me pause is the CWD factor. Are there benefits to early interventions, etc? Overall, the proposed quotas seem to be a good balance of all the variables and competing data.

The DNR biologist's video is what is wrong with deer management today. Annually, we hear the same excuses from our deer "managers"...just pick the year. Too cold, too warm, lack of hunter effort, too much snow, too much standing corn, too late of a rifle season, etc. We are led to believe the deer population is higher than in the 1980s. What is different now then at that time? From party tags/hunter's choice to bonus permits, from no wolves to wolves, shorter seasons to longer seasons, introduction of youth hunt/muzzleloader/December hunts, older technology to newer technology - how can the population be anything close to what our biologists say? Logic dictates otherwise. These biologists are spreading propaganda from Madison pure and simple. Anybody that uses logic would disagree.
I wish the county could be cut in half for deer management like it was in the past years, units 32 and 52. The reason being is that there is a huge difference in deer population. I live in the eastern part and see 15 to 25 deer per field each evening. Which is great. But in the western part where I own land and do most of my hunting. The numbers are not even close to that in the eastern part. I do have a lot of contact with wood haulers, loggers, and land owners that agree with my statement. During the winter months you can get a good estimate on the population, due to the deer herding up. And when your only seeing a hand full of deer on some of those bigger logging jobs, the deer numbers aren’t there. I wish something could be done to strengthen those numbers in the western part of the county.

I believe the no baiting laws in this unit should be enforced more. I believe there is still way too many hunters baiting even though there is a baiting ban. I would also like to see some measures taken to have better quality bucks in our unit. I started hunting SW Wisconsin and am highly impressed with the amount of bucks I saw and wouldn’t mind taking a year in northern Wisconsin for doe only to try and replenish the buck population. Also don’t worry about the “WOLVES” in this unit they’re not as bad as most hunters around here say, it’s just what they put the blame on instead of themselves for not harvesting a decent buck. Thanks to all the DNR staff for doing your best to manage our forests and wildlife to make it better for the outdoorsman.

It is my opinion and thousands of others that baiting and feeding the deer should be legal. If you want our youth to hunt baiting deer keeps the youth hunters most interested in the sport they see way more deer and other wildlife. CWD is not spread from feeding the deer. Have a public vote on this for each county and you will see that baiting is favored among hunters. Stop letting the people that don’t hunt or observe the deer make these decisions. Hunting numbers are dropping because you keep messing with the baiting. My son and I found over a dozen deer on private and public land killed by the wolves this winter in Lincoln county. The wolf problem should take care of your doe issues. Let the kids shot does until there 18 years of age.

We see a high amount of predators on our cameras throughout the year (wolf, coyote, bear and bobcat). We have 8 hunters in our deer camp and we hunt on 260 acres of private land. We saw a total of 13 deer in the 5 days we hunted! I have a 13 year old child who got completely bored with not seeing any deer and I don’t know if I will be able to interest her in coming back out next fall. When I was a teenager hunting on the land, I would see 10-15 deer per day, plus always see a decent sized rack on a buck. I have not seen a decent rack with my eyes in over 5 years! Predators, in my opinion, are taking a big toll on the deer population. All our neighboring hunting parties had similar results and also agree with the predator factor.

I still have a hard time understanding how a food plot is a legal form of baiting and spreading corn or apples not piling up is not. if baiting is not allowed it should go for every source. deer seen was significantly lower in 2019 than 2018. I would also recommend changing tree stand laws. portable shelters and portable stands should be able to be left up for entire season without damage to trees statewide not just north of 64. public land is public land weather its county forest land or forest crop land or open managed land. do not agree with a possible 19 day gun season. would be in favor of a early muzzleloader season. I believe if rules went back to how they use to be years ago the hunter numbers would go back up.

In short I would like to see baiting and feeding prohibited state wide for good, and also would like to see some kind of physical tag brought back for all animals. I fully believe there are a lot of animals being harvested and not being called in because if people can make it home after a harvest( without anyone seeing them) the animal is butchered and they continue to hunt on that tag. At least if there was a tag to attach to the animal as soon as harvested it would sway people from being illegal. It is way to easy for people to get away with shooting multiple animals on one tag thus not giving an accurate number of animals harvested. This should go for all animals, not just deer. Thank you for taking time to read this.
I’ve been hunting the New Wood area for the last 24 years. I am 45 years old. When I was young and dumb I listened to the DNR. Early 2000’s lots of does!! "Shoot them, their over populated"!! I regret shooting so many of them. Now I’m lucky to see 2-3 a rifle season. For the last 6 years all the shack on our right away (camp 26 road/whiskey bill) leave after opening weekend. They all have the same response... "no deer" I was hunting up there when it was in its prime and then theres now, the dead zone.. This is not farm country. As long as your going to give out doe tags people are going to shoot them. I can not control what my neighbors do with doe tags, but you can. Split the unit farm country/north forest......

You have two choices, make a serious attempt at lowering the deer population for a few years and wiping out CWD, or stay the course and learn to live with it though out WI. Banning baiting is a joke, and the DNR knows it. It is their way of making us believe they care. Allowing farmers to keep corn up all winter was a magnet for CWD, compare that to a few coffee cans of corn on a hunting stand, and you might see the big picture. Did anyone do the math and realize that much of the corn was left on the fields because the hunters were not allowed to buy it and spread the corn over the entire county? Instead all the deer gathered in the field and ate it all winter. Good Job DNR, hurt the farmers spread CWD.

In our direct area where I hunt, there has been a large increase in wolf population again. It seems to cycle through between coyotes for a few years and then wolves again. Last year was wolves. Regardless of if you believe they are present or not, that has been the topic around the area. Lincoln county is also seeing a large boom in wild cats (cougars and bobcats). Whether trail cam photos and actually seeing them while driving or out in the woods, they are present and breeding rapidly. You are going to have to come up with a plan to manage all of the above. The deer population needs a break to bring numbers back up. We are finally seeing large bucks again, now we need the entire population to recover.

Most years I am able to beat the crowd and get a doe permit. This year I was unable to get one as I could not get off of work, by the time I got to the hardware store, they were gone. I hunted 8 out of the 9 days and did not see one horn. Therefore I was unable to shoot anything this year. Venison is a real treat for our family, and this year we went without our favorite meal. With all the deer you say we have, would it really hurt to let me shoot one doe for our family? I am not always able to take off of work to wait in line the morning of the permit release, you give all the permits to the people that can afford private land, and less than 25% to the people that cannot afford land, that is so wrong.

I have hunted the same property since I was 12 and I have seen the amount of deer decline steadily in the last 10 years. I quit bow hunting because of not seeing any deer night after night. Last year I hunted all 9 days of the gun season and did not even see one deer the whole year. After a frustrating season I opted not to muzzle load and am really seriously considering giving up deer hunting altogether. With the increased Bear population, Wolf populations out of control and the antlerless hunting eliminating the does the deer population is not sustainable. As stated earlier I have hunted the same property for 40 years and always saw deer in the old days now all you see are wolf tracks and bear.

In my opinion of the hunting season is that there is too many hunts and over harvesting going on that is not reported. Without the old tagging system one does not know if the person hunting in the next field has a license for the hunting year. Two did they shoot more than one deer and said they called it in. I am not in favor of extending season due to the fact that after a party gets a deer they are done for the year. And pull out of the hunt for deer. More hunters are getting older and are sitting and not pushing deer like in the past with drives. If people would see more deer during the season, it would drive more excitement between people. Keeping more hunters out hunting. Thank you,
I hunt all season on my own land and am lucky I see more than 2 or 3 deer. Cameras out all year and seeing less and less deer every year. Nobody even hunts there anymore unless they own land so good or bad that's where you hunt. Plenty of pics of predators year round. Am surrounded by clear cuts so plenty of browse but no deer, dang if we can't figure out where they went unless they were lunch for the predators. Very sad to see it so bad. Can understand why many have quit hunting. I may be next. I do think way too many extra tags are sold, how about 0 for a couple years? Maybe the herd could rebuild. As it is this may be the end of the great northern WI deer hunting tradition.

I feel as if the CDAC is not doing what they are saying. They have a maintain objective but it seems like the numbers keep dropping. I feel as if there should be no permits on public land as the herd is decimated on public lands. The permits on private land are not as effective as intended since landowners will use public land tags to harvest on public land and have their private lands act as a preserve. I do not think the harvest will be much different than last year due to the herd being down. The equipment that we are using these days are not taken into consideration, I think the yearling buck harvest percentage is up from what is calculated and the numbers are outdated.

Since I started hunting at age 12 this is the worst year I ever had. I feel bad for people that half to hunt wolf infested county land. I still don't know why all these predators are getting protected by the dnr. Wolves are at an all time high. It takes you 13 years to get a bear tag and there are bear everywhere. That is ridiculous. I spend hundreds of dollars on food plots every year to help the deer out and it just seems that you want the deer to be slaughtered. A buddy and I r so fed up with hunting northern Wisconsin wolf infested woods that we planned a trip for Missouri this year. I know I'm not the only one that thinks this either. Thank you.

Well from a Hunter's aspect, I seen more bobcat tracks an wolf tracks in the woods then ever. Our beloved DNR preaches on how to get youth involved in hunting an quite frankly if we don't do anything about predator control for one we won't have to worry about hunting deer in our state now will we. Next off if we keep killing all the Doe's and having this youth hunt it's only going to spoil youth Hunter's in year's to come when you can't no longer go into a bean field in the middle of August with a high powered rifle and shoot a 160 inch giant. I'm with control but that stems right on through to the predators as well 🤷♂️🤷♂️🤷♂️

In 2019 prior to the deer gun and muzzleloader hunts I observed numbers of deer greater than the previous 5 years. Several things in my opinion caused the lack of seeing deer during the gun hunt. The rut was pretty much over, warm temps encouraging hunters sitting longer. Where I have been hunting, Harrison Hills, there were fewer hunters than previous years. I have hunted there for 59 years and the number of hunters in the area were more important than the deer population to hunter success. It's a very difficult area to hunt and more antlerless tags woul draw more hunters to the area. Thanks for listening.

I hunt in Newood in a group of 10. We make drives all day, everyday. in 2018 I didn't see a deer and last year I saw 2 deer. If it wasn't for tradition, I would not ever buy another tag to hunt in Wisconsin. Lincoln County needs to be broken up into two areas. There is farmland and big woods (Newood). I do see plenty of deer around the farmland, but that is not the case in Newood. There should not be any doe permits given for Newood and big woods areas. We have several young hunters in our group that already have quit hunting because of this and I see that happening to more of us older hunter also.

Bow hunting should be just that. Crossbows are fine for aging or disabled ONLY. Muzzle Loader season is "enough" pressure on the herd, especially with a "modern" Smoke pole. We should be trying to build up the deer herd let the herd get healthy. After completing a Hunter Safety Course a 12 year old can hunt with an adult and not before, all the "special hunts" should be eliminated. A young person will have a greater appreciation for that first opportunity and just might be hooked for life, Not just give it a try because "dad" wanted it and then show no interest the rest of their life.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Very low deer count. The property i hunt is managed very well but still very low count. I primarily hunt Oklahoma but i am confused at the reasoning behind not letting people feed the deer? Why is it ok to build a food plot but not ok to use a feeder? I understand that one concern could be CWD as the deer would be eating in the same spot as other deer but isn't that what happens on a food plot also? seems like there would be huge benefit in being able to feed the deer minerals. the antler growth is almost non existent which to me points to lack of minerals/nutrition.

I have hunted this county for over 20 years. It's been obvious a consistent in population and just total number of deer seen. I hunt public forests, so I'm not overseeing farm land or other commodities feeding areas where some hunters might not notice the decline as easily. In the past five years I hear wolves on a nightly basis where years ago, hearing a wolf at night was a treat. Obviously environment/weather/food source are all impacts, but the predator and quota numbers are two things you can change and alphabetical a significant impact on the population for future.

I did not hear or see anything about predators. We have a wolf and bear predators problem. You know it and I know it. There are way to many wolves. Not enough bear tag issued. My area has been decimated over the last 15 years. It has been awful. Lower the wolf population and you will have better hunting and better numbers. Tag sales are down and this is why. No one wants to waste their time anymore. Hunt seven days see one deer. How can you get a young kid interested if all he sees is nothing? Hard to keep them interested. Also I am in favor of banning bait!

One of my biggest concerns are the Predators in the North compared to the Southern, South Western parts of Wisconsin. Wolves have become a major concern for people in the North. Bow and Deer Gun Season brings in money. Businesses up North rely on this hoping hunters spend money. This is not Science, it's just a fact. To say, Wisconsin is looking at 1.3 to 1.4 million deer? Most of them must be in the lower half of the State. Just saying be careful on how you, the DNR look at this. Hunting/Hunters bring in money needed to fund many, many programs

I would like to see baiting brought back to this area. With limited space available to hunt and not having ideal land to hunt baiting is a way to bring deer into your area so not only I can see more deer but my kids and my grand kids will have an opportunity to harvest a deer. We have planted food plots but they only support a small portion of deer and are expensive to maintain. We need to keep our youth involved in this sport and that will not happen only seeing one or two deer a season and not harvesting an animal say nothing about getting a buck.

We have large public tracts that are way below carrying capacity for deer. (Newood/Harrison/underdown). Wolves are making a huge impact. The deer numbers are having an impossible time gaining any ground in those areas. I want to see the balance of predator/prey managed. Please do something to get DNR control over the balance! People here count on venison for food. The large woods of all Northern Wisconsin has had a very disappointing deer population for way too long! My Grandkids are hunting soon, and I want them to continue our heritage!

You have failed again to address deer farms and the relation to CWD. This is dereliction of your duty. Deer farms are anti deer and anti citizen deer hunter. You are lacking honesty in this regard. Secondly ticks, mice and coyotes. Misguided hunter kill the coyotes that eat the mice that are a vector for ticks. This has to stop as well as ticks and tick born diseases are out of control. Please take the lead in this. We hunters need to take the lead in these issues. Hiding the issues does nothing but it is job friendly for the biologist.

Our family has hunted the Lincoln County public land for 60+ year. The last few Year I have not seen a deer in the first 4 days of hunting. This last year was the worst with almost no sign of deer. ( our group of 5 hunted all day the first 4 days with -0- deer seen. How can you justify a doe hunt when there are no deer ? I live in Michigan so pay out of state. I enjoy spending time with family but why buy a license to not Evan see a deer. Oh, we do know the woods we hunt in and I have shot allot of deer just not in Lincoln County.
I would like to see the CWD infected deer eradicated with some type of plan. I don't believe this past winter (2019-2020) was to tough on the deer population, but the 2 previous years were with the blizzard in the late winter, and the very cool/wet springs. Which brought populations down some before this last season. I have also been seeing an increase in wolf, bear, and coyote numbers in the Lincoln county area, which does not help. I have also been seeing dumped carcasses pointing towards poaching/night shooting.

The last days of the deer gun season were horrible in terms of weather (in line with a late start.) The other issue is wolves, wolves, wolves (is anyone listening?) Our hunting crew (private land) and the other 2 crews near us had wolves on every single game camera in 2019! I averaged seeing a dozen or more deer every day in 2018 and averaged 3 in 2019. Only a few wolves captured all fall on game cameras in 2018. I have seen a wolf every year for the past 4 years in a row. I don't have a sense for the bear population.

Own approximately 300 acres of land. I do food plots and other projects to benefit wildlife. I spent approximately $50,000 on logging equipment to log my property over next 10 years as hobby. 1st winter 15 deer always around skidder. Last winter 2 deer for couple weeks then nothing rest of winter except wolves. This will be 1st deer season I’ll miss in 35 years. Heading Colorado elk hunting. Probably done deer hunting and doing food plots. Plant Christmas trees call it quits. Spend my dollars somewhere else.

I'd like to recommend that we charge the same amount for out-of-state licenses rather than the insane prices we are currently charging. If the prices were more feasible, we would likely see better turnout, and more revenue in the state, not just for hunting, but for all the local businesses too. At the moment, it appears that we are simply trying to make as much money as possible for those that visit the state - some of these folks only come back to their home towns to hunt and spend time with their families...

The public / private antlerless tag permits , these specifications that are given are not followed as close as you think they are , which really changes the numbers your graphs might show. Many people in Lincoln cty are using private tags (which are easier to obtain, seen as though there are a lot issued) and using them on public land because they don't harvest a doe on their own land. Many people in this area don't like the youth hunt , antlerless only hunts and any of these types of extra hunts.

Antlerless tags should just be for the county not private or public. I hunt an area with both public and private land touching and i know the people owning the private land buy up all the public tags and either shoot a doe on public land or dont use the tag at all. Also cwd is natural stop worrying about it and allow baiting. Private land owners bait and thats why they see more deer and if u dont believe me go to any gas station during gun deer season and watch guys fill trucks with apples and corn.

I would like to move towards getting an older deer population and believe that having an older herd it strengthens it. That being said it is difficult to age a doe but a little easier with bucks. I think it would make the sport of hunting Lincoln county if we established qdma and people would travel to Lincoln county if we practiced this and in just a few years our deer herd would be a lot well off and people would travel to our county for a higher chance of shooting a mature buck.

Did not see a single deer this gun season. How do we get our kids interested in hunting when there is nothing available to hunt? We heard 3 gun shots opening day. Quit mismanaging the deer herd in northern wisconsin. Do something about the wolf population. This is not the only county ruined. Nicolette Forest is a joke to hunt. Quit over logging These parks and cutting in more trails. Used to be 5 miles between roads, now less than one. You have ruined deer hunting in the state.

I personally believe that discussing harvest numbers while not considering enforcement of illegible baiting is somewhat useless. Baiting and crossbows are significant factors impacting deer kills on private land. Additionally private land borders public land, thus concentrating on these differences has me a little confused in discussion of actual population. The only difference is kill ratios. Do we know how many hunters are on each type of land as opposed to registration data?
Hello, My major concern as a gun hunter is that the modern crossbow hunters will harvest a disproportionate number of deer and get to kill the choice bucks before we even enter the woods. I believe crossbow hunting during archery season should be by ONLY disabled and "older" hunters. Remaining fit-and-healthy crossbow hunters should have to wait and hunt during the gun-only season. Modern crossbows have become as lethal as guns under 100 yards! It is NOT archery!

I hunted the first 3 days of the 2019 gun season and never saw a deer. I'm pretty sure this was the first time in 50 year of hunting. There just are not any deer in the upper part of Lincoln county. Too many wolves, bear, coyotes and other predators. Although it is too late, the DNR must regulate or close game farms. CWD continues to spread because of the lack of management. I am seriously considering giving up hunting because of the lack of management and spread of CWD.

Opinions of residents in this area suggest that wolves are responsible for the significant decline in the number of deer seen in the 2019 season. On my 20 acre parcel, no one saw a deer the entire season. A second contributing factor was the ban on feeding deer in hunting areas. Neither of these was specifically mentioned in your survey. Does this suggest the opinions of residents are incorrect? I have seen large wolf tracks on our property for the past several years.

Deer numbers north of the East-West line formed by northern most East-West running Hwy. E segment drop off drastically. Very few does should be harvested in that area or probably in the areas two miles south of that E segment level in an attempt to build up the herd there. Another problem in that area appears to be the number of wolves which adds to the difficulty of keeping deer there. That could be the biggest problem - the deer just leave to avoid the wolves.

Predator populations (specifically coyote & wolf) need to be drastically reduced....when getting tracked by wolves while skiing or even jogging on gravel roads it is enough to worry me, especially near Baldwin creek on the south western corner of Lincoln county near the Rib River. Considering also that fisher & pine martens have had significant impact on newborn fawns, it is that which troubles my view of the low deer population in the area.

When you give out antler less permits why can't it be a lottery draw or random draw. My neighbors are from Chicago they have 80 acres of land and they have 15 people hunt there and they all get doe permits, what do you think I see all season? I saw 2 deer all season, it gets so frustrating I think I am getting closer to just quitting all together. If you had a random draw at least not all of them people would be getting tags for a doe.

Hunting on my property last year was obnoxious. Car after car every 20 seconds it seemed. There was a guide in the area with a van full of people from Illinois. There aren't even a whole lot of deer in my area. So the yearlings get shot and the herd never seems to rebound. Such a joke. And without being able to toss a little bait out my chances are slim to non. Hunting season last year made me want to quit all together

Wolf and bear populations are too high and have negatively impacted the deer population for many years. Hunting our land in Lincoln County off Tower Road north of County M is much worse than it used to be. There is good forest management in the area to support higher populations and less people hunting the area but the deer population has been down for a long time. We are traveling more to Marathon County to hunt deer.

I hunt in NE Lincoln County. We have an abundance of deer on private land. Keep many tags available for landowners that want to harvest this overabundance. CWD is less than 10 miles away. High deep population with CWD moving in is not a healthy situation. For the long term good of our herd consider encouraging more antlerless harvest on private land. Public numbers in Otter lake area are probably too low.

The deer herd in the area where I hunt in this unit is know as (Newwood wild life area). In this area there is an over abundance of predators not just wolves but black bear and bobcat and of coarse hunters also. The herd in this area has not bounced back. In the late 90's early 2000's there were a lot more deer, but then came a time of almost unlimited harvest tags, From which the population has never recovered.
Last year was the lowest number of deer (3) I had seen in the last 30 years of hunting in the same areas of Lincoln County. The last 2 winters had been very hard on the herd which I feel has been a big factor. Also I strongly feel that many hunters are not being truthful with calling in and registering deer taken and continue to hunt. I feel many deer are taken with the new method and no back tags required.

Predators, predators, predators, must be controlled better, way to many! A late start to deer season almost always ends in a lower kill, start gun season around the 15 of nov. every year for more continuity. There were one hundred deer sited in a 2 mile square this spring north of Tomahawk, we did not see those animals at all last fall, hard to tell what happened, there was no shooting, where were they?

Our DMU has very few deer due to the wolf population. We need to decrease the amount of wolves through hunting or trapping. Also, we have a large population of black bear which have an impact on our deer numbers. We need to allow more tags to be issued for bear and we need to reduce the point system where every other year you can get a bear tag. Also, baiting should be allowed in the Northern Forest.

I am opposed to youth hunts and think they are detrimental to wildlife population and need to be taken into account under a management policy and plan. Hunting is not soccer; everyone doesn't need to shoot a deer every year up to the age of 18. The overpopulation of the timber wolf also should be included in the management scenario. There were times, while hunting, I saw more predators than deer.

Buck kill this year in Lincoln County was lower than 3 years ago when the CDAC proposed to "Maintain" the population. I do not understand why there are still the same amount of antlerless licenses being allotted when the buck kill is lower than it was three years ago. I'd like to see the bonus tags on private land reduced by 30% and no bonus tags on public land for at least three years.

Although the private section of land I hunt on in Lincoln county has not had many deer over the last few years which has been disappointing as a new/inexperienced hunter, I would want to adjust and adhere to a quota that would positively impact not only the future buck & antlerless deer populations but also other ecosystems including agricultural crops, predators, and forests.

I think the CDAC Committee made good decisions regarding the quota of antler less permits for 2020: given the number of bucks harvested. That number being less in 2019 than 2018 might indicate a less quota would be proposed but given the late deer rifle season and CWD concerns I think they thought the issue over. Thanks for you work. Please do not change your recommendations.

To many rifle seasons I think nine day and muzzle loading should be one as there both guns no holiday hunt in North woods as no deer to begin with if you shoot everything what's left for younger generations stop letting insurance company's decide if deer crossing roads getting hit put up high fences it will solve the problems for years to come instead of year to year

Winter of 2018-2019 had a severe impact with killing off some of the deer population, along with supporting predator killings which I saw on my land. Hunting season saw a total of 5 deer, past season was able to see approx triple that number. This winter 2019-2020 will be probably the same case as I had a number of dead deer or sick looking deer on trail cams.

I am the wife of a tree farmer, this maybe or last year in business as our tree damage is increasing every year, we need to thin the herd why don't you wake up. Anyone that says there are not enough deer do not spend enough time in the woods. Ours sons hunted and did not see a thing as you also made baiting illegal, what else can you possibly do to hurt us.

There was nothing mentioned about controlling the wolf population. When one goes out and looks at past prime deer habitat and only sees wolf sign, (scat, tracks) and no sign of deer (scrapes, rubs, droppings, trails through tall grass) something is out of adjustment! Lets get more proactive and look into what can be done to help this situation.
there have been many deer killed via car, predators, and due to our winter. We are finding a ton of caucuses and id hate to see the deer population decrease because of the amount of tags authorized. Predators are getting worse, deer population is going down. Winters are getting harsh, deer population is going down. I’d love to see it rise.

I think there should be better seasons or times for the youth to harvest a deer. It’s hard when you have a 9 day season and don’t see a single deer. It has been very disappointing for my children last few years. Very hard to get them involved when they can even see on deer to atleast observe and get use to what hunting is all about.

Hello, I believe baiting has been stopped in this county I hope? Our group has never baited and I think no one should be able to bait wether it be public or private. When deer feed as a group they are usually spread out somewhat and feed naturally and thats the way it should be for good reasons you all know about. UWSP - go Pointers!

I feel that they should only allow the special youth hunt in agricultural zones where they have higher deer density. The northern zone needs to have more deer numbers so we can have proper age class deer again. Two hard winters with deep snow and growing predation numbers. I have not seen much as in 2+ year old does and bucks.

My goal for deer hunting is to have fun first with family and friends first. But enjoy to see deer. Being in the woods for 3 to 4 days and seeing 1 deer in each of the past three years not great. I don’t need to harvest a deer and prefer not to shoot doe. Don’t like insurance lobbyist controlling the size of the deer herd.

We hunt near the Merrill school forest on private land. In the last 3 years on our trail cams and hunting we have seen a lot less deer and almost no large bucks. We do spend a lot of time on our wood lot just walking. This has been a big change compared to the years before. Thank you for taking the time to ask our opinion.

I hunt the public land in Lincoln County for the past 40 year, past years was able to see many deer and harvest some nice deer. The last two deer seasons I never saw a deer. I have a 10 year old boy that is interested in deer hunting, but it's hard to be interested in hunting when we are not able to see deer.

Don’t believe we should extend deer season to a 16 day season the number of deer I’ve seen is extremely low. In last 3 years between 3 to 4 hunters we’ve seen zero deer. Need to work at getting a wolf season back see more tracks of wolves than deer. What does a longer season do for an area that numbers are very low.

Deer heard needs to be bigger so that public land hunters see more deer. Would be nice if the logging companies would leave some oak trees and not just cut a wide open area. We are not allowed food plots on public land so we need natural areas that draw the deer in. With out that habitat then why would deer come in?

I am a bar owner, number of hunters was down from past years. However the ones that did come spent more time in my tavern as they were not seeing any deer so they drank more. That should make me happy but many said that they could not get a doe permit and did not see any bucks so they are not coming back this year.

In the past I have seen deer throughout the entire gun season. This year however I had only seen one deer, and that was a young doe. I felt that there had been more of a kill off of deer from the winter season then had been expected in my area resulting in a lower deer population form one year to the next.

I work in law enforcement and travel in a vehicle between Taylor and Lincoln counties. I frequently monitor deer traffic to present during traffic safety meetings particularly around spring fawn and fall rut. The amount of deer traffic on the west side of Lincoln is later this spring than last spring.

While hunting the New Wood area, I've noticed a decrease of fawns during the open deer season. With the large forested areas of the county, could the management area be split into two with ag areas with higher density of deer split from the large New Wood area? Thanks for your considerations.
I think it could be of use to set an antler minimum as other states have. For example, bucks would need to have at least 6 points in order to be harvested. This would give the opportunity for greater reproduction and a more exciting hunt. The deer population could increase if time would allow.

Once again there are too many doe tags available to purchase. Everyone has seen the deer numbers decline along with the number of hunters. More deer would mean more hunters. You are going after a new age of kids that need to see things in the woods otherwise they are done and not coming back.

The wolf influence has changed my hunting and recreation life. Deer are not present like in the past. I don't feel safe for my family as they try to enjoy our property. Now I and my son carry a firearm every time I walk my land. I never had a fear when I was younger. Disgusted.

I have watched my deer population deteriorate since purchasing this land. I DO NOT SHOOT DOES ON MY LAND!! In hopes my population will return but it doesn’t. Wolves, bears and coyotes will ruin my 240 acres and my grandchildren will never live the hunting I did and that's very sad to me.

Need to somehow get younger people involved in hunting. If they are able to shoot a doe and experience success they are much more likely to take up the sport. When doe permits run out in public area in the first few hours, they have no chance at a permit, and little chance for success..

The 2019 deer gun hunting season was one of the worst hunts for me in a long time. By that I mean: no deer sighted and very, very little deer sign...i.e. rubs, scrapes or tracks. Last season is going to change the way and where I hunt in the future. I may not gun hunt at all this year.

I hunt hard with others and we do not see the deer as in past years as I enjoy sitting out in nature it sure would be nice to see some deer when I am out in the woods as would the others I hunt with its hard to keep interested in hunting deer when you do not see any deer Thank you

Stop trying to eradicate ALL the deer in this zone just because there have been 3 positive CWD tests. There is no need to make huge eradication zone for a small effected area. Doing this will further ruin the heritage of deer hunting in WI which the DNR is supposed to be protecting

I think that one tag per hunter is more than enough. This is a sport! No one hunter needs to be greedy. Now with that one tag you should be able to harvest a buck or doe. The State doesn’t need to be greedy also $ for more tags. One hunter one tag per season.

do away with crop damage permits or neighbor shoots the does with the fawns in them and a lot of the deer end up in the ditches ask him for a permit will not give you one if you have that many deer give the hunters an extra permit at least the meat would be used not destroyed

Deer density is unevenly distributed in Lincoln county. Agricultural areas have significantly higher densities. I am extremely disappointed in deer activity during the gun season and will consider bow season only in the future, unless the gun season is moved to earlier dates.

It's my opinion that the wolf population is just about right. I think the real problem is that we have way too many black bears that are feasting on the fawn population. Also if we want to achieve a memorable hunt we need to shoot does and leave spike buck population alone.

Northern Lincoln County is vastly different than the farmlands of southern Lincoln County. We can walk several forties and not see a single deer track in the New Wood. We currently are seeing a pack of 8 wolves on camera. We found 6 deer killed this winter by the wolves.

Please do antler restrictions for the entire state. Look at Pennsylvania and Arkansas and their success. It would be a one year trade off for great returns down the road. It would also increase the trophy potential for all hunters leading to more revenue for the state.
It is hard to get young people interested in sitting all day in the cold if they are only seeing 2-4 deer all gun hunting season. The numbers have to be increased in order to improve the odds of seeing deer. Otherwise we will continue to see a decline in participation.

I believe the deer herd is doing well in our county though the gun season was kinda a bust my bow season was the best in years. I didn’t kill a deer but for the first time in years I had nice buck that I seen and had on camera. Am really excited for this bow season.

In last years quota was insanely bad! My experience hunting in my area was drastically traumatized by the bad winter and amount of snow in spring of 2019. Just couldn’t realize no one could see that. This next year of 2020 should be a much better one than last.

My opinion is I have not seen the deer population rebound since wolves were introduced in my area, way too many wolves killing off the deer population, In my opinion introducing wolves was a very bad mistake! The DNR really dropped the ball for us hunters!

We live in the Southeast part of the county and have been seeing a continued increase in the deer population. The “block” we live in is 6 sq. miles. Three years ago we would see around 100 deer in a drive around the block. Last night it was close to 160.

I have hunted public land in Lincoln county for over 40 years. I noticed the effects of baiting as soon as it was made legal. Where I hunt the largest impact is from adjacent private land owners baiting. I would fully support a total ban on baiting.

Rebuild the northern forest deer herd. Go back to buck only for a few years. Then possibly get the option again to purchase a hunter’s choice gun deer license like we used to. This deer herd could be so much more healthy in regards to population.

I believe the DNR has hurt the deer populations by taking to many out. And now that the numbers are so low hunters and the kids are suffering and are giving up on hunting because they feel it's a waste of their time. Sitting all day seeing nothing!

1. I feel crossbows should be considered archery equipment and no additional licensing or fees attached. 2. Deer carcass removal stations made available. 3. More DNR resources spent on CWD research containing scientific data and not speculation.

I believe there should be a 4 point rule for Wisconsin because that gives a chance for the bucks to grow. ALSO I think there should be some doe tags around 400 for the youth hunt in Lincoln county. But No doe tags for experienced hunters

Please tell me how there is a feeding ban in Lincoln county and the neighbors are still feeding is fair to me and I do not see any deer at all during the hunting season? Either this needs to be enforced or removed from the regulations.

Am worried about the CWD expansion and what it will eventually happen to deer hunting and opportunity. Would like having mandatory testing to ensure knowledge of where there are problems throughout the county each year if possible.

I live on 150+ acres. During 2019 during turkey and bow season I crossed paths with 2 different bears several times on the same property. on fields I usually would see 9 or more deer each night I would typically see between 0-3.

Part of the county is in farm land and should be managed differently from the northern forested part. The forest land of the north part have and support far less deer than the farm land and the quota should be adjusted accordingly.
Didn’t see any deer in 28 hunting days. The sign was not present. Not sure if it was due to severe storm that knocked down so many trees. I don’t know if I will continue to deer hunt in Wisconsin if new proposals come to fruition.

We had wolves move in last year again and our our deer sightings were less than from previous year. The wolf problem needs to be addressed. I never thought hunting up north would be this hard. Deer are on high alert ALL the time.

I think that the baiting ban in Lincoln county should be lifted. During the first year. I bow hunted and saw very few deer. So last year. I didn’t get a license. Sitting and waiting for a deer to stumble by is a waste of time.

Wolf population is still killing to many deer. Suggest opening a season or adapt wolf control practices. Deer hunting was Once a family tradition but no so much anymore. Feeding restrictions have also hurt non-field hunting.

I would appreciate a reconsideration of deer baiting rules in this unit. Other nearby units to the west are allowed which makes it difficult to keep deer in the area for a successful harvest. Thank you for your consideration.

Wolf / coyote packs in the northern regions need to be addressed, on the verge of being out of control. Hindering everything from hunting tourism to future youth involvement of the hunting heritage. Thanks for consideration

Go back to party tags instead of youth hunts and stop doing all these doe hunt. When I was 12, hunting was exciting because we seen deer all year. Now fast forward 34 years. I seen 3 does in the last 4 years of gun hunting

The "Northern Forest" management unit should be all the land north of Highway 64. All the farmland south of highway 64 is identical to Marathon County (Central Farmland) zone in terms of deer habitat and deer population.

Hunted 9 days sun up to sun set. Sat about 3 hours every morning and 1 to 2 in the afternoon. In the middle of the day walked about 35 miles for the week. Never jumped a deer walking saw 2 sitting for the 9 days.

I enjoy seeing the deer during the hunt, doe or Buck. The doe numbers are down in the area that I hunt, but still see a fair amount of bucks. I would support only one buck tag regardless of method of harvest.

I do not agree with the bait ban. Deer are social animals and make contact daily without bait. I think if you made bait hunters disperse the bait in a large area it would be similar to natural browsing. Thanks

Hard to introduce the next generation into a sport where you don’t see any deer. Even the old seasoned hunter doesn’t want to sit all day, or all week, and NOT see anything. I will spend my money elsewhere.

We cannot overlook how our decisions now will impact the effects of CWD on the deer herd moving forward. Please seriously consider CWD and other deer health impacts when making quota recommendations.

The deer population has been consistently declining over the last 10-15 years in the area I hunt in this unit. Resulting in less hunters in the woods and disappointment from the ones who did hunt.

If you want to maintain hunters and attract new hunters, they need to see game. If kids, or adults for that matter, don’t see deer while they’re out hunting, they won’t hunt in the future.

The deer have destroyed the fruit trees in my yard once again. Year after year I re-plant, spray them monthly and they still get destroyed. What can the DNR do to help me with this issue?

Thank you, I have never went to a meeting but had always thought I should. When possible real meetings should be held but nice to be able to give in put by computer even if meeting held.

I’m a landowner in Lincoln county hunting off the tower road side of new wood I believed the dnr lies for a number of years. In my my opinion there should be a buck only season for 2020

Far too many deer. Forests struggling to regenerate. Terrible agricultural damage, I spent $75,000.00 on fencing in 2019 to keep deer out of my agricultural Christmas tree fields.
Our buck numbers need to grow. Maybe we should limit out of state hunters. Maybe we should allow only one buck tag per hunter and that person can use any method for that one buck!!

1) expand gun deer hunting season to nov 15-nov30 2) make gun deer license harvest valid for 1 deer, either sex (rules are getting too complex; confusing hunters, losing hunters)

I think because of the drop in harvest last year we should remain cautious in quotas for this season. We have theories as to why it happened but we just don’t know for sure why.

I believe that there is a predator problem affecting deer number drastically. The amount of Predator sign is overwhelming in areas that I’ve never had sign or problems before.

Since wolves showed up in our area the deer hunting has been getting worse every year. We have gone from seeing several deer per day to being lucky to see one all season.

Leave framework alone current management tactics are working. The severity of the winter storm during the 2019 gun deer season was a significant factor in a low harvest

The younger hunters in our group are discouraged and considering hunting options outside the State of Wisconsin and not hunting in Wisconsin. They want to see deer!!!!!

We really need to look at adopting a minimum point requirement for buck. This would allow for younger bucks to grow and make hunting more exciting after or few years.

Deer numbers seem to be down every year. To many hunting seasons and when the gun season arrives which is the main season people enjoy the deer are already gone.

To many predators to increase deer kill harvest. Keep deer season the same length( 9 days ) as it always has been. Have a season on Wolves and other predators.

Continue the baiting ban. This will keep deer operating in their natural environment, reduce CWD and level the playing field for all hunters and all weapons.

There is no need for an extended Deer Firearm Season. The traditional 9-day Deer Gun Season is plenty long to keep our deer population where it needs to be!

North of highway 64 has no deer, make it no does, need a wolf season, which you already know because you can’t manage any wildlife let alone the wolves.

I only saw one deer during the gun season last year. Killing one isn't my main concern but it is nice to see wildlife in these woods while I am hunting.

Why can't you have a random draw for doe tags so areas do not have over kill by out of town people that hunt in a big party on small amounts of land.

The deer population is way too low to allow for any anterless harvests for some time! How did it go to zero anterless permits to 4500 in one year?

I have been a logger and hunter my whole life and I firmly believe the Deer population is too low and the predator population is out of control.

I am very very concerned with the Wolf population in Lincoln County. It has truly made hunting difficult in this county. Thank you for your time.

I want you guys to lift the baiting ban and leave everything the same get rid of the forest and farmland thing and and go back county by county

Crossbows should not be considered equal to a bow. The crossbow season should be shorter by far. Maybe the month of October only. Thank you
5313 Wolves are a problem for deer numbers in this unit. The proposal to have a liberal season within the CWD control unit is not necessary.

5314 Get rid of the Wolves, Or thin them out. Crazy going out and have to be afraid of them. And not seeing any deer for days because of them.

5315 Just leave everything the way it is.

5316 if atv trails are closed why can hunters drive them all over.so if we shoot a deer way back why can't i take my snowmobile to get it.

5317 I believe the wolf population is harming our deer population. there are more wolfsign every year and less deer. Also to many doe tags.

5318 Last night of Bow season in January 14 deer walked by I had no antlerless tags b/c I used them already. Lots of deer in Lincoln County.

5319 I believe further testing for CWD should be done throughout the county to continue to monitor and reduce its spread of possible.

5320 I do not believe that the Baiting Ban in Lincoln County is appropriate and should be lifted. There is no evidence that it works.

5321 I personally wish we could go back to a minimum forked buck season to populate (to promote) the bigger bucks in the state.

5322 I own a bar and grill, we had half the hunters last year as the year before, non-baiting really hurt the hunters showing up.

5323 More black bear and bobcat tags should be given out with less points. Also timber wolf population HAS to decrease.

5324 I have major concern on your lack of concern on the excessive wolf population particularly in the Newwood Area.

5325 Thanks for this opportunity. I recently purchased some hunting property and want to hunt with my two sons in it.

5326 wolves are a big problem on the deer in lincoln county. the amount of them on trail cameras we have is unreal.

5327 I would be in favor of buck 6 point or better in order to harvest. I would also be in favor of zero baiting.

5328 Too many predators depleting the deer herd. Concentrate on them, then look at regulating the deer herd.

5329 Wolves made for a tough year of dear hunting. Deer were around, then gone. There should be a wolf hunt.

5330 I am a tree farmer, too many fricking deer. Get real shoot some of them or my trees will be useless....

5331 16 day deer hunt would be helpful. 2018 they were in rut 2019 the rut was over so it was not helpful.

5332 Too many predators in Lincoln County. Between bears, wolves, coyotes and bobcats, deer are struggling.

5333 I would like to see less swing in the season from early to late. Pick a weekend and stick with it.

5334 Great job on decimating the deer herd by introducing timber wolves, real smart (heavy sarcasm)

5335 I believe deer harvest was down due to the no baiting law. Please open baiting back up.

5336 Lots of deer this year, mild winter, concerned about CWD with deer population so high.

5337 Would like to see season for Bow and Gun run at the same time and for the Same length.

5338 My main concern would be better predator control. See too many wolves in the area.

5339 Thanks for all that you do at the DNR - respect and appreciate the work you do.

5340 At least a fork to be a legal buck. No youth only hunting seasons.
I seen more wolfs than deer... how does that happen?? Hmm

There is a lot of deer here and lots of fawns made it.

Unit 32 should be split north and south. Too many wolves.

All crossbow season and rifle only seen 2 deer.

Get rid of deer farms. Major cause of CWD.

Recommend 6 point minimum buck harvest limit.

I think the season should be extended.

Would like to see minimum buck size limit.

Baiting needs to be brought back!

Modified small portion baiting.

Deer numbers are way down.

You don’t know anything!!

Please stop all baiting

Start shooting wolves
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Manitowoc, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

433 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 286
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 57
   - I hunt in this unit: 395
   - General interest in this unit: 68

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 373
   - Bow: 186
   - Crossbow: 200
   - Muzzleloader: 154

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 26.53
   - Maximum: 67

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 264
   - Mostly Private Land: 86
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 26
   - Mostly Public Land: 7
   - Exclusively Public Land: 9
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 17
   - Not too crowded: 45
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 25
   - Somewhat crowded: 17
   - Very crowded: 14
   - Not applicable: 10

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 61
   - Fewer: 142
   - Same: 166
   - More: 50
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 2

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT : 153 244 36
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 254 139 40
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 49 367 17

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? (Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Comments for Manitowoc, Central Farmland**

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.

The issue that I have is that through the use of trail cams, I can see that there are plenty of deer in the area that I hunt. BUT the deer movement is 95% nocturnal. How in the heck am I supposed to harvest a deer that moves only at night? During the day the deer all sit on posted "Absolutely No Hunting" land. Back in the 1980's we used to do deer drives to move deer. Nobody does that anymore due to land being posted no hunting. Deer are smart, so they sit where it's safe during the day and move at night. I also have issue with the 9 day hunt. It should be extended. There was a time when hunters would take the whole week off from work to hunt during the 9 days. Not nowadays. In today's world people have to work more to pay the bills. The three days before Thanksgiving are now days hunters go to work instead of going into the woods. I know, I'm one of them and so do many hunting friends of mine. Times have changed from the last 30 years of hunting in Wisconsin. Our rules, seasons and way of thinking need to change with the times. Extending the 9 day gun hunt AND archery season will help bring deer harvest numbers up. You can give me 100 doe tags, but if I can only gun hunt 5 days out of 9 and the deer are nocturnal, I can guarantee you that I'll be lucky to fill one doe tag. In fact, I haven't harvested a deer in 10 years. When I do have the chance to hunt, I do hunt all day. And the trail cams show the deer walk right past my stand in the dark two hours after I leave. Since the deer bed in no hunting land, I'm starting to think, why do I bother paying lots of money to deer hunt? Yes, yes it's the experience of being in the woods during hunting season. Hell, I can do that without buying a hunting license and I won't have to clean my gun afterwards cause it'll sit in the house. Our society has changed and our deer hunting structure has to change with it if we are to have future generations follow in our paths as hunters. Young hunters today live in much different times than when our current hunting structure was first developed. Thank you for having an online survey since work prevents me from attending actual meetings and this Covid 19 situation really prevents it.

I would like to see anterless tags issued for ALL central farmland counties/zones and for all land types, rather than zone specific. In my opinion the zone specific requirements limit the number of anterless taken per county as hunters often have a choice to hunt in many counties but will often choose the county that provides them the best option and opportunities to hunt, however if they could squeeze in other hunts they would. For example, I hunt on private land with family in brown county and we want to maximize our anterless harvest there to improve the buck to doe ratio and eventually improve our chances of mature buck harvest, however I would also like to hunt for anterless in Manitowoc county, on public or private, and in metro or regular, but forcing me to buy many tags deters me from buying any, and therefor I do not hunt at all in Manitowoc county. In my opinion, simplifying the tag structure would increase deer harvest. Also, if there is a large desire to increase anterless harvest, decrease the bonus tag cost or make them free after buying a tag. Final note, there were rumors to extend the nine day gun deer season by opening it one week earlier, and as a primary archery hunter I oppose this measure as it limits the opportunity to harvest a buck during the rut with a bow, but it would also detract from the well established traditions of Wisconsin's 9-day gun deer season that has been passed from generation to generation. Thank you for reading my feedback, stay safe and stay healthy.
I disagree with the premise that you must lower the number of deer. But alas the Farm lobby is bigger than the hunting lobby. When I can sit in a 25 acre wood lot completely surrounded by planted farm fields from mid-September through the end of November and count the number of Deer I see on one hand, I’d say the DNR has once again tricked me into spending a bunch of money on a false premise. Your goal is to sell tags, not kill deer. If you continuously sell tags by lying to hunters ("we have tremendous amounts of deer that must be harvested") you accomplish your goal of making money. Eventually however your lies catch up with you as evidenced by the 20% decline in harvest rates. This eventually leads to reduced numbers of hunters, which is also occurring. My grand-kids get bored watching the wind blow. You wonder why youth recruitment numbers are low, and going lower, and you blame it on poor parenting and social media, when it is your mismanagement of the resources that is to blame. You (the DNR) are the ultimate blood sucker, eventually killing your largest host (hunters). Eventually you will need to sell licenses to bird watchers and bike riders to pay for your new pick-up trucks and top-dollar pensions. Good luck with that. More Government run amok. Many of us, both young and old, are finding other pursuits that don't include buying overpriced hunting licenses to chase ghosts.

What needs to be done, not only in Manitowoc county, but overall the state, is to have more access to private property which is posted. The deer numbers are much greater in sub metro areas and private property where many deer have a sanctuary throughout the hunting seasons. That's why so many hunters are quitting hunting. It doesn't matter at all to extend the seasons a few more days because the deer will end up on property that is posted not to hunt. A lot of these areas are managed for QDM only, where the buck to doe ratio is very uneven with less does being killed then bucks. Bucks that are above average, to take into consideration. The only way to bring the deer herd down to the expected level is to allow hunters access to these properties. Until then the population will remain high and CWD will be more of a problem to the point sharp shooters will have to kill the majority off. Overall the deer hunting for me sucks! We need the Manitowoc river dredged out by the KillSnake area because it’s always wet every year. The river floods when it rises. I don’t have land of my own but I still hunt hoping to get a deer every year. That's the way it should be for everyone.

Why would the CDAC recommend to DECREASE when they don’t take advantage of all the seasons that are offered. They are concerned about snowmobile trails, trapping and small game but they had no problem implementing these extra seasons in the metro zone. Whats good for one area should be good for the other area. The Manitowoc county metro zone in 2019 harvested 11 deer per sq mile of deer habitat compared to 22 deer per sq mile of deer habitat in the rest of the county. In 2018 it was metro 10 to county 25 The Metro zone does not have a deer density issue, it looks like the rest of the county may have. Its not from a lack of hunting pressure in the metro area that is for sure! Something is drastically wrong - the Metro zone should have been only used as "METRO" directly adjacent to the city not along the whole lakeshore. Now you recommend 2 extra tags for the Metro unit, do the math, the deer numbers are not there!! It will cause more land to be posted with limited entry.

This was not specifically mentioned here, however I would still like to state that the idea of expanding the gun season is a terrible one. There is no need to harm bow hunting opportunities by lengthening the gun season or moving it up to earlier in November. Gun hunters have plenty of opportunity during the 9-day gun season to get a deer. Plus, having the season during the week of thanksgiving has worked well for many years. Also, the suggestion of shutting down bow hunting for the week prior to gun hunting to “increase anticipation” for the gun hunt is alarming. This fact that this would even be considered makes no sense at all and calls into question the sanity of the decision makers at the DNR. Making decisions based on feelings and the desire to “increase anticipation” for the hunt is, quite frankly, idiotic and will cause more harm than good. Decisions need to be based in science and should be made for the benefit of deer hunters and deer populations as a whole.
It is my strong opinion that the nine day deer season should not change. Changes to the traditional deer season take away from the integrity, quality, and anticipation of the normal season. I believe we need to maintain the youth hunt and all other special seasons should be terminated. The nine day deer season in Wisconsin is a tradition for my family and we do not want to see it extended. If we continue to change season structure, it is my strong opinion we will take away from the excitement and tradition of our Wisconsin nine day hunt. It is also my opinion, and that of my family with many young hunters coming up, that we need to maintain the deer population in Unit 64 and stop the decrease. Not seeing any deer in the woods is a sure way to lose young hunters. Our continuing decrease in Unit 64 is doing just that. Thanks for allowing me to express my opinion.

Overall I think the Manitowoc CDAC is doing a good job, but the recommendation from the DNR to extend the gun season and/ or bring back earn a buck is a knee jerk reaction to a 2019 gun season that was later than usual. I hope our local CDAC is is against both these ideas and does not give this type of power back to the DNR. I personally believe hunter numbers are down because of the lack of available land to hunt. There is an abundance of public land in Northern Wi that isn't hunted because there are no deer. The traditional deer camp has been ruined by policies of the DNR!! I would love to take my boys " up north" for deer camp to experience that family tradition, but why do it if they dont see anything? And the DNR thinks they see something if they make the season longer???? They would rather introduce and protect predators that ruined a long standing Wi tradition.

Hello, I am just about to go out of state for college which leaves me with not a lot of time, if any, to hunt with my dad. When I heard about the possibility of a Holiday Hunt in Manitowoc County, I was ecstatic. This provides me, and many others who are in the same situation as I am, to get an opportunity to hunt. As someone going into conservation, the chance to hunt is important to me. This Holiday Hunt is also another useful way to help even out the deer population. I can confidently say that some days I see twenty to thirty deer in a day, if not more. In my childhood, I never saw that many deer. It is a strong possibility that more action will eventually be needed to stop deer from overpopulating. The Holiday Hunt would provide an opportunity for more deer to be harvested and would act as a start to attempt to bring the deer population to an even state.

We have a few issues facing our hunting heritage. 1.) eradicating deer from an area due to over hunting, or too little huntable property do to private land areas. This is especially true in Manitowoc county. Most of the land is private and not huntable. I would like too see additional lands leased by the state for public hunting. 2.) I believe there is an increase in predation by coyotes. I think there could be an increased effort to encourage more predator management. And 3.) I believe that the majority of harvesting is on private and by a relatively small segment of the hunting community. By that I mean to say that private land owners and land parties when awarded too many antlerless and antlerless bonus permits kill an excessive number of deer because they can, and I believe further restrictions should be placed by size and age requirements.

I PRIMARILY HUNT THE AREA NORTH OF TWO RIVERS WHERE THE SOLAR PANEL PROJECTS ARE BEING BUILT AND ADJACENT TO THE TWO CREEKS NUCLEAR PLANT. THERE ARE "MANY" DEER WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE NUCLEAR PLANT BUT DO TO ALL THE HUNTING PRESSURE IN THIS AREA PRIOR TO THE GUN SEASON THE DEER FOR THE MOST PART STAY ON THIS POSTED PROPERTY. ALSO, I AM SURE THAT WITH ALL THE SOLAR PANEL CONSTRUCTION TAKING PLACE THIS WILL AFFECT THE MOVEMENT OF THE DEER. I HAVE TRIED HUNTING JUST A FEW MILES NORTH OF TWO RIVERS BUT THERE IS SO MUCH PRIVATE LAND AND MOST OF THE LANDOWNERS WILL NOT LET A PERSON ON THEIR LAND TO HUNT AND POSSIBLY SHOOT "THEIR" DEER. THE POINT BEACH STATE FOREST IS VASTLY OVERCROWDED WITH HUNTERS AND FOR SAFETY I DON’T HUNT THERE. MY OVERALL EXPERIENCE WITH DEER HUNTING HAS NOT BEEN A GOOD ONE AND I AM SERIOUSLY THINKING OF GIVING IT UP!!
5367 Numbers have really dropped in this zone in the last 3-5 years. Many hunters young and old in the area have quit the sport, and have not introduced new hunters because they have little success, and many don't even see a single deer in several days of hunting using multiple methods of hunting on many large tracts of private land. Our group of roughly 20 people pushed, sat, and still hunted around a thousand acres of private land per day every day of gun deer season. We collectively as a group saw a maximum of 11 deer in one day and a minimum of 0 on several days. Clearly the animals are not there. Yes, we pushed standing corn fields as well. It's impossible to kill something that just doesn't exist. If someone is complaining they are seeing too many deer, just give us a call we can reduce number for them.

5368 I have lived in the county for 45 years and have hunted here less than 10 years. We typically travel up north and hunt in the National Forests in North Central WI. When hunting here we have always hunted private land. Personally I have hunted in the county about 7 days over the last 5 seasons. I plan to buy a crossbow and hunt here in the fall for does as the county is looking to reduce the population and I believe that the deer here are above the social carrying capacity but not the biological capacity. The deer here also due to the heavy agriculture acreage is very concentrated in high population spots and that increases the issues that deer bring to the landscape. There are more deer here to shoot in MTC CO then up north but the hunt or experience is less satisfying from an outdoor experience.

5369 I think that deer hunting is a great thing to pass down to ones sons, daughters, and grandchildren. I believe that long range rifles are not really necessary in this unit. I feel the crossbow is a great thing for us hunters as we get longer in the tooth. Compounds are great for the younger bucks who can draw them back. It really is a meeting of our souls with nature and something that we can enjoy just sitting in our blinds and enjoying the magnificence of nature and how we can blend with it. We are not entitled to this enjoyment, but should be stewards of this heritage. We have lost some of that because places to hunt are more limited, and some people do not respect the beauty of taking a deer with a clean shot and thanking the heavens for giving us this enjoyment and bounty.

5370 Deer hunting in Wisconsin has become an absolute disaster in some areas. There really isn’t many deer around, I walk for numerous miles on some days and don’t jump any deer, to the DNR to say the herd numbers are high is ridiculous. Thinking of totally abandoning this state cause hunting isn’t fun anymore here in Wisconsin. Keep giving all those tags to everyone, it makes no sense. It’s an absolute joke. There’s not many deer, all the little bucks get killed off and have no chance to grow, so the chance of really harvesting a decent buck is pretty slim. If everyone continues to receive a buck and doe tag, is it that hard to maybe implement a 6pt or bigger only buck? I don’t know what else to say, but gun hunting in Wisconsin is an absolute waste of $24.

5371 In regard to the three year goal to decrease the overall deer population, the proposed changes to season structure would be contradictory. Archery season in particular, the shortening of the crossbow archery season opportunities will decrease the harvest as shown in vertical vs. crossbow harvest numbers. Crossbow is a more efficient weapon for most hunters, this leads to higher harvest numbers. Please don’t change the season structures regarding archery. Any changes to season structure should happen on the back end of the gun season. As weather dictates the use of hunting blinds to extent time afield. Blind hunting later in the season with firearms may help increase harvest numbers, which is the goal. Late season (December) could be an “any weapon” season.

5372 I hunt the very southwest corner of the county, deer sightings have continued to go down yearly in this area. I'm sure some areas of the county have large populations of deer but are in non-hunting areas. Earn a buck should never happen again in this state it was a joke, antlerless deer were being harvested during the bow season in other DMU's and out of state (Michigan). and regestered to get the EAB permit. One archery season no matter what bow style is used (recurve, compound or crossbow) Starting the the gun season a week earlier is a poor decision, First thing said every year after the season is over "to much corn standing" you think starting the season a week earlier, more corn will be harvested?

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The Metro zone north of Two Rivers should be eliminated!! The recommendation to increase the doe tags to 2 ea in metro zone is ridiculous, that means every hunter for each liscence in the metro would get 4 tags to use. If I hunted bow n gun I would have 8 doe tags to use in the metro area. The deer numbers DO NOT support this. The extra seasons and more tags have a direct result of more land being not accessible. Less land less deer equals less hunters wanting to be a part if the sport. I agree that there are a few hot spots in the Metro but that will ALWAYS be the case as a result of no hunting allowed. Do the right thing and eliminated the extra tags in the metro n eliminate the zone in 2021.

I would like to see the season end by Dec. 31st. and not go into the new year. My reasoning, the deer have been chased since September and entering the hardest month they don't need to be continual pressure at that time. Winter is difficult enough. Leave them be after the new year. Crossbows I believe are superior in accuracy and will have less chances of wounding deer. Rifle was a great implementation. I feel strongly that people hunting with rifle in Manitowoc county should do so in an elevated stand and not on the ground. The density of houses is just too great and the chances of stray bullets with increase traveling distance is too great a risk for injury or death. thank you.

I would encourage CDAC NOT to have another earn a buck. Last time it was implemented it caused problems in our neighborhood and showed how inaccurate the DNR was in controlling the deer herd. We had shot a lot of deer the year before EAB implementation on our own to control the population and then the EAB came the next year and really hurt the population. I would hope educating land owners on the negative effects over population would get more does to be taken. Also, it would help if there was a good way to donate deer. Rather than commercial processing only, some people may take a deer to process themselves if there was a website or "Face book" page for people to request deer.

I feel that the doe permits should be the same number regardless of whether or not you're hunting private property or public property. A lot of private land owners hunt public property as well as private and I know of one group of about fifteen or more that start deer drives opening morning with the intent to push deer off the public property. Their drivers will walk right past you within five feet. They have no idea where anyone is sitting and yelling to run the deer off. It is just a matter of time before they get someone hurt or killed by their actions. Why should private owners be allowed double or triple the amount of tags as those that hunt public property?

1. Eliminate the Metro Zone 2. Eliminate the extended bow season in the Metro. Late season bow hunts put added stress on the deer heard by going into there wintering areas and forcing them out. I’m avid bowhunter and despise this extended season. There is a lot of baiting going on in the county, it happens even more with the late season bow hunt. Bucks that are run down from the rut are loosing there horns during this time period also. 3. The CDAC wants more deer shot have the holiday hunt. 4. Promote to the public and sportmans clubs how to find out which farmers are asking for crop damage tags so the public can get a hold of these farmers to hunt them.

Deer hunting has progressively worsened the past few years in Manitowoc County. Deer sightings have declined and the quality of deer has worsened, which has led to a lack of Hunter recruitment and retention. Manitowoc County can safely sustain and support far more deer than the DNR studies recommend. The goal of the Manitowoc County CDAC should be to maintain, not reduce, the overall deer population. Crop damage tags, additional bonus antlerless tags, and all special antlerless hunts should be discontinued with the exception of the metro zone. Hunters should be given a hunters choice tag or only ONE antlerless tag per person (not per weapon).

The deer herd in this unit will continue to be high and strive. There are two very important issues which help the deer population maintain high numbers. The first is there are an increasing number of hunters that want the trophy bucks or bucks only thus won't harvest a doe. I am not one of those as I like venison. The other is the increasing loss of available hunting land. This land is lost either to development, loss of the family farm or corporate farmers/land owners who will not allow hunting. The majority of the above land is adjacent to good hunting land. Opening day starts and deer seek refuge in these safe areas.
Last 10 years aren’t your numbers on our land have gone way down where we only see a few and rarely see a buck. Hunter numbers have decreased so therefore deer are getting pushed around like they used to. They get in the thick stuff and don’t come out until mid week when they go back to being somewhat natural and if we don’t hunt those days we rarely see any. On opening weekend. Because of this I always let those go but now I am changing my attitude that it’s OK to shoot the seed for the next year, Otherwise my family does not get any meat. It’s not that we don’t need it and it’s just nice to have some every other year.

I have hunted my 34 acre property just north of Manitowoc for 8 years. Last year almost no bucks seen either hunting or just day to day viewing... I feel that the crossbow hunters are eliminating most of the mature bucks in the local area. Antlerless hunting example: I have a neighbor who shot 2 large does (I personally witnessed it) both does had twin fawns. I have found 5 dead fawns this winter. So, in my opinion shooting a doe with fawns kills all of the family, much like shooting a cow moose with calf. Therefore, your analysis of “kills” should also include the elimination of fawns of the year with the mother.

Managing for quantity only is a mistake. If you manage for quality people will be more likely to keep the quantity in check. And be happy about it instead of resisting the idea of lowering population numbers. Example. 4 point on one side buck restriction with 2 doe tags per license. I’ll shoot a doe and pass a young buck if I knew the neighbor wasn’t going to shoot it the next day. Like others in Wisconsin, I’m loosing interest in hunting this state due to poor management! If Wisconsin didn’t have the “hunting tradition of deer camp” there would hardly be any hunting!

I have the opportunity to gun hunt Manitowoc, Brown and Door counties. When buying a license, one must list the one county he will be hunting. All these counties are slated to decrease their deer herd. There should be a way one can be issued an anterless deer permit when purchasing a license for more than just one county without having to purchase a bonus tag. If the DNR/Counties are interested in reducing the deer herd in this area, there should be a way that one can get anterless tags in multiple counties without having to pay extra.

I’d like to see less does being taken it’s gotta stop!! Pretty soon there’s gonna nothing left around here. Don’t know why the numbers are so high because if there was really that many deer around you’d see them all over but we don’t! The nineteen gun season should not happen because if that happens the herd really be wiped out. What’s it gonna do for us bow hunters then? It’s really very frustrating when hunting comes around and especially on a all day sit to not see deer so if there really was that many we would see them then.

I feel the deer numbers on on track for Manitowoc county farmland. I oppose all early season gun type hunting prior to Nov. gun deer opener. Keep the 9 day deer hunt opening on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Deer hunting is a tradition. I also oppose the Holiday gun hunt. I have kids that are soon to be hunting age. I hope you keep youth type programs in mind. All important to keep kids interested in deer hunting. Nothing is more disheartening for a young hunter than hunting all and not see even one single deer!

you all want to decrease the deer population to what you all think is acceptable. the complaints of deer damage is growing because payments are made to liberally now. thus the quality of deer have dropped and buck quality has significantly declined. insted of giving more licences out how about the dnr starts to change prices for all hunters who come out of state! that also includes out of stat that own property and clame residency. that will open up public lands more to residents and quality of deer will greatly increase!

I think the DNR would need to find a better way of totaling deer population. The DNR, I my estimation, are issuing too many kill tags in my unit. I have hunted the same 2 stands for 34 years. Over this time I have witnessed fewer deer than ever. I understand that environmental factors contribute to population. With that said, I would witness groups of 20 or more at one time. In the last 6 years the largest group was 2. Unacceptable!. Keep giving out multiple doe tags and the DNR will loose me as a hunter.
There are way, way, way too many deer in Manitowoc county for many reasons. Agriculture damage, deer health, forest damage, Lyme disease, driving accidents. The biggest threat that deer pose is that they will eventually contaminate the environment with CWD Which will probably cause extreme upheaval in Wisconsin agriculture and land values. CWD prions have been proven to be taken up into plants. Eventually it may be determined that cows can acquire CWD by eating feed grown on contaminated fields.

Very hard to get my children interested in hunting when we sit for days without seeing a deer. I hunted the same three properties for my whole life and I feel the deer numbers are low. Years ago we always saw deer, and now we are lucky to see deer once every four or five sits. I can not figure out why the DNR still wants to reduce the herd. Maybe we need to make smaller units again so it is possible to control the local herd, instead of putting us in with deer herds from 50 or 100 miles away.

In my area of the county, (northwest), my neighbors, my family who hunts the land with me, and myself all had the WORSE season in my 15 years of hunting. I saw 8 deer during the entire archery season, and 2 fawns on the last Sunday of the regular firearm season. Total of 10 deer, and that seemed pretty average for everyone in my area. The deer numbers in the area seemed very low despite what we are being told. Even deer sightings in fields have been down compared to other years.

Get rid of the tag system that only allows me to hunt 1 county. I almost got fined last year because I accidentally selected private and not public. Bring back registration stations. Do both. The current system is terrible. I used to hunt up north at the family cabin opening weekend then private land in Manitowoc county as well as public in Collins and public in the Brillion marsh. It’s impossible to do that now with your messed up zone/county/public or private selection BS.

We farmers are having a hard enough time making ends meet then we have to feed the deer too. Had recorded crop damage the past few years. Any land around wood forget making money soybean fields mowed right off 12 to 30 deer on a 3 to 10 acres field. We shouldn’t have to have to take this. Crop damage tags are great but hell when you can fill 3 in a night in a row because there not even scared of the gun shots. Something needs to be done and not wolves eater!!!!

I want to mention that a long time ago, recurve and long bow deer hunters were saying the same things about compound bow hunters, that compound bow hunters are now saying about cross bow hunters. If you restrict cross bows then go all the way and also restrict compound bows. I like that young people can shoot a cross bow and have success. I have seen good examples of this but it is taking time. Please stay the course on cross bow usage. Thank you!

I have been hunting for over 40 years and spend hundreds of hours in the woods every year. Every year I see fewer deer and wonder why the DNR continues to eradicate deer in Wisconsin. The number of hunters is going down because hunters are tired of sitting in the woods all day and seeing nothing. I am a die hard hunter and am trying to pass the love of hunting on to my grandchildren. Please don’t kill all the deer! Sincerely, Ed Kletzien

Please do not extend the deer gun season. In the area that our family hunts in, the deer population has decreased significantly the last two years. Also, please go back to back tags, for identifying trespassers. If people were able to be identified from their back tags, they would be less inclined to hunt without permission. Please go back to in person registration of your deer, to prevent poaching, and a more accurate harvest numbers.

go back to regesturing deer at public places to many people regesturing bucks as does so they can continue hunting that is what is happening to your buck kill. it is not us crossbowers we are ethical hunters not its brown its down how many nubby bucks get shot that way should reg. those as a buck not a doe its a boy not a girl. thank you my spelling might not be the greatest sorry thank you for your time ..
Bring back in person registration stations. I've been hunting for 24 years and last year I got my first one EVER! That is an experience to talk about it with other hunters!!! Also have no bag limits on deer. No more earn a buck...I drive semi truck and I see far too much wasted venison lying and decaying in the ditch unused. You want the population down? Stop with the bag limits! Thanks.

The deer herd is this unit is substantially lower than it was in the late 80's early 90's and back then we had hunters choice and no bonus permits. I don't understand why it is said the population is to high now. We used to take our children shinning at night and would count 600 or more deer when we went around the NN swamp. Nowadays we only count 125 maybe 150. That is a drastic decrease.

I do NOT like having to pick a county, I have land in both counties, why do I have to choose!! What if a wounded deer runs across county line( yes i'm That close)!! Very dissatisfied with deer hunting, not sure DNR takes into consideration all the private land in which is off limits to hunting, I totally understand it’s owners right to post, but lot of land taken out of circulation!!

Poaching at night is a MAJOR problem. Blood spots on side of roads, gut piles in ditches, etc. Need to BAN deer shining in Manitowoc county and any other county. Disrupts normal deer biological behaviors and only promotes bad behavior and poor stereotypes of hunters. An all antlerless season will only increase the amount of night poaching of bucks. Please, please ban deer shining.

Difficult to understand why baiting was ever started in Wisconsin. Since I began to hunt deer in 1957, when even elevating yourself on anything was illegal, I saw many rule changes. Baiting has been the most detrimental because it involves monetary and political issues. Of growing concern is a hunter’s “right” to claim a spot by leaving a tree stand on public land. Problems...

5th generation farm land owners with a steady population of deer in my area . 50 years ago we rarely saw a deer track walking to the woods ,but now it's a regular sight ! URBAN DEER seem to be a problem ! Deer surviving near city limits or within , know where it is safe and possibly get fed or access to feed on a regular basis with NO hunt pressure ! Deer know where to hide !

A person is only going to kill as many deer as they need or feel comfortable with. If a person can’t kill a deer in the liberal seasons the dnr provides they are not very good hunters and adding more time isn’t going to help. I won’t go hunting during doe only seasons because I don’t want to be tempted if a trophy buck walks by. So adding doe only seasons keeps me from hunting.

Manitowoc should join the rest of the lakeshore counties and have the holiday hunt. Perception of conflicts is just that, perception. More counties are getting on board as they realize there is no conflict and it can be a great time for families to get together for another hunt. The holiday hunt has taken more deer than the Dec. antlerless hunt in other counties.

I live near a area where 3 county’s meet, I wish your tag is also good for adjoining county’s. The deer population near us seems to high. I saw 16 yesterday when a turkey went into the woods near me. I don’t have any answers on how to lower the population, but last year the deer were hard to find. I think the deer have safe zones and they know where they are.

I hunted the holiday hunt in Sheboygan County and enjoyed it greatly. Few hunters in the woods - the experience was very good. I want this opportunity for Manitowoc County as well. I disagree with it interfering with other hunts. I hunt pheasants all season long, and I think it helps other hunters more than hinders them. Deer hunting is the same.

I feel the crossbow season is way too long. It is not like a bow. It is like a shotgun as far as range is concerned. It should follow the muzzleloader in equality. If we need to trim the herd, we should open the gun season earlier or the muzzleloader season earlier and longer. Maybe the muzzleloader and crossbow season should run together.
Give one buck and one doe tag per license. If people want to shoot more, let them purchase more doe tags. Allowing archery hunters to use their gun tags during gun season is very beneficial for people who hunt their own land, or go so deep into public where most hunters won’t venture and don’t want to chase deer around during gun season.

The biggest reason for the low harvest numbers is the lack of hunters. I do support holiday hunts and metro hunts but i do not support extending the 9 day gun season. Living in Manitowoc county I do not see the amount of deer that i did when i was younger that is my biggest reason for not supporting to extend the 9 day gun season.

Have hunted Walla Hi Area, Hawk Island, and 151 swamp all my life. Deer numbers are down in these areas. I hunt an average of 70 days a year. You can't even get into many of public areas in the 151 zone anymore from highway 67 north to Brillion it's under water. Thats a huge area that doesn't hold large deer population any longer.

Wisconsin should implement all out of state hunters are required to purchase a qualified license before being able to purchase a non-resident deer hunting license. The qualified license would be an annual non-resident fishing or small game license. Most western states require this and it produces significant revenue for them.

Not enough deer in my area. Would like to see more doe and fawns. If the doe /fawn population stays at this level then would like to see an antler point restriction (4 point one side) as other states have implemented. If we can carry over most of our yearling bucks to their 2nd year, the quality would be incredible.

My only comment is that I think there are fewer deer then what the experts might be saying and I would like to see the deer population increase so a hunter can see more deer and also have a chance at harvesting one. Thanks for conducting this survey and letting us express our point of view and suggestions.

Do not put gun season during rut! And also crossbows need to be allowed during all archery seasons. Bow hunters don’t need there own season, more Deer being killed this way now and more recovery’s. Gun season is when most archery’s like me fill the freezer with multiple antlerless, don’t Change archery season.

I would like to see an antlerless only hunting season for 2020 to help reduce the antlerless population and achieve a healthier deer herd. As a farmer I fear the over crowding of antlerless deer and growing popularity of trophy hunting will bring cwd to Manitowoc county if left unchecked. Thank You.

I think DNR is doing a good job. I do not like the honest rule of calling in a deer harvest versus making you register it. I think to register deer again will give you best numbers to make decisions. My opinion only is hunters are at 25% not calling in a deer harvest and i hope i am wrong. Thanks.

i think your surveys might be under reported i think more deer are killed and not registered by phone or on line versus the actual registration stations should be reinstated would give more accurate findings you can make decisions off of and also contributes to nearby businesses. Thanks.

Please don't mess with the "crossbow" season.. no different when bowhunters were crying with the difference between a recurve bow and this new fangled gizmo called a "compound" bow. Also, leave the gun hunt as a traditional 9 day hunt. Thank You all for your time and dedication.

By spreading the deer season out as well as two many different seasons. Its my opinion it has hurt us economically as well as taken the family aspect out of hunting. There are also allot of deer killed that are never reported by vehicals and other factors.

Nothing about this unit but an ideal in general when registering deer on line. Why don’t we also state what township the deer was harvested in during the registration process? I would think that would help you narrow down a get a closer look of the deer population.
3 tags total, one buck two antlerless is good. Therefore over the counter bonus tags should not be sold. Antlerless only season should not happen, if there is as many deer as they claim. Hunters should have no problem harvesting deer during the regular season.

Overall I feel the deer population is at a good number in Manitowoc County. I would not want to see it decreased, however I don’t feel it necessarily needs to be increased either. Status quo with current harvest rate would be good in my opinion.

I would like the youth hunt to be antlerless only. I would like a shorter season for cross bows in either September or October. Would like to see the in person registration stations come back along with issuing back tags again.

I think we should look at a "DEER SEASON" instead of multiple seasons using different methods. Establish a time line and use whatever method to harvest the number of deer targeted. No separate bow/gun/muzzleloader seasons.

Would really like to see the holiday hunt and extended archery season held, which would help in the goal of "decrease". Also bring back the October antlerless hunt for increased harvest and recreational opportunity.

The hunting is not great in Manitowoc county. The past earn a buck policy really hurt the heard. Let’s grow the population and start working on QDM policies that will grow the population and quality of the buck.

I believe the two antlerless authorizations per tags meets my needs for venison for me and also for family and friends that do not hunt but enjoy venison. I am satisfied with the amount of deer I see.

I feel we should have deer season from sept to end of Jan one license use whatever weapon you wish an you can shoot 2 deer buck or doe you can hunt when you want and 2 deer should be plenty for you.

I support equal or increased antlerless harvest to balance the herd. I further support a minimum point restriction to be trialed in the county as a whole or a section like SW corner of the county.

I propose that when a hunter purchases a deer license, the selection of private/public land for a antlerless permit be eliminated and that information be gathered when the deer is registered.

This survey is completely bogus. Just because you give out or make available more antlerless tags doesn’t not mean that people are going to shoot any more/less antlerless deer.

Simplify deer hunting. Get rid of all these extra hunts and stick with a bow season and a gun season (crossbow runs same as bow). Limit one buck and one doe to a hunter.

No more bonus antlerless tags. Just because one guy can fill all his tags doesn’t mean there's and abundance of deer in the area. No more antlerless only hunts.

What about limiting 2 deer per hunter 1 buck 1 doe that can be harvested in any season. No one needs to harvest 2 bucks and 2 or more does every year.

We have a lot of crop damage on the farm from deer and other wildlife. It bad enough trying to get crops off and then we have a lot of crop damage.

only saw 2 deer all fall on my land. very few tracks. used to be plenty about 5 years ago. less every year and the same story for naehbors land.

I think the baiting decision from DNR should over ride the local ordinance for Manitowoc County due to anti hunters making the decision.

The amount of private land is making it nearly impossible to manage the herd. Very few landowners will give you permission to hunt.

I would like to see in person registration become mandatory again. I believe that it helped get a better number on the deer harvest.
The lack of hunting land is the largest issue starting to interfere with the desire to go or keep the younger ones interested.

I want to Thank All The Members Of The CDAC for Their Leadership and Opinions and Recommendations and My Opinions and Input!

Go back to public registration to many people not regestrating bucks they are all does. That is why the buck kill is down.

should be trying to increase the population in this unit as numbers of hunters keep dropping because of not seeing animals

I don’t support the excessive crop damage tags that a neighboring vegetable farmer receives year after year.

was not able to tag a doe through bow, gun, and black powder season in 2019. I feel the doe count is down.

Deer numbers were way down in 2019 I believe it was due to all the high water in the area I hunted.

Deer numbers down again, fewer people hunting (again). Economic damage has been done

Be allowed 1 bow buck, 2 univeral does tags, 1 gun buck.

I’m happy with tags as they are. Support holiday hunt

Please have a holiday hunt this year. Give it a try!

More permits should be available for public land.

Please do not implement the earn a buck

Keep the seasons the same as last year.

I rather bow hunt, too many gun season

I would like to see baiting again

Agree with recommendations shown.

You all are doing a nice job!

Extend the gun deer season

I’d like an extra buck tag

extend the gun deer hunt
The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 654
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 165
   - I hunt in this unit: 898
   - General interest in this unit: 177

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 849
   - Bow: 514
   - Crossbow: 390
   - Muzzleloader: 331

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.96
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 546
   - Mostly Private Land: 158
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 98
   - Mostly Public Land: 32
   - Exclusively Public Land: 54
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 10

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 34
   - Not too crowded: 92
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 72
   - Somewhat crowded: 67
   - Very crowded: 53
   - Not applicable: 24

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 182
   - Fewer: 320
   - Same: 355
   - More: 99
   - Many More: 29
   - Unsure: 11

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

   Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

   If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
   Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
   Support  Oppose  Unsure
   233       664     99

   If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
   EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
   Support  Oppose  Unsure
   402       494     98

   If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
   Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
   Support  Oppose  Unsure
   98        840     58

   If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
   ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
   VALID  NOT VALID  Unsure
   Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

   Scale: 1 = Not-at-all;  2 = Slightly;  3 = Moderately;  4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Comments for Marathon, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
Apparently your entire recommendations on deer harvest are done from information and metrics that you use in your computer programs. Not once have I heard any information that was given by either landowners, hunters, or the DNR’s own personnel in regards to the number of deer that were actually observed. I highly recommend that you people get off of your $500 leather chairs and get out in the field and see how many deer or lack of deer there actually are. I did not buy a deer hunting license last year. Why? Because there are no deer!!! I found it very interesting that right before the gun deer season of 2019 opened, a supposed DNR wildlife specialist issued a public statement claiming how successful the 2019 gun deer hunt would be because of such an abundance of deer in the state, he claimed record numbers of deer roaming around on the landscape. That statement was not only propaganda but total BS. The DNR wants to blame everything under the sun why the deer harvest was down. It was because the hunt was late and the rut was over, or it was because of weather conditions, or maybe it was because of the bunion on grandma’s big toe. All of bunch of fat lies!!! You could talk to anyone that hunted within the state and they all were complaining that they were not seeing any deer. Hunters and landowners from my immediate area, without exception, were complaining of no deer. And not just this year. That’s been going on for many years in succession. I have been living in the same area for my entire life. I am presently 66 years of age. And out of those 66 years, I hunted white tailed deer for 51 years. I saw and harvested more deer in the 1970s than are around today. And the 1970s were considered lean years by your estimation. When you go out and sit from morning to dark for the entire season and see perhaps 2 or maybe 3 deer during that entire time frame, don’t tell me that there’s all these deer running around. I have a better chance of seeing a sabertooth tiger then a white tailed deer!!! This all dates back to the days when the DNR, in their ultimate wisdom, instituted earn-a-buck. What that did is turned many hunters from sportsman into killers. And for many, and this is no exaggeration, anything that was brown was killed. One of my neighbors saw a group of hunters driving out a woodlot on their land. 7 deer came out of that woodlot onto the field, mostly does and fawns from what he could see through the binocular’s. And the hunters shot every single one. All seven deer were killed. That’s not being a sportsman. And in my area, the deer numbers have not recovered since. Why do you base the deer population and projected kill entirely on what your computer tells you? What a bunch of fools!!! In my opinion, and the opinion of many other land owners and hunters in my immediate area, there should be absolutely no white tailed deer hunt whatsoever in 2020. And in 2021, it should be buck only. Absolutely no antlerless permits given out whatsoever. I am not against issuing antlerless permits if the deer population is excessive. But the deer population has not been in excess in my area for a decade. Apparently the DNR thinks that deer fall like rain out of the sky. Maybe the DNR’s deer biologist should go back to school and learn how reproduction actually works. You shoot off all the does and fawns, you will never have the deer herd recover. There are hunters out there today that are saying that if they have to spend $24 for a deer hunting license, they will shoot anything that’s brown, even if it’s only a 25 pound fawn. How absolutely sad. Another thing that should be implemented immediately is to make hunters choose between either an archery license or a gun deer license. No doubling up on the amount of deer that can be harvested by issuing multiple licenses. By allowing all hunters the option of hunting with a crossbow has seriously affected deer numbers. A crossbow in my opinion is not much different than hunting with a gun. The accuracy and range of a crossbow is about five times that of a conventional vertical bow. One of the stupidest thing the DNR ever did was making the deer zones larger. Given the size of Marathon County, the deer populations can vary drastically. I live and hunt in the middle of old unit 46 my entire life. There is absolutely no way the DNR can regulate deer population and harvest numbers in such a huge, diverse area. I was an avid deer Hunter until it got to the point where I could not see any deer whatsoever on my land. And trust me, many other landowners, which are also deer hunters, feel the same way. It’s time to make some major adjustments instead of continuing to tell us that we have all these deer and were just too stupid as hunters to find and hunt them. If I would have to make an estimate based on the number of deer that I saw and other landowners in my area saw, I would say there are about 3 or less deer per square mile. Instead of worrying about how much revenue that you can generate from selling more deer hunting licenses, I suggest you truly knuckle down, get your bodies out in the field, and see how many deer there actually are out there before making your incompetent and foolish recommendations. How can you ever inspire any young person to buy a deer hunting license when there’s no
deer to be found or seen to hunt. I will guarantee you that they will feel just like I do. If you can’t see any deer, why buy a license in the first place? And if they don’t see any deer the first time they go out, the odds are they will never again buy a deer hunting license.

The one factor for the 2019 gun deer season that was not mentioned was the miserable hunting weather. I have hunted since 1976, and 2019 was one of the worst years of weather I can recall. Opening weekend was warm followed by heavy snow, wind, ice accumulation. There were few stands that I could utilize after opening weekend, as the conditions were too treacherous. Trees were mostly ice covered so even a climber stand wasn’t an option. Early talks of extending the gun season by starting earlier I think would be a terrible idea. The bucks are trying to recover from being energy depleted from weeks of pre-rut and rutting activity. Keeping them moving following the rut by starting the gun season early and extending it would prevent them from resting and building up their energy reserves. There would be a higher deer mortality from winter because they would simply be wiped out by the constant hunting pressure. Most of the increase has come from the addition of crossbow to the archery season. If I’m recalling correctly, the preliminary idea to reduce the times available to crossbow hunters is in essence trying to divide hunters into groups and pit one group against another. Increasing the length of the gun deer season would have little effect on the number of hunters for that part of the season. Most people are limited by available vacation time and seniority in many places to apply for time off during the gun season. There would be even less family/hunting group social time in an extended period, as the likelihood of all hunting members in a group getting the same vacation days would decrease. Also, the Wisconsin season coincides with the Thanksgiving week, which many hunters count on to get a few extra days in the woods. Minnesota has meddled with their hunting seasons to the point where they have created more problems than solutions. Many fellow hunters and myself would not want to see WI head down this road. The many special hunts and seasons make it difficult for bow hunters and landowners to safely access their properties, either for their own hunts or forestry and property maintenance in the fall. There needs to be continued encouragement of our youth to become part of the hunting and fishing heritage. In my opinion, the elimination of age 12 as the starting age for hunting was not well thought out. I think it is fine for kids younger than this to be next to their parents during a hunt, but to have a 5 year old toting a rifle and discharging it when they don’t really have a concept of safety or making a kill at that age is more of a disservice to them, and will likely trouble them in the future. In summary: - Show weather as a factor in your reporting of harvest numbers. - Do not increase the length of the gun deer season or move it from the traditional week. -Eliminate the special hunts - there is plenty of opportunity during the regular seasons for hunters to fill an antlerless tag. -Do not attempt to slot hunters into groups, there is opportunity for everyone and we should not be pitted against our fellow hunters to grind someones political ax. - Set the minimum age back to 12 with a hunters safety certificate in order to participate in a hunt.
I am a disabled veteran who grew up hunting in Marathon county. Because of my disability I am unable to get out into the woods, so I have my disability permit and I hunt from the bed of my pick up on public land where I park on the highline. Also, because I have to hunt the way I do, I have been in the same location for over 25 years, but every year someone has an issue with it and I have the warden called on me. Even, though I have my disabled hunter sign clearly posted in my front windshield. Certain decisions that have been made, has affected the overall quality of deer hunting. First, more enforcement of the law needs to be done not only by the DNR but from local law enforcement as well. Secondly, far to much favoritism has been made towards archery hunters and the archery season!! Third, all the posted, private land has had an impact on the hunt as a whole!! Basically, no one is hunting on public lands and at least from my view point no one is really hunting the private land. Road hunters are also a real danger to, regular hunters, normal citizens, the deer population and property! All the benefits for disabled hunters has been taken away, use of crossbows, being able to use doe tag to harvest a buck and road hunting. Basically, everyone can do all the above?? No special advantages/benefits for disabled hunters or disabled veterans during the 9 day gun season, which is totally unfair and just wrong!! And there isn't even a discount for me, since I am a disabled veteran?? Also far too many (so-called) disabled hunters in my opinion are abusing the permit privilege. Also, this pertains to overall hunter safety, the AR-style sporting rifles should be outlawed!! I should not be sitting in my stand and hear in the distance someone rattling off 10-12 shots in a row, because they have a large clip and can't hit the broad side of a barn!! That is not what hunting is!! Bottom line, over my 30 years of hunting things in the state vastly shifted from gun to archery! And the cost for out of state hunters is far too high. If it could come down to where it was in the early 2000's I know that more of my out of state relation could afford to come back and hunt. The state and the DNR in my opinion has a lot to focus on, not just focusing on the deer population. Safety, enforcement and participation all need to be addressed!! The area I, my son and older brother hunt have seen in just the past 10 years go from around 10-15 hunters down to just 4-6, and those numbers include me and my family members. No one is getting out into the woods on the public lands where we hunt. And about 90% of the private land, you are denied permission to hunt and what is worse, no one then hunts the land(private) at all. But in those 10 years, the amount of road hunting has gone up by over 1000% Something as a whole needs to happen. Because it is the lifelong hunters like me and my family are who end up just wasting money and not being able to enjoy the experience, the traditions or the hunt itself!!!
In my opinion, I have never seen fewer deer in my whole life. The notion that the deer population is at high levels is absurd. In years past you would frequently see large groupings of deer. Now it’s few and far between. If you see 10 or 12 deer in a field it seems like a lot. But you used to see 20+ in that same field. I think if you asked any older generation of hunter they would say the same thing. There is less land available to the public for hunting. There’s also much less land for deer and other wildlife to habitate. People are losing interest. Traditions are getting forgotten. With the current registration format “Official” numbers on deer are in no way reliable or accurate. Extending hunting seasons and giving out bonus tags are just silly if the actual goal is to improve the overall hunting experience. Too much of something is always a bad thing. There’s also been ideas thrown around about shortening the crossbow season and extending the rifle season. Reason being that supposedly the people who only rifle hunt have much less of an opportunity to harvest a deer because crossbow hunters are harvesting too many of them before rifle season starts. Obviously if you are a reasonable and unbiased thinker this entire idea is laughable. You want to take opportunity away from a hunter using a more difficult and more primitive style of weapon and give that opportunity to hunter using a much deadlier and much easier style of weapon to use (during the rut period mind you) in order to have more opportunity to harvest a deer. I’d say the majority of hunters when they use a common bow or a crossbow, also hunt with a rifle during the designated season. So you would be putting that easier way to harvest a deer in more people’s hands which would surely allow them the ability to harvest more deer. But would they? Or would you be spreading that opportunity even more thin by creating an easier way to harvest a deer which in turn would just lower the population of deer even further than what I believe it to be already. I learned the love of the hunt from my father and he from his. I hope to be able to pass it on to my children but if you go out and hunt and don’t see anything the interest will never manifest and therefor fail to be passed on. I hope that does not happen.

I have hunted NE Marathon County since 1971. In the 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s I could count on seeing 25 to 28 deer per season. I was happy with that. With the advent of T Zones and Earn-a-Buck, season sightings of deer has diminished greatly down to 3 or 4 a season. I blame over harvest of does/fawns for that result. We hunt 8 days of the season, averaging 70 hours logged in the woods. We utilize hunters in tree stands and guys sneak hunting to move deer, a very effective method for us. We also hunt different parcels of the Hewitt-Harrison Wildlife Area, Ringle, and state owned Plover River land each day, never covering one area in back to back days. The results of deer sightings and deer sign have been very discouraging at best. Marathon County is huge, and to manage it all the same makes no sense to me. NE Marathon County is more like the northern forest regions and should be managed as such. I also feel that antlerless tags should not be utilized on public land for a number of years to allow the deer herd numbers to rebound a bit. You don’t realize the number of “private” land permits that are filled on public land, although they really have to work at it later in the season! Bonus tags are the cause of that last scenario, I am sure. I mentioned deer sightings earlier, but deer sign has been greatly reduced in the past 15 years. You see good sign in pockets, and then stretches of very little sign for quite away. Snow does not lie! When you can walk for over a mile on the gps and not encounter tracks, it is disheartening. Also rub lines and buck scrapes are greatly reduced, you just do not encounter them as compared to the past. This incorporates hunting, and pre season scouting in tag alder swamps, popple ridges, creek bottoms, and hard woods. We hunt it all, seeing the same meager sign and results. I would never have guessed that NE Marathon County could be over harvested, but it has been. Please consider cutting public land antlerless permits for a number of years to allow some rebound of deer numbers.
Please keep the crossbow season as is, and has been since 2014. Do not shorten the crossbow season to appease rifle hunters. Also, I think a 19 day rifle season would be a travesty to our deer herd. For someone who owns land in both Price and Marathon county, the deer numbers are down. Especially around my price county parcel. Predators, and an over abundance of doe permits are what I contribute to this issue. There won’t be a three year old buck left in the state after a couple years if you allow rifle seasons to last that long. Rifle season is, and has been a 9 day tradition for many years. It’s has us focused, and excited to hunt, around a short window of time. Doubling this length would devastate the deer herd, ruin tradition, and put too much stress on deer that are already run down from the rut. If you are thinking that creating a 19 day rifle season will sell more tags, and thus generate more revenue, you are mistaken. The people who are truly purchasing hunting tags every year, care about hunting, and care about the herd, are strongly opposed to this idea. I believe we need to keep our crossbow season as is because it gives more hunters and ethical opportunity to harvest a deer. I hunted with a compound bow for 15 years before changing to a crossbow. I was an excellent shot and still love shooting compound bow. However, I feel I owe it to the deer I harvest to guarantee I make the best shot possible. Crossbows allow people to do this. As a school teacher, I see kids and adults alike being successful hunting rather than wounding a half dozen deer a year with a compound. I know of too many vertical bow hunters that don’t practice, and take their bow out opening day hoping that they are ready to make an ethical shot. They are not. Let’s continue to allow both compound and crossbow opportunities for all those who want them, for equal length seasons. Thanks for all you do!

I am a sportsman. I am a father of five, and married to a wife that hunts. I come from generations of hunters. I cherish our WI hunting heritage. I have sole access to near two hundred pristine wooded/agriculture/swamp land property that I have managed for decades. It has several water sources, food plots, fields, dense cover, undisturbed bedding areas and a rich, rich history of producing beautiful large mature fat deer year after year, until recent years. over the course of the last four years I have seen an increase in predators species (not to say that’s the sole cause) and a drastic decrease in the number of deer I see. I have actually had three of my now adult children lose interest and quit hunting after repeatedly going hunting without seeing a single deer day after day. It is hard to keep traditions and interests going when my children see more orange than deer in a week. I HATE the telephone registration and have seen many first hand accounts of deer being harvested without ever being registered. It is too easy not to register a deer. BRING BACK THE REGISTRATINS STATIONS AND METAL REGISTRATION BANDS. It will only result in accountability and local business stimulation. Bring back back tags. Again, accountability. I would enjoy having an allowance for less than 2 gallons of bait. I abide by the law and in return I see no deer because all my neighbors put out bait. Every gun shot I hear is a deer being killed next door that my family wont see partially due to the laws we are following. I cant express enough how beautiful our land is and the many thousands of dollars a year I work hard to pay the taxes on do not allow for my children to go hunting one week a year with the family and be optimistic about their chances of even seeing a deer. I am not mad. I am disappointed. PLEASE keep my family in mind when proposing hunting regulations. Please.
I have hunted in northeast marathon county my whole life. When I started hunting in the mid 90s there were a decent amount of deer around and on an average day of hunting it was normal to see anywhere from 8-20 deer. I think the biggest factor in the decline in population in that area was when earn a buck was inforced. We have always hunted private and public land and during the earn a buck time lots of people would come to the area and shoot their doe on the public land then go back to their area to shoot their buck drastically decreasing the doe population in my area. The population has started to come back in recent years but still is not where it used to be. I believe that the northern part of marathon county should not be part of the farm land area. I think the southern area population is much higher therefore too many tags are given out which hurts the northern part of the county where the deer numbers are not there like they are in the south. I was and still am a fan of the hunters choice program that was in affect when I started hunting giving you the choice of one deer per tag, letting the hunter decide if they want to use it on a doe or wait for a buck, but only allowing one deer taken for bow and one deer for rifle. I think the deer herd was a lot stronger under that structure and should be looked at as the structure for the northern half of the county and northern half of the state. If you asked hunters their thought on it I think you'd be surprised how many would like that structure back. I am a taxidermist and with talking to my clients many of them are disappointed in the way the deer herd is being managed and feel that they're opinions are not being heard or are being heard but have no affect on the outcome. Thank you for reading this.

Wisconsin could be the best trophy buck state in the union. We could have great hunting for all who want to shoot a trophy on public or private. 1. Stop shooting non-mounter bucks. But in a size limit or stop the buck harvest for three years. Then start on a draw system for each deer zone. 2. Stop shooting the does on public land. Start to put deer plots in on public land to draw the deer off private land. Burn and manage the forests for good new growth. Plant food trees and crops. 3. Stop allowing the deer drives on public land. Large groups are killing our deer and then hunting their own private land. They have good hunting after raping our land. They have a place to go on private land the rest of us sit where they drove and shot everything out. That is why people are stopping hunting. No one wants to sit in the woods and see song birds with no deer. 4. Kill the wolves. There is more of a predation problem than you know. Wolves move up to 50 miles a day to feed on their primary food source which is deer. They also kill deer just for fun. Wolves were exterminated years ago by our forefathers who knew why they needed to be eliminated. 5. I used to o in the woods in the 70's and see 50 plus deer a day with trophies a good potential. Now if I sit all day I might see three deer. Two fawns and maybe a doe if I'm lucky. You will loose me too soon if you don't make the changes suggested. If you do make the changes you won't believe the large bucks you will see and all the hunters will apply for a tag and come back. Wisconsin will again be the state to trophy hunt. If not you will continue to ruin it and I and others will stop hunting. Please listen and make those changes..... Thank you

I have hunted the same piece of land for 24 years with bow and gun and can say with NO doubt that the herd has substantially decreased over the last 10 years when compared to the first 14. I sit in the same stands and see far fewer deer- during both seasons. I used to see deer in the fields around my property with consistency, but rarely do now. Another good indicator is the number of nearby gunshots on opening weekend. It is extremely apparent that others in my area are seeing less deer too as I hear FAR fewer gunshots on opening weekend than I used to hear. Everyone in my hunting party says the same thing and the neighbors I talk to also say the same. I am not relying solely on my memory, but have kept journals since I purchased the land. They reinforce my memory. I do not want to guess the cause, but the solution to me is to issue fewer doe tags until the herd is more populous. I have hunted for 41 years and can easily recall the days of "party permits" and "either or" tags. We do not need to go to this extreme, but please stop issuing everyone a doe tag with every license and utilize bonus tags as the option for those who want to shoot a doe. Limit bonus tags to one possible per license. This will increase your revenue and increase my deer numbers. I know that hunter numbers continue to decrease. Decrease hunters is decreased DNR revenue. The best way to get hunters to STAY hunters is to provide them with opportunities to see deer and the potential for harvest. The generation of today has a very short attention span and unless you keep them engaged while in the field, I fear they will give it up. Help me keep my kids hunting!!
Hello - I hunt on my own private land with my young children and family. The number of deer in our area has been in a steady decline for the past few years to the point where one of my daughters, who is a mentored young hunter did not see a single deer hunting with me last season. This is while hunting in stands that have been great spots over the years. As an avid hunter who is trying to pass on the tradition to my children, it has been very disappointing. I have seen a massive increase in bear and coyote numbers that coincide with this, as well as wolf reports although I cannot say I have seen any myself. Although you addressed predation in the video, I respectfully disagree with the numbers allocated. The deer herd is getting preyed on from too many angles, of which I do not feel the DNR is accounting for. The numbers/models are not indicative of "actuals." Bear tags need to be increased substantially and coyote/wolf kills need to be more accurately accounted for. I know the herd needs to be managed for more reasons than hunting (browse/crop damage, car collisions etc.) but without hunters those problems will exponentially increase. The hunting tradition in WI has been on a steady decline and for those of us trying to pass it on, quality hunting is essential. It does need to factor in as a priority or there will be no hunters to manage the herd. Lastly, I would like to compliment the DNR on the youth rifle hunt. It has been one the finest additions in my opinion. A great chance for kids to hunt in decent weather. Please consider making it a 4 day (Thurs-Sun) hunt, as weekend events limit the time available to hunt for many families. Thank you

The only question I would add to this form is "How many deer do you think were poached/untagged in the 2019 season?" With the silly paper tags that hunters get when they buy a license now, there is a high chance of not tagging. When it was the old green back tags, we actually knew if someone had a license to hunt and we knew they registered their kill because the tag was attached to the animal. Now anybody can hunt their property without having a license and no one would know. We don't have a good amount of DNR officers to catch these people or catch the people not tagging their deer. Personally I know of 23 deer that were not tagged during the 2019 rifle season and 28 in 2018 (I keep a tally of my friends or friends of friends that told me they didn't register.) I won't tattle tale on them because our state made it easier to do it, so the DNR created their own problem. Since the green back tags went away, the amount of unregistered deer has gone way up and you probably already know that. Right? I can guarantee we hit or went over our antlerless deer quota every year since we switched to this silly paper program. Why register when no one has to look at the kill or authorize it at a tagging station? I know there will always be a poaching/unregistered problem but the paper tag is making it easier. The tagging system is the only issue I have with our deer management and its allowing more people to hunt without a license or not register their kills if they do have a license. Bring back the green tags.

I support extending the hunting seasons to make up for the shortfall on reaching the quotas. The Bonus tags need to be increased as well. All were sold, but the quota still was not met for antlerless harvest. I do not support extending the firearm season into early November as I believe that the impact it would have long term would greatly outweigh the short term gains of introducing new hunters. Increasing hunter numbers high priority of mine because I understand that we are the minority, and allowing new hunters to kill a buck with a rifle during the rut would no doubt have a positive impact on the new hunters this year. But it would have a significant impact on the buck population and the buck to doe ration and may ruin it for current hunters and new hunters in years to come. We have opportunity to hunt bucks during the rut currently and it is the best time of year in my opinion.

We need to work to introduce those hunters to that experience and also afford them the excitement of the opening day firearm season. I feel that by extending the season later in the year would allow for hunters who still want to harvest deer that opportunity and although that number would be much lower than the current 9 day gun season, those hunters success rates would be higher I would think as their goals would likely be to harvest a deer and not likely pass on a deer. These would most likely also be your most hard core hunters willing to stick it out to be successful.
I of coarse can only speak to what i saw in the areas i hunt and what i heard from good hunters who hunt the same areas. I dont consider rifle only hunters comments or opinions in many cases they do not spend enough time in the woods. My comments are based on not only sightings but trail cam data and physical evidence, tracks, scrapes rubs and scat. The deer numbers where way way down on all private land around my personal land. Scrapes and rubs and cams showed evidence of 3 small bucks on 160 acres approx 4 does 2 fawns. 3 days after early snow (prior to season) i walked a figure 8 on my land cutting only 4 sets of tracks. The land across the road showed numbers the same or worse. I elected not to hunt my own land for first time in 30 years. One nephew did same. Leaving 5 guys to hunt the two sides of the road approx 400 acres. They each hunted approx 35 hours. They saw 3 deer in total. That included one spotted on a drive. No we do not just sit. Nieghbor crew same thing. The area i hunted 10 miles west of my land had better numbers and i did see deer. That area does not lend itself to drives so all i could do was sit. Sign was way down. I could have taken deer but due to low numbers elected not to. Archery season including rut was worst in 42 years of hunting. Note unless we see a very large increase in deer numbers our 7 man crew will not even consider taking a doe during any season. We talked to nieghbor crew 8 guys about same acrage they plan to do the same.

I believe the deer population is much lower than what is being estimated. My reasoning for this is hunting marathon county for over 22 years I've seen a great change in deer numbers both during deer season but in off season as well. Being in the woods year round I see a lot hire numbers of predators in marathon county then ever before, the last 2 years I've noticed deer staying much closer to residences than normal and have had 2 coyote killed deer 20 feet from my porch. Not to mention I've seen a great increase in coyote numbers moving along the trappe river. I love to deer hunt and use it as a means to supplement meat in my freezer for the winters but with a growing predator population that I've seen and been watching in my area I believe we need to shift to a little more predator control. As in decreasing coyote numbers in the county. I know I'm not the only sportsman who has given up hunting lands I've hunted as a young adult with my parents because of predators taking down the deer populations severely. I'm just hoping the 4 other people I'm talking about in marathon county fill this out and voice their opinions on this. I will be working on predator control on the property I live on but it's only one small piece of the marathon county puzzle. Raising more awareness would be beneficial for the county and people who reside, work , hunt, and enjoy the beautiful wilderness of marathon county . Thank you for your time.

The amount of predators has been increasing over the last few years. On game cameras, I have seen numerous bear and coyotes along with a few bobcats and wolves. If they take more deer then that means that hunters need to take less to maintain the population. Over-browsing is not as concerning as corporate farms and urban sprawl which decreases habitat. The situation where urban sprawl sparks forest harvest to increase financial gain is factor when considering prices of recreational land (the idea being log it and sell it at high price). Selective cut forests don't produce areas where wildlife feel safe to live and thrive, but rather becomes a forest of passing to get to other areas. I've seen some land in forest programs the was selective cut and significantly decreased the number of deer that formerly lived and thrive within it. Clear cut patches seem to allow only fast growing trees, like popple, basswood, and soft maple to grow and then drown out the oaks, hard maples, cherry, and hickory. All forests that are logged should be subsidized with manual intervention of planting of specific trees at low costs that are at least 5 years old to give them a chance. That's the only way our forests will be replenished with diverse and healthy wildlife. Squirrels (fox and gray) were an animal that would plant many trees, but even those numbers are down due to predators like fishers.
I hunt the NE corner of the county on county owned property. There used to be much more ag. In this area 15+ years ago. After the dreaded earn a buck years, the deer population on county land plummeted and never recovered. I worked for the DNR for 34 years as a forest ranger and understand deer habitat. Our hunting group used to see on average between 25 to 35 deer each per year prior to earn a buck. Since then we are seeing 4 to 10 deer each. We hunt the whole season except for the last Sunday, and put in about 70 hrs in the woods. We just don’t stand hunt, but have sitters with others who sneak hunt to get deer moving. It’s a shame when you sneak hunt through all habitat types (aspen-saplings and pole timber), hardwood, tag alder pockets, creek bottoms and are lucky to cross one track after a fresh snow when putting on over 3 miles. And this is day after day! I know what good habitat is, and deer numbers on county property are way below where it could be. Separating doe harvest on county and private property was an awesome move to spread out that harvest across the entire county. I would like to see a 1 year “no doe harvest” on county property to allow that population to rebound. Like I said after the earn a buck years it has never rebounded due to all the free doe tags that are being put out there. Just my thoughts.

I live in the town of Stettin, west of the intersection of County Hwy O and Highland Dr. I have hunted this area for many years. There are a good amount of deer in the area. I have vegetable gardens and trees that are damaged each year, due to the deer eating them. I have to fence the beet and carrots so the deer do not eat the tops off. I can not leave my butternut squash out in the fall to the first frost because the deer start to eat them. The neighbor farms the land to the south and east. He says there are too many deer in the area. And I agree. The deer eat at least 3/4 of an acre of one of his 4 1/2 acre fields of soybean last year. They ate a good amount of his corn last fall and winter too. The neighbor to the west does not allow hunting on his 60 acres. This spring as the snow was melting on the south facing lawn he saw 37 deer one evening. I have fenced most of my Oak, Maple and Butternut trees. The deer have eaten the tops of the Oak and Maple that have low fences around and over them. The area around me is all private land. There are too many deer in the area. I would like a free antlerless tag with my license. And bonus tags for Marathon County. I agree with establishing a holiday Hunt. And dividing the county into different zones to thin the deer population.

I believe the deer population is a lot lower than what it used to be in the area. I used to see 20 times more deer than what I do now. The herd needs to be replenished back up to where it used to be. I believe we should bring back the hunters choice tag, you shoot one deer, buck or die, and that’s it. One deer per season, now or gun/muzzleloader. We should not have an antlerless Hunt nor have a holiday hunt. I don’t believe in extending the seasons either. If the population keeps going down, younger people that are interested in getting into the sport will lose interest and quit hunting all together cause why would you want to go out and not shoot anything or even see anything for that matter. If the population continues to fall like it has been the sport will die off and be at an all time low. So take in consideration of all the new hunters or future hunters and work to bring the deer population back up to what it used to be. That means there will be more licenses and tags sold, also bring back registration stations. Better for the small businesses and gas stations too! All in all, I think these suggestions I stated wold help replenish the herd, get more people interested in the sport, and bring in more revenue for the DNR and small businesses.
I’m very concerned about the predation in the area and land I own in Marathon County. Every winter while shed hunting I find numerous deer that were killed by coyotes and WOLVES!! I’ve walked up on fresh kills where I could see exactly where deer was attacked and how far deer ran before falling. Actually found an ear that got torn off while the deer was still on its feet being attacked and chewed on. Another big concern I think gets overlooked is the high number of fawns that get killed while farmers cut first crop hay. Where my 120 acres of land is located there are like 3 local farmers. Talking to just one of the farmers last year he told me him alone killed 30 fawns with haybine!!!! And I know all farmers kill fawns while cutting hay. It’s the fawns natural instinct just to lay and hide. With the modern equipment farmers have now days they can operate at speeds up to 20 mph cutting hay!! Please consider taking that mortality rate into the equation? Getting back to predators every season turkey hunting in spring while calling turkeys I have coyotes, Fox, fishers and even had a wolf circle me last spring. Way too many predators out there in my opinion!! Thank you.

I saw notably more deer this year than last year. I hunt public land (nine mile) and during the nine day gun season there were even fewer shots fired on opening weekend than any other season since 2000, though I have seen more deer this year than during the last three months of the year. I attribute this to two major circumstances, the late season (20%) and the lack of hunters (80%). In the lot that I’ve parked in for 34 years there has been as many as 27 cars on opening day with 22 being the average. This year on opening day there were 7 with only 3 left at noon. I heard 2 shots all day. The 9 day gun season is the bell cow of deer hunting in Wisconsin. Families have joined together in deer camps for 100 years. I believe the deer count is fine but the hunts prior to gun season are too close to opening day and the deer are still "hunkered down" from these hunts. I would like to see all other seasons halted for a week before deer gun season as it was in the past. I believe this would produce a more gratifying opening weekend for gun hunters. Hunters are discouraged and I think the number of license sold will drop more than last year.

I have been hunting the same private 80 acres in the town of Bern since 1997, both archery and gun. I used to see ALOT more deer than I see today. I used to consistently see deer during archery season hunts. Over the past 5 years I feel fortunate if I see a single deer during a hunt when I used to see multiple. I hunt the same stands and dedicate the same amount of time to hunting, but am seeing fewer deer. It seems a clear correlation to me that the deer population in my area is less. I have two sons who have just begun to hunt. It is very difficult to keep them in the stand when there are no deer sightings to get them excited. During rifle season, I hunt with a group of 5 on the same land. It is now become normal for 1 or 2 of the group to hunt the entire opening weekend and not see a deer- and we are serious hunters who are in the stand sunrise to sunset. 10 years ago that would never have happened. I do not know the cause or the solution- I leave that to you- but I can confidently say there are fewer deer in my area than there were 10 years ago and I fear my sons will lose interest in hunting if the trend continues.

I hunt in the SW corner of Marathon County. The deer population there seems to mirror more closely the populations in Shawano and Waupaca Counties. In my opinion, there are consistently too many deer in this area for the available habitat. In summer, and early fall there is abundant food to support a large deer herd. But in late fall & winter, once crops are harvested, there large deer herd decimates any available browse making hardwood or cedar regeneration nearly impossible. This is harmful for the whole forest ecosystem. I am probably in the minority, but I would support an antlerless only season or seasons to bring deer numbers in balance to the available habitat. Also, in my experience there are always large numbers of does, fawns and young bucks, but proportionately far fewer mature bucks. Deer hunting is very popular in this area, particularly rifle hunting with enclosed stands nearly every 40-acres. Everyone is after a "mature" buck and, as a result not many 2-3 year-olds survive. Very few bucks get the opportunity to grow old.
First of all I am 67 years old and I have hunted in 6 states and Canada and I am a avid Hunter I spend more time in the woods in one year than most hunters do in a lifetime. I receive your outdoor paper and it makes me furious the letters so called sportsman right about what weapons are used for hunting! Thru the years I have seen the controversaty about the improve ment of archery equipment and muzzleloader equipment saying it is unfair. If they want more and bigger antlered deer go to 1 antlered deer per Hunter per year like most of the other states have. Being from Pennsylvania that is the way it has always been here. Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia , Indiana, north and south Carolina are all 1 antlered deer per Hunter per year. Also look at the statistics for every other state the number of Hunter's is down not just Wisconsin.i blame it on the children are on there video games and us older hunters are getting to old . By the way I love the hunting and fishing in your state and I am in the process of moving to your great state.

The CDAC has had a very positive input, but far too limited. Their only input is on antler-less permits, and they seem to get it right every year. I don't always agree with the outcome but at least there was some thought put in. Can someone please tell me why a program that works is so limited? Why not allow the CDAC group to have input on: CDW controls, such as baiting, feeding, population reduction in hot spot areas. Wolves Season lengths, and start dates Hunting safety rules Registration procedures Possible "leave them go leave them grow" rules Youth hunting Hunter interest, how to get more license sold I think I know the answer, by allowing the CDAC hunters to only weigh in on Antler-less deer permits it gives the illusion the DNR want input from hunters and the general public, and that is such a small part of the over-all program, the DNR can appear to be a democracy and at the same time dictate to us hunters how it will be...

The continued issuance of free antlerless tags with each purchase of a license MUST be limited to private land only or halted completely. NW Marathon County has large parcels of public land which are ravaged by rifle hunters in large groups even from neighboring counties. Taylor and Lincoln County hunters are using NW Marathon County public land as their "meat hunt" as public land tags are restricted in those counties. Year after year these large groups have almost everyone in the group holding 1 or 2 free farmland public tags (from bow and gun license purchases) upon license purchase. This area is now devoid of deer beyond anything I have seen in 34 years of hunting the area. I propose not issuing free antlerless tags for either public or private land and only allow for the sale of $12 bonus tags. At a minimum, all free public land tags should be off limits. This area is overcrowded.

I believe that you shouldn't have any bonus tags. I know a few guys that will go out to the woods and lay down every deer they can because, and I quote, "if the DNR will allow me to buy bonus tags, then I will keep shooting" as the family on the other side of the fence don't get a shot at a deer due to the deer being harvested before it got to the fence line. Maybe landowners that own over "X" amount of land can apply for a bonus tag that works like an "ag tag" and for farmers that have a couple hundred acres, they can get free bonus tag per 40 acres to do with as they wish. If they want to give them away, then so be it. Also, the dumbest idea was considering a 19-day gun season and/or not allowing crossbow hunters a chance to hunt during the rut. For every 2 crossbows out there, there is a bow hunter with a bow that shoots just as far and almost as fast as the average crossbow.

It was an unusual gun season. The deer did not seem to move as normal. So the harvest may have been low because of that. The winter was severe as to snow cover in this area, but the temps were not so severe. There would have been some winter kill in this area even though it is mostly farms with woods. The deer in this area (Marathon) had a good winter only because many farmers did not get the corn harvested because of the wet conditions in Fall and the deer did find and live off those fields. But the Northwest area of Marathon County is quite different and the population is not the same as around Marathon-Edgar. Wolves and deep snow would have been a big survival factor there. The problem is the change to County by County management is simpler, but not equal is this big county. Also absolutely get a controlled wolf season back in Wisconsin., It is needed.
In my job I'm able to see the amount of deer crashes that occur and it's definitely down. On top of that I hunt in two areas of Marathon County with approximately 10 people. Through the gun deer season we saw a total of 10 deer. I realize the rut played a factor in the amount of bucks seen, however typically that doesn't affect the amount of antlerless seen. Too me there is a bigger problem outside of just Marathon County. I'm opposed of the use of cross bow for anyone. This is the reason why you see less bucks and the amount of deer. It's plain out too easy. I wish there would have been some restrictions to this madness, but it sells tags and money talks. What was once a great county for the harvest of decent bucks is on the rapid decline. Sorry to vent, but it's true. Thank you for sending this out and I appreciate what you guys are trying to do.

I feel the overall deer population is good. The concern I have since I hunt on public land exclusively is the lack of quality bucks. I would love to see our county have a better buck to doe ratio as well as a better age structure of our bucks. I think if we had a doe only season for 2 years and then implement a 4 point per side requirement for our bucks we would see an immediate improvement in our quality of our bucks. Marathon county has got more than enough food and it also has more than enough cover the only thing it lacks is age. I think there would be some initial concern from the the brown is down groups but once they see what type of quality that could be had with a little restraint in shooting any buck they would get on board. Its nice to shoot a deer but if you ask the majority of the people they would tell you they would love to shoot a big deer.

I bow/gun deer hunt on a family farm in the town (village) of Maine northwest of Wausau. As a side hobby, I have deer cameras setup year round that I like to use to see what’s running around. When I was 12-13 years old deer used to run through the woods 15-30 a day gun hunting. Maybe they were the same deer, but I still saw deer. I’m 33 now, I know other hunters, logging, and predators are factors. However, over the past 20 years, I’ve watched the heard all but disappear and now climb back to a spot I have 4-8 deer on camera. I’m not in a spot where more deer tags offered are a good thing yet. During gun/deer season, family comes back home, out of towners come to visit etc. I’m of the opinion if you offer more tags some people will fill them. Some people don’t care about next year or the year after that. I’d rather have too many deer than just enough.

I would not like the season to be extend for gun deer season the state does not need this the dnr has already destroyed the deer population in these areas with all the bonuses and t zone earn a buck ect. to the point that we cant even get the younger generation out to hunt. I don't blame them how wants to seat all season to see a couple deer. this is also hurting use no out of state people or going to come hunt if they cant see deer this tourism eff. all our local business in the area especially up north restraints would rather shut down for deer season than stay open and this used to be the biggest time of year for them the mistakes our Dnr made is taking year to recover from and now we are and will loose a whole new young generation of hunters once this happens we are going to be down on lic. numbers for many years to come....

One of the biggest concerns I have about increasing the number of harvest permits issued is predators. Counties further north had issued far too many bonus tags in the past, and combined with wolf migration to these counties, it all but decimated the deer populations. I have seen first hand a very substantial increase in the predator population. It is only a matter of time before the predator population and an increase in harvest permits occur together within a couple of seasons. Once these two occurrences happen in accordance with one another, the deer population will suffer as well as the number of hunters buying a license. Nobody wants to hunt in an area that has "pushed" the deer out of that area, or in an area where predators are more than a formidable opponent to a hunters success. Very respectfully, Concerned hunter.
1. Stop allowing large groups to drive deer on public land. They shoot everything and there is nothing left for us to hunt. 2. Stop shooting the small bucks. Put a minimum standard or mounter only harvest for bucks. You shoot em you mount em or don’t shoot. 3. Shoot fewer does to allow for more deer. We like to see deer when we hunt and have a chance for a large buck. 4. Eliminate the wolves - they are eating all the deer. Counting the fawns is not accurate. The wolves are eating the does and leaving the fawns to feed on later. The does draw the wolves away and get ate while the fawns survive to get ate at a later date. The stated of hunting is terrible in this area. All the hunters who hunted up north moved south to see some deer. So now they shoot all the deer and we have none left.

I own property in the North Western section of Marathon County and was born and raised in the county. I have seen the ups and downs of deer population as well and have also been in contact with many hunters within the section. The deer population estimates may be accurate in some sections of Marathon County, but are not accurate in the North western sections. We are closer to Taylor county and have seen significant declines in the herd numbers along with deer sightings. Our deer sightings include visual, trail cams, and weekend deer watch. Numbers have significantly declined and do not align with what Marathon County is issuing in antlerless tags. Marathon County is not the same all over and needs to be managed differently for deer population in the North Western sections.

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to share ideas. As many can identify with, Wisconsin deer hunting is a rich cultural experience that I am deeply passionate about. I will NEVER miss an opening day, rain or shine and have been hunting my entire life. However, I would love if harvest authorizations for bucks were issued with point restrictions. I think a 4 or 5 point antler point restriction would greatly improve the age class distribution of bucks and improve trophy potential. The idea would be to let spikes and fork horns typical of the 1.5 year age group have a chance to reach maturity. Point restriction issued licences are very common across the west and report major benefit in creating a more age diverse buck pool. Thanks for your consideration.

After reviewing the proposed changes I simply ask why? The deer herd is healthy and strong, those that want the changes are not avid hunters. Please, leave the season alone, there is no need for the changes proposed. Archery has been the same for how many years, now what is the purpose for the change? Gun season has been 9 days since before I could hunt, leave it alone, it has worked well for this many years and there is no reason to change it. Crossbow vs regular archery, I have not seen any change in the population because of this. Leave it as it is, if you don’t like crossbow, don’t use it, I don’t, but my dad does and he is finally bow hunting again. Please stop messing with things that work, there is no need for the proposed changes.

I have been hunting the past 35 years, I hunt 120 acres of private land that I own, hunt with 3 others. the past 10 years population of deer has been going down and down. the past 2 years no deer have been taken on this property due to the low numbers. Years past there would be 15 - 20 car kills with in a mile stretch in the past two years less than 3 car kills per year. No need for all these special hunts and bonus tags in this 57A area at all!! Get the herd back up and also stop crop damage tags, everybody that gets them abuses it!! These guys are killing 50-100 deer in mid winter when all the deer in the area have traveled into those areas. You are more than welcome to call me so I can share my feelings.

Having hunted several different parts of the county it is clear the deer that the deer population and maturity of bucks vary greatly from area to area. I have seen far more and better quality deer while hunting towards the south part of county and far fewer and smaller deer in the north central/eastern part of county. There is a greater wolf and other nuisance animal population in northern part of county that is devastating the deer population. Along with people doing deer drives, just shooting deer for fun is also hurting the population and making unsafe to hunt bordering properties of where the deer drives are taking place. And also i strongly believe the deer harvest are really under reported do to current registration procedures.
I am for the holiday hunt to allow people who didn’t fill their tag to get some more hunting in, people just don’t get the time to hunt these days, also a great time for someone to get a kid outdoors to hunt, people aren’t worried about bagging their big buck, but I don’t feel we need to hand out so many tags where some people can just keep harvesting and also killing deer for others, I know certain areas do need herd thinning but that is something that should be applied for and assessed, I spend a fair amount of time out chasing whitetail and feel tag numbers are down because people don’t see deer so don’t have interest to hunt, or a kid won’t find interest in hunting, thank you for your time and effort to support or deer hunting!

Do not change the 9 day gun season frame work. The data presented was spot on indicating we should have expected 2019 gun season to be a down year. To get more deer killed work with local communities and meat lockers to have a deer donation program that the funds come from state to process the deer that are to be donated to the food pantries or less fortunate. Look at Iowa deer donation program. Work better with the land owners based on deer numbers in specific area, have land owner tags that any hunter can harvest doe, not just the number of tags hunter buys with license. We know certain farm fields and areas are more prone to excess deer than others, deal with the specific areas not the entire county or classification zone.

I think 7,000 is a reasonable quota, but with the recommended 1 free tag and 2,000 private bonus tags it’s not reachable using recent harvest history. Giving two free tags would allow hunters that want to fill them in the high deer density areas of the County an opportunity and will increase antlerless harvest by about 16%. I also would be in favor of offering 500 bonus antlerless tags on public lands where tree regeneration has been difficult in some areas of the County Forests. The County should be split somehow to allow for additional harvest in the areas of high deer densities especially south of Hwy. 29 by offering more antlerless permits. The County is too big and has diverse habitats for only one management zone.

We NEED to know who and what groups have influence on the CDAC, the term CDAC was not defined on the questionnaire that I completed last week, therefore I could not answer any question that included CDAC. When surveys or questionnaires are developed any abbreviation needs a definition, otherwise we may know what is being referenced you can’t expect everyone know your abbreviation. The prevalence of CWD is understated, the deer population needs an major decline in numbers, and it extremely important that some time and effort is put in to control and stop the sale of sacks of corn and bait. Food plots need to stop and be made illegal to control CWD. Private landowners are relying on baiting to kill their deer.

I suggest extending the muzzleloader season. Allow it to last a whole 2 weeks from that Monday after rifle season through that following Sunday instead of the 9 days because the deer are so shook up from rifle season it usually takes 3-4 days after rifle season ends for there to be movement again. Then instead of doing the antlerless holiday hunt, have an antlerless hunt last a week starting that Monday after the suggested muzzleloading end date through that next Sunday. I don’t agree with the holiday hunt suggestion because I am a bow hunter too and as a bow hunter, I would prefer to be back to just archery season by Christmas time. I’d rather have the firearms season just last further into December.

I have heard from many visiting hunters that they do not like to come to Central Wisconsin region to hunt public lands because of the poor ethics of other hunters. Deer drives desecrating populations so there are no deer left for other hunters. The amount of injured deer people are seeing is quite high. They do not want the children they are mentoring to see injured and sick animals. Also, I hear many complaints about safety. "Trigger Happy" hunters are not safe hunters and give everyone a bad name. Therefore, I am all for extending the archery season, eliminating group hunting/deer driving. And believe we need to fine more of those people who are not being safe or following laws.
The percentage of available antlerless harvest authorization for should match the Public land 8% vs Private land 92% percentage. Which is 1840 for private and 160 public. Wisconsin's wildlife is for all the residents to enjoy not solely the private landowners. The US and specifically Wisconsin is steeped in tradition and statutes insuring public access to land. A few examples are County Forest Lands, State of WI lands, Wisconsin's Navigable Waterway statutes, Tax laws such as Forest Crop Law and Managed Forest Land Open. Don't hamstring those hard fought access opportunities by such a severe allocation discrepancy of 2000 private to 0 public antlerless harvest authorization.

When you guys are talking about a "antlerless only season" in this survey, would that include regular bow and gun seasons??? Or are you talking about a separate "T-zone" type of antlerless season? If you are talking about the regular seasons, I think you would upset A LOT of people. If you really thought that was best, I would recommend at least offering buck tags through some sort of lottery. I am pretty supportive of the decisions made by the DNR but I would not be supportive of an antlerless only season. If it is a choice between a complete antlerless only season and earn-a-buck, then by all means bring back earn a buck!

I would like to see opportunities for people to hunt more private land that is open to the public where the landowners are able to receive some sort of benefit from the government. The aging farmer population could use some assistance by opening their land to the public if there was a benefit from the government. Additionally, I would like to see people have to register their deer at a location again to help boost local economies of the small towns in Wisconsin. While the new way of registration is a convenience I do not think it is providing an accurate picture for the DNR to make sound decisions on harvest numbers.

I am 100% in support of an antlerless only year for Marathon County. I have hunted this zone for 24 years and the number one complaint I hear from other hunters is that the bucks should be bigger due to the amount and quality of forage available to them. The problem being any buck with identifiable antlers is nearly immediately harvested during the rifle season. A doe only year would absolutely demonstrate the benefit of "let em go, let em grow." Marathon county realistically could rival Buffalo county in the average size of bucks harvested if hunters could see the benefit of allowing smaller bucks to live another year.

I see so many antlerless deer it is ridiculous, I feel our area in SE Marathon County has turned into a nursery for does and doe fawns. Big farm large crops have pulled the population to pockets of the immediate area. I have seen 1 buck to 20 or more antlerless animals over the past 5 or more seasons. In fall, just before the rut I witness 20-30 antlerless animals on my small hay field (4 acres). I feel there is a real imbalance on the buck to doe ratio. Don’t have the answers to swing that the other direction. Big farm fields have definitely made all the large bucks, the few around, to forage through the night.

Is there any way that we can limit the free antlerless tags on public land. I personally feel that by having multiple antlerless tags ( 1 archery/crossbow and 1 rifle) is over harvesting on public lands and is a contributing factor in the continued low harvest rate of antlerless on public lands. Free antlerless tags on private land are controlled by the land owners as to amount of harvest. There is also a safety factor to consider on the much harder hunted public lands. in my 40 years of hunting on public land in Marathon county I am seeing only about 20 % or less of the deer I saw in previous years.

I believe Marathon county could sustain a slight to moderate increase in deer population. Private land may hold plenty of deer but the public land does not. There should be no bonus tags allocated to the public land. One Metric I didn’t see mentioned in the video was hunter numbers ( which I may have missed ) which are down. If people aren’t seeing deer it’s going to be harder to get younger hunters interested and veteran hunters satisfied. While insurance companies have a stake in the game I hope they don’t have an OVERBEARING influence in the decisions being made in Madison regarding deer populations.
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Private land 10 miles west of Aniwa just north of Hwy 52. I bow hunt every weekend up to the gun season. I seen just as many deer the last couple year as I did last year. Please don’t go all antlerless! Been doing QDM for a while and finally getting some nice bucks. Could I shoot deer every weekend...yes, do I...no! I feel does are plentiful in that area, so to fill the freezer I’ll take one a year either bow or gum. Mainly now hunt for a buck outside the ears. Lots of small bucks in our area, I feel that a good thing. Again I’m definitely not in favor of an all season antlerless hunt and holiday hunt.

I gun hunted public land in Marathon County for the first time in 2019. Turns out the 3 tracts of public land I hunted were driven by the adjacent private landowners. The biggest problem with hunting is the lack of ethics, and the "my deer" mentality that persists, especially that of private land owners. Ban food plots! Level the playing field! There is an obviously disproportionate deer density between public and private land. Make hunters hunt again, enough of the "deer ranching" and calling it hunting, it is giving hunters a bad name and is extremely detrimental to the spirit of true hunting.

I have many seen bucks during the last 10 seasons and let them all walk just to see them blasted by a rifle hunter, that’s fine and dandy but they can quit there piss’n and moan’n that they don’t see any deer the rifle hunters shoot all they see. Most of them talk that they let them go they will grow. My neibors all talk but kill all bucks that I let go. What ever happened to the hunt no matter what you use for a weapon? It’s all about fillin the freezer now. I’m just tired of listening to all the grumbling that goes on, shut up and hunt! Drop deer shining on land that you don’t own.

We need to address the white deer population in south western marathon county. Areas south and west of Stratford are out of control. Last week I counted 5 white deer out of 40 in two fields in an eight of a mile. Last year it was 6, and I’m sure in a month it’ll be close to 10 when the fawns are born. We can’t continue to protect a genetic defect in whitetail deer as we don’t in other species. As the number of white deer increase the chance of shooting a legal deer decreases. Please consider opening up white deer for harvest, irregardless of the public's emotional opinions.

Extend the gun deer season to open earlier than it does now, as in, open November 15th to run to the end of November. There is too much prime deer season dedicated to bow/crossbow hunters. Did you know that many bow/crossbow hunters, especially those who hunt on private land, do not even purchase a license until they obtain a deer? This is not helpful to supporting our natural resources. Get the wardens back out there so there are eyes on, hands on management of what we consider valuable. Unit management was more effective than county management. The list is long......

Deer now days don't get the chance to grow sometimes it hard to tell which is the doe and which is the fawn. Bucks are tiny no real size or quality lime there use to be. You just keep handing out more and more tags and over half the hunters shoot anything that moves to fill them. My dog is bigger than some of the deer I see being taken. No real pride or standards in hunters or the management of them. What ever happened to buck only and had to apply to get a doe tag. And only one deer per season(gun/bow). There's more predators around now that can help keep herd in check.
I feel that the bow/crossbow season is too long. I also feel that if you feel it necessary to buy an additional tag for an antlerless deer, it should have a price set the same as your original license fee. The few dollars to buy more tags is not enough. Many people buy these just for the sheer thrill of killing an animal. I also think the tagging system and back tag should be like years before. This allows wardens to find poachers and trespassers. It is a poachers dream with no back tags and phone in registration and not needing any verification for processing.

I also hunt in Lincoln county on private land adjacent to thousands of acres of county land. There are a lot of wolf activity there which I believe has lowered the deer population considerably over the last few years. I don’t think there should be any antlerless tags available for Lincoln county also there should be a wolf hunt. Last year I think my party seen a total of two or three deer for both gun and archery seasons not to mention a few pictures on camera. I honestly don’t think that the population estimates are remotely close to the actual numbers.

Don’t let people crying they didn’t shot a 10 point buck in first 5 mins of hunting way in on making choices. People who never see deer most likely put next to no work in and they want it easy. If I shot a big buck every time I go out or even every year it wouldn’t mean as much. When I was younger I didn’t put much into hunting and I didn’t see much. Now I work hard, hunt smart and now I see deer way more and being able to use a crossbow got me to hunt more than just rifle. Please don’t add more days to gun season and please don’t mess up me using a crossbow.

Harvest numbers drop dramatically after opening weekend of the nine-day because the pressured deer move into private lands were hunting is not allowed. Many of these areas are owned by non-hunters who look at deer as being “Bambi” (cute and non-destructive). I would suggest an expanded education program on how excess numbers of deer affect their environment and how hunting is the only economical method to manage their numbers. Adding a surcharge to the license could fund a program to pay private land owners a fee to open their lands to hunting.

You Know, I don’t get why don’t you do the muzzleloading season be before rifle. Also I hear you guys are going to do something about crossbow season. I use to bow hunt but I can no long pull my bow back. If this is true I will no longer by a archery license. If you cross bow on your own land then the bow association should shut up. I pay taxes on our land and hunt with the weapon of my choosing for the season I am hunting in. Wither it’s bow, muzzle, or rifle. If that’s the case I’ll keep going out of state to hunt deer. Thanks!

In my opinion illegal baiting is terrible. I would say 9/10 hunters it seems. Nobody hunts deer anymore, it is just guarding corn. Private land is where almost all is happening. The legalizing of crossbows has only made it worse. I am not opposed to baiting if legal, but if is legal or illegal should be state wide, not on one side of road or county or another. Fines seem to be no deterrent from this activity. The guys that do it right or public land hunters suffer the most, it is no wander people are losing interest from deer sighting.

I don’t have much to say other than we need to let the deer populate and shoot less does in this county because when I was 12-13 years old I used to see multiple deer a day (like 5+ an evening) while bow hunting now days I’m 26 years old and hunt more than I ever did before and well I’m lucky to see even one deer a day while bow hunting! A lot of times when I go out I don’t even see a doe or fawn much less be able to shoot a nice buck. We gotta do something to help our deer population in this state/county its way down in my opinion.
I want marathon county to be an 8 point buck or bigger. Unless you are a first time hunter or a child under the age of 16. We can not solve the problem of losing hunters by lighting the hunting restrictions. But if you increased the number and quality of deer seen by hunters each year many home people would seek to be hunters. I don’t shoot bucks unless there 8’s or bigger but is doesn’t matter if I let the small ones go because my Neighbors in the Surrounding area will shoot what ever walks but further hurting the deer population.

We should be considering point restrictions on buck harvest. With the possibility of harvesting TWO bucks (archery and Firearm) there really needs to be a consideration on restricting the age/size of bucks that are harvested. Otherwise, we will always struggle to balance the Buck/Doe ratio and the "average" size of bucks that are harvested. Public lands should be managed specifically and distinctly from private lands. I haven't harvested a deer on public land for the past SEVEN (7) years in places I used to harvest 2‐3 every year.

No changes for 2020 - people have to schedule vacations in many jobs at the beginning of the year and this would be a major upset to their plans and lives - wait til 2021 to implement any changes. Any change will cause concern of some people - most likely these days to have them drop from the sport or their desire to hunt and would affect their choice of vacation schedules. Younger people will be dis‐illusioned from any date /timing changes since they are pretty much locked into the Thanksgiving schedule of holidays.

I hunt deer every bit of free time that i have from bow opener until bow close usually, on many different parcels of public and private land in Marathon county. The simple fact is, is that there is not very many deer. The deer i see are the same ones over and over, The dnr in my opinion should go back to the multiple deer management units, go back to hunters choice permits, and no extra doe hunts etc. At the rate we are going there will be no deer or hunters left, who wants to hunt when there is no quarry to hunt!

I think baiting should be allowed in the whole state, I don’t see a direct connection with CWD. I think the Holiday hunt is overkill. With the options of getting bonus tags during the regular season there is no reason for a holiday hunt. I see way to many farmers having the ability to really hurt the populations with crop damage tags. They are planting fields outside, and that's where nature lives. Ducks, geese, turkeys, and deer. If they want more protection they should fence the fields in.

On several 20 acre farm fields near our home we count in access of 40 deer. All within one mile of our home. Many deer kills by vehicles never seen so many deer on Hwy Q south of Ringle. We had a 4 acre field planted with soy beans and the herd of 12-17 deer per day, ate it all, farmer never came to harvest only stubble left, our landscaping plants destroyed. An infestation of tick population!!! A farm near Ringle a 40 acre field has as many as 65‐70 deer on it.

We keep saying the same things every year to no avail. Are you even listening? Marathon is a large county but the deer population isn't proportionate to the county size. We see less and less deer every year with more signs of predators but no acknowledgment from the DNR. It just doesn't make sense to have the harvest numbers so high, especially if you aren't going to review the facts for each quadrant of the county. What is good for part is not good for all.

I believe the state of Wisconsin should have a combined gun and muzzleloader season starting the Saturday before Thanksgiving and continuing 14 days no separate season and extending the 9 day season for gun to combine muzzleloader and gun to 14 days from a line south of HWY 64 south north of 64, 9 days. I believe this will provide more hunting days with weather conditions that can hinder a 9 day season revenue would probably go up with this plan.

Please go back to registration and tagging of deer. The honor system that we have now is not working. The number of deer not getting registered is having an effect on harvest numbers. It is way too easy to harvest a deer and not register it. We also need to go back to a tag system at place of harvest. Is there any concern out their for the albino deer herd in this county? The numbers are rising and i know others are concerned at their numbers.
You are proposing to give out 2,000 private and 0 public Bonus tags. So I as a hunter that hunts on public land can only get 1 antlerless tag with my license. I am not able to get a second tag for antlerless deer on public land. I feel you should allow more tags for public purchase. That, or give two antlerless tags with each license and let the hunter decide public or private. The wildlife is for all, not just private land owners.

I think the current cross bow and gun deer seasons should not be changed. Leave them as is! / I think the youth hunts, holiday antlerless hunts, and any other antlerless hunts should be eliminated. / The reason there are fewer deer harvested during gun deer season is related to other predators harvesting deer and the youth hunt causing deer to become more wary. DNR is too concerned about making money on antlerless tags. Thank-you!

I believe there are not as many deer as what the DNR estimates. We need to get the herd back up in order to keep and recruit young hunters. I believe that is a person wants a doe tag he should pay at least 5-10$ for it not getting it free. It would be nice if all people registered their kill but they don't Wisconsin Outdoors paper has more not registration violations in the paper now than before. A lot of poaching going on in state.

Overall I think the Dnr is doing a decent job of maintaining the deer population my main concern is the huge population of white deer in not only my hunting area but throughout the state. Its common to see over 15 white deer just driving around the block and some of the white bucks are very dominant and run the brown bucks off. Its getting hard to take my kids out and harvest a deer when most of the deer we see are white.

Predator populations are out of control. Bear sightings have increased dramatically over the past 8-10 yrs. poaching continues to be a problem in certain areas. Again, I would fully support a point system for antlered. 4 or more on one side ect. Quality deer lack and I firmly believe if Wisconsin wants to lose it's brown is down image, a change needs to happen. Farm tags are a joke and abused.
Deer baiting should be allowed as it is no different than standing crops or natural fruit trees and acorns. The CWD scare is false and used to restrict our hunting with little to no data supporting bait restricting. Extension of hunting seasons should be allowed due to warmer weather during hunting seasons made the deer more nocturnal than past years thus seeing fewer deer during hunting hours.

Would keep 2020 Deer hunting Season the same, except the youth hunt. Kids are too young to appreciate the tradition. It seems its more for the parents to be able to bag a larger buck, under the pretense of going with their children prior to rifle hunting season. Also crosses with bow hunting season. If anything the state should replace this Youth hunt season, with a Handicap Hunting season.

There should not be antherless season in marthon co. Because there r lots of bucks and buck sign in this county. More then ever I have seen in 15 yrs. I just pass up the small bucks. For the whole wis gun hunting. There should not be a 19 day gun season. Keep it the way it is. But take out the antherless season out in Dec. Because they are the ones we need to have fawns the next season.

My comments relate to the season itself. Many have been pushing for earlier and longer gun season. Two things come to mind with this idea, earlier means less access to wet areas due to warmer weather and making the season longer may provide for excessive harvest in easy to hunt areas. Everyone would like to harvest deer every season, but that is not a practical expectation.

Definite rise in the amount of white deer in my area. What measures are being considered to decrease or "maintain" this population? If nothing, this defeats the purpose of wildlife management due to the fact that if they can't be harvested then they aren't being managed. It is time this is properly addressed. Called several times for answers but never given a true response.

Hunters over the age of 65? Should get special considerations... ie. a discounted or free license, discounted or free extra tags for deer and turkeys, special seniors hunts. After all, there are youth hunts and senior discounted fishing licenses. The dnr shouldn't age discriminate against us old farts. We are mostly on fixed incomes, and could use a break. Thank you.

You need to consider going back to hunters choice per license and stop causing the deer herd for our state to head for extinction. Yes extinction is a big word but the deer population is not what you think it is. Your theory covers all the areas of high populated private farm areas that most people can't hunt. Thank You for allowing me to participate in your survey.

We have a ton of forest crop and MFL open lands in marathon county in addition to other public lands, and they get hunted, so more public land deer tags could be reasonable. Incorporating these type of public lands into more mapping apps would be helpful, such as the hunt wild app. Most people I talk to do not know of forest crop or MFL lands or how to find them.

Thank you for your continued support of the outdoors. I have enjoyed archery deer hunting throughout my lifetime and hope to maintain this valuable resource for future generations. God Bless you and please continue to do good work for God s critters and the people who love the Outdoors of WI. Focus on that,... and you will be successful.

I would like to see some type of point restriction to increase the chance of larger animals being harvested, I believe it could help draw more people to the state if your shooting trophy animals. If your having trouble with hitting doe numbers in the farmland offer an extra doe tag after harvesting the bonus one, some people won't spring for the $12.

It is 100% impossible to regenerate oak via planting in this management unit, unless they are fenced. White pine is also very difficult to regenerate due to deer browsing. I have multiple trail cams out and have seen literally thousands of pictures of healthy deer to date, with no apparent fawn mortality, even though coyotes are present.
I went through it pretty fast but, I feel as if every hunter should get two antlerless tags and can harvest them with either a bow or a gun and cut out extra bonus tags! And as for crop damage them should just be wiped completely considering a lot of the deer in my area are shot in the spring/summer and the bucks don’t have horns.

The proposal to extend the gun season will have lasting negative impacts. 9 days is long enough for the season. We also have muzzleloader following the 9 day season which is an excellent opportunity to punch a tag you weren’t able to during the 9 day season. As for crossbow hunting, they should be treated the same as compound bows.

I’m taking my 8 yrs old grandson this year and if he doesn’t see a fair share of deer I doubt he will stay interested. We don’t need to shoot more but we do need to see more. If we continually see deer on opening weekend he will stay alert and stay warm, if not we go home early. Keep the tradition going. Thanks for your help.

Hunting is on the decline and we continue to see major damage to crops and our forests due to high deer densities- so please do not limit the number of opportunities available to hunters. Please look forward to the future and consider the impacts of CWD on the deer herd. There is a lot we can do now to limit future impacts.

I hunt a lot in this unit from small game to deer and bear. the biggest problem that I see on my hunts are guides that try to take owenership of public land and the problem with hounds men running bear where they cannot hunt this needs to be addressed. Deer hunting is not always about shooting deer it is about the hunt.

Deer sightings were way down from last year both for bow and gun season. I hunted about 35 days. Even during the rut deer numbers were about half of what we saw during prior years. Same was true for neighbors and together we have over 1500 acres of prime property. You must get a better handle on the actual deer numbers.

Deer population in marathon county is causing lots of damage to the forest areas with over browsing. I owe some woods and when I walk thru looking at young trees the tops are all chew off the land was just harvest three years ago, any young hardwoods show sign of deer browse. The farmers are saying too many deer.

I hunted mcmillian marsh and the numbers seem to be going down every year for the last 10 years. Rifle hunter allowed to do drives through the woods are killing this area. I would like to see driving illegal in our state completely. I know other states have done that and it has helped the herds to grow their numbers.

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I hunted mcmillian marsh and the numbers seem to be going down every year for the last 10 years. Rifle hunter allowed to do drives through the woods are killing this area. I would like to see driving illegal in our state completely. I know other states have done that and it has helped the herds to grow their numbers.

Keep the season structures as is. (Bow, crossbow,rifle,muzzle loader) ….if it’s not broke don’t fix it. Also please keep rifle season dates as is. You don’t need 3 weeks to rifle hunt deer. It will not increase harvest. The deer have it figured out after opening weekend that they need to be on extra high alert.

Maybe consider earn a buck for a year or two. This will force the doe numbers to be killed, however it will also help prevent too many doe kills. It may also help preserve the number of younger bucks for future years. Maybe consider a point or spread limit on killing a buck as well to help deer survive longer.

I believe the wolf packs are increasing, therefore less deer. And, with so many bonus options each year it just adds to the decreasing population. I think the hunters realize this, and in turn may hesitate to get a license because of the DNR’s questionable choices and not paying attention to hunters views

It is unreasonable to provide zero bonus tags for public land. The bonus tag allocation should follow the ratio of public vs. private hunting land. I understand there is a lot more private land than public, but there should be some tags available for Kronewetter, Leathercamp, 9 Mile, Hewitt-Harrison, etc.

Legalize baiting. Deer are a herd animal and constantly lick and groom each other and chew on the same branches, and are constantly swapping spit. Eating out of the same bait pile is but a drop in the bucket to help prevent the spread of CWD. It only causes hunters to stop hunting from lack of opportunity.
We have been seeing less and less deer every year. In central Marathon county we have seen 2 deer so far this year. (since January) Its sad, we used to enjoy seeing deer come thru from time to time. Now we are surprised if we see a deer. During the 2019 rifle season we saw a total of 3 deer!!!!!

I feel that crossbow (intially a two year trial) is taking two many quality mature bucks and has sharply increased the wounded, but not harvested statistics. I bow hunt and enjoy it immensely but the bowhunters are pushing their opportunities at the expense of the gun hunters.

Please consider managing the large tracts if public land differently than the private and small public sections. Large tracts of public land CANNOT sustain significant antlerless harvest. Deer numbers, and therefore quality hunting, will never rebound in these areas if changes aren't made.

Don't agree with use of crossbows unless handicapped, don't agree with youth hunt. No one should be out in the woods during the time of year of the youth hunt with rifles and the youth should learn to hunt in the same conditions as they would during rifle season if they truly want to hunt.

We don't need a holiday hunt at all. Let our hunting seasons alone, Don't change anything. Deer hunting is a Wisconsin tradition a 9 day Gun deer hunt during thanksgiving is a must. Keep Regular bow and crossbow hunts together neither one should get preference. Don't change a thing.

The only point I wish to make very clear is that extending the archery season to January 31 is very disturbing. Snowmobile season is very short already and if you would extend the season, this would seriously impact the economy of many small businesses. Thank you for listening.

Rather not see anymore holiday hunts. Keep nine day gun season the same. Open bow back after gun but have muzzleloader run the last two weeks of December allowing things to settle down following the traditional nine day gun season. I believe this will increase hunters success.

Marathon county is too large to manage with the same outlook across the county. The deer population is way too low. How do we get youth interested in the sport when you struggle to see deer when you take them out. There should be no doe permits handed out for at least 2 yrs.

Nothing was mentioned that I recall, about the drop of license sold? And we made drives in swamps and dry land and still could not scare any deer 😔 As far as car kills, going back to the glory years of the early 80's, there aren't to many deer, there are to many cars 🚗

I deer hunt with bow and gun every chance I get and I feel there is way to many hunts. Youth hunt, doe hunt, muzzleloader hunt and such. I have not shot a doe in 30yrs because everyone else around me shoots them and I look to the future and keeping deer where I hunt.

Your deer harvest count is way off. People kill on public land and claim private. People kill and don’t claim at all. The registry system is a very weak link. Private land owners don’t shoot Doe's till they hunt public land. I have seen it and heard people say so.

I feel the deer numbers are still very low and to get new hunters and youth involved maybe we should stop the doe killing and let a few make the spring fawning time. It’s a true joke to hunt for a week and not see a deer Wisconsin needs a wake up call and fast

The deer hunting season is too long now. They shoot day and night and no warden will come. We cannot access our own land without being chased off by hunters aiming at us and bullets in trees and buildings. Bow and arrow is cruelty to animals to the highest degree.

Please continue to keep crossbows for all for the entire season. Many of us have now invested thousands of dollars in equipment to pull the plug now. Don’t give in to the whiny and loud minority about crossbows. We should have the right to choose. Thank you
Keep Wisconsin tradition of a 9 day gun season on Thanksgiving week and not extending it. I also think we need to go back to registration stations and registering deer like we used to do. I think too many people are not registering every deer they harvest.

Wisconsin in general needs to bring back backtags and in person registration. People are taking advantage of hunting deer and either not registering there kill or forget to do it. Also bring back the wolf hunt there getting bad in the state of Wisconsin.

I believe the deer seasons are much to long when the muzzleloader season is over all seasons need to be completed we do not need to run into January!! I also think you would have a more accurate count if you went back to the registration stations !!

Why not go back to the party tag? My reason is it would take 3 hunters to get a doe tag and it would help the parents to get the younger generation in the woods to hunt. You can always offer extra tags to each party for more kill tags. Thank you.

Mostly I think the council does a good job and there are lots of deer and good hunting in our county. I listened to the call and think the guy supposed to be representing hunters. One person was very disruptive and disrespectful to the other members.

I think that the deer herd in northeast Marathon County where I hunt is up slightly from last year, but I don’t think that we want/need to change any of our harvest goals for 2020. I think that the CDAC committee made the right recommendations.

we need to find a better way of balancing the kill in blocks. I could envision a quota system like sturgeon spearing, hit a quota and shut it down. Or keep it open until kill is achieved. Now we just open more season hope for desired results.

I think overall the herd is decent. I personally would like to limit buck harvest to one per year to increase the age structure. I also believe there is more than enough opportunity for hunters to hunt in the current season structures. Thanks

Stop giving out ag tags. They are shooting anything brown and don't care too many big big bucks are getting shot with a rifle early in bowhunting because they can do whatever they want. Wolves and coyotes are too high and killing many deer.

I do not think it is right that they are talking about shortening cross bow season and not the compound bow season. It should be equal. If they are going limit the seasons then the license fee should be less. Not the same as it is now.

We have a LOT of deer in SE Marathon county. Last year some of the hunters in our group wanted to purchase additional antlerless tags and could not because they were sold out. Please increase the tag numbers on private land for 2020.

Over the past 10 years this county's deer population had gotten steadily worse, years ago you could go out and see deer almost every time one hunted now its lucky if you see any in a weeks time frame. We need to raise the population.

Please do not limit or decrease crossbow season. Myself and many others that only crossbow hunt would give up hunting altogether if that happens. I use to gun hunt but, found crossbow hunting more enjoyable with much nicer weather.

We are seeing a definite increase in deer damage to forest regeneration on our private land and increased deer numbers throughout the year. Recommend that the CDAC move toward more antlerless permits rather than the same number.
Southern Marathon county has a strong deer herd from what I see. I hunt the county line of Portage and Marathon. I am in the woods three days a week all year long, so I see many animals, but the deer herd is strong where I walk.

I would much rather see the overall antlerless quota for Marathon Count be set at 6,000. I would also like to see the private land antlerless bonus tag quota set at 1,500 I support "0" antlerless bonus tags for public lands.

Public lands are over harvested in general. Female harvest should be switched to buck only units. Private land owners and all others flock to public land so that they don't have to shoot the deer on their private lands.

Using corn as an attractant will provide larger numbers for harvest. If you can't do a food plot and deer are attracted to farming crops, damage is bound to be more. Therefore allowing baiting again would be a good idea.

Some of these questions are non-applicable. I cant answer questions regarding the number of deer I saw outside of open seasons because I don't live in Marathon County, and do not visit there often when season is closed.

The impact of predators, wolves and coyotes has risen significantly. Wolves in particular have increased dramatically. We need these animals controlled or let hunters take care of the problem without DNR interference.

You can not base a counties zone on such a big area. You should deal with each county Individually. You should also limit the number of tags that can be sold not in each individual county but each individual township.

I'm a nurse and in my opinion hunting is a great way to socially distance. Hunting should NOT be cancelled for any reason this fall. The meat we get from these deer is now safer than what we can get it the stores.

Id like to see baiting come back. It’s tough for people on public land to find deer. Saw my first deer in 6 years this year. Don’t see to many deer. While people on private land are allowed to plant food plots

Please consider this GMU for trophy buck management. I recommend that we only shoot bucks 8 points or larger with a minimum of 16 inch spread starting in 2021. Let's have an antlerless only season for 2020.

Far too many deer. In my section, I observe this 2020 spring, herds of 30 and more numbers of deer each evening in the fields. Open a holiday season for all deer. Increase the number of deer permits.

No crop damage tags unless hunters get free antlerless tags.10 or 12 years back I did not get a antlerless tag and my neighbor got crop damage tags. He got paid to shot the deer I could not shot.

Salt blocks should continue to be illegal. Mineral beds should be allowed just like food plots are allowed and bait piles are illegal. Deer need minerals for maintaining proper health.

You need to find a way to police baiting. Baiting is rampant yet in counties like Marathon where it is banned. Baiting is the single worst thing to happen to deer hunting in WI ever.

I own 160 acres and my family seen the lowest number of deer in years. Also with all the doe tags given out there are groups that dive their properties out and shoot ever moving deer.

If an antlerless only season is approved, I would rather see it in October rather than December in order to lessen the chances for it being impacted by poor weather, heavy snow, etc.

During the gun seasons of 2018 and 2019 I did not get any deer. That is mean not have many deer in Marathon County. DNR should reduce the bonus for saving the antlerless deers.

There are shots at all times of the day and night during deer season. No warden will come to investigate illegal poaching. And the shots continue for days after the season closes.

Let the herd build up. If one of your objectives is to get youth involved, it is hard to compete with cold / weather and boardom from not seeing anything, and computer games.

There are too many does and nearly enough full grown bucks to get and keep. People excited about hunting. Way too many little bucks getting shot and not nearly enough does.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5621</td>
<td>We had 4 gun hunters here on our land, saw 1, 4 point, 2 does too far away to shoot. Had 4 bowhunters out this year, got 1 small 8 point. So for 8 total hunters we got 1 deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5622</td>
<td>There are a lot of deer on private land where no one is allowed to hunt in this area so I think some of these areas get over populated, the deer know where they are safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5623</td>
<td>Wolves are becoming more of a problem. I won’t be the only one to say it. You are wrong of the wolf numbers, everyone agrees. Extending the 9-day gun season is a bad idea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5624</td>
<td>Hi I wish we could try to get the buck count up by maybe having to shoot forked bucks or bigger to let the small ones go and get the buck to doe percentages up. Thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5625</td>
<td>I would like to see register deed back in bars gas stations and I would like to see 4 points on one side like other states I believe it’s safer and leave it at 9 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5626</td>
<td>Concerned that if they do extend the archery season that it would have a bigger impact on the buck kill and would not be able to sustain the additional bucks taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5627</td>
<td>The number of tags for public versus private land needs to be adjusted. If this continues I would see less people hunting and this being a right of only the rich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5628</td>
<td>This is great for overall herd numbers. It would be nice if this county could take the next step and put practices in place to allow more mature buck harvests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5629</td>
<td>Do away with the stupid public/private land choice for antlerless tags. For people who hunt both types of land it ties our hands on what we can harvest where.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5630</td>
<td>Obviously we would all like to see more deer while hunting but overall I think Marathon County is at a good place and it’s regulation can remain unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5631</td>
<td>Allow bow hunters to hunt during any gun season and fill their bow tag. Follow hunter orange rules Too many gun seasons Same with youth hunt. Gun or bow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5632</td>
<td>I would like to see a later muzzle loader season. It takes a week after the deer gun season for the deer to calm down enough to start seeing them again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5633</td>
<td>Please consider researching and testing a safe and ethical way to control deer herd population by use of sterilization and/or contraceptives. Thank you!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5634</td>
<td>You guys are ruining this state with how you are running it. Time to wake up and listen to the hunters and not do what you learned in a book!!!!!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5635</td>
<td>Keep a 9 day gun season, let the deer rest for a week after gun hunting. The. Open up muzzleloader season until 12/31 the. Close all whitetail hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5636</td>
<td>I noticed a lot of hunters harvesting small racked bucks, would like to see restrictions of rack size such as at least 3 points on 1 side minimum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5637</td>
<td>Worried about any expansion of CWD. Want to have mandatory testing for CWD within the county and would like all Deer/Cervid Game arms to cease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5638</td>
<td>I very much appreciated being able to harvest a Buck and Doe with each license purchased. It makes the cost of the non-resident license worth it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5639</td>
<td>Has there been any consideration regarding making the harvest of white deer possible because of the growing numbers in this deer management unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5640</td>
<td>Would be very opposed to reinstating the earn a buck program if the DNR wanted to do this. It wiped out the herd in my area when we had it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5641</td>
<td>Wolf population is going to high reducing deer heard dramatically witnessed in 2019 wolf chasing adult deer during archery and gun seasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5642</td>
<td>The traditional 9-day Deer Firearm Season is adequate for Deer harvest numbers. We definitely DO NOT need an extended Deer Firearm season!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5643</td>
<td>There is healthy herd size in the Southwest part of the county. I believe the amount of tags given out through now and gun is accurate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5644</td>
<td>If you go to antlerless deer only you will have a lot of people not buy a license including me. This would be a huge mistake Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5645</td>
<td>Way to many different seasons, make a law 1 deer per season or 1 tag take the animal any way such as archery gun or muzzle loader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5646</td>
<td>If you are to extend the 9 day rifle season, I would like to see muzzle loader season to be later in the year around Christmas time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5647</td>
<td>My opinion we should go back to the “party permits” and eliminate all antlerless hunts! Cut the number of antlerless tags in half.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5648</td>
<td>If the gun season gets extended in Wisconsin, I’d consider stop hunting in Wisconsin all together as it’d destroy the deer herd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5649</td>
<td>Leave the deer season the way it is now. 9 day gun season hunt. no holiday antlerless hunt. No change in the archery season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5650</td>
<td>There needs to be more available land to hunt for people that don’t own their own land. Theres way to much crowding going on!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5651</td>
<td>It seems that only offering bonus permits for private land is very unfair. Not everyone has access to private hunting land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5652</td>
<td>Quite satisfied with the 2019 deer hunt both archery and rifle season’s… We do quality deer management on our private land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5653</td>
<td>the cost for out of state licenses should be reduced ...property owners should NOT be charged to hunt on their own land...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5654</td>
<td>I don’t think you should put more limits on crossbows than guns- use your weapon of choice, and get out there hunting!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5655</td>
<td>Please go back to back tags to give the DNR the chance to do enforcement if needed, violators called up, etc. Thank You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5656</td>
<td>Would like to see crossbow season shortened or eliminated except for those with disabilities or over 60 years old.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5657</td>
<td>Hunting has been disappointing seeing so few deer when there is so much sign. The timing may no longer be right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5658</td>
<td>Just leave things as they are. Deer numbers fluctuate. Changing things every year is not going to do any good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5659</td>
<td>Deer numbers are getting worse every year. It’s getting to the point that it isn’t hardly worth going anymore!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5660</td>
<td>What about selling muzzleloader tags and rifle tags to generate more money for wildlife and land management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5661</td>
<td>Allow baiting. If u don’t have a farm it’s hard to get the deer to come off the farmers crops to your land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5662</td>
<td>I think the Central farmland should start south of Hwy 29. North of hwy 29 should be Northern Forest zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5663</td>
<td>Crossbow Hunters Take To Many Big Bucks!!! Stop On Line Register ing!! To many people don’t register Deer!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5664</td>
<td>I would have a extra muzzle loading season n purchase another license. One deer Could b buck or foe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I would support an antler size restriction to promote more mature bucks surviving to older age class.

I believe that predator numbers have increased to where an effect on the deer herd is visible.

Need to have some public land bonus tags...please!! Two antlerless tags with each license!

I only saw one small antlerless deer in hunting every day of the 2019 season?? How is that??

I would love to see a size limit on bucks needing 3 or 4 points on one side to be harvested.

KILL more WOLFS and bear and coyotes. I do not know why we need WOLFS in WISCONSIN.

my #1 concern is the spread of CWD and I would like to take all precautions to end spread.

Too many predators (wolves) in northern part of Marathon County public and private land.

In my area we are seeing about a 3 to 1 ratio of does to bucks. Perfect! Well done.

I wish that deer still had to be registered in person to discourage illegal hunting.

To many antlerless permit are given out. Lose of deer population do to predators.

when a game farm has over 100 cwd positive deer why hasn't it been depopulated?

Baiting should remain in this area. Everyone is baiting regardless of the Ban.

You can eliminate all youth hunts, they can with their parents, how I learned.

Significant deer kill with fawns found 5 dead fawns shed hunting in 120 acres

Allow airgun use during archery season. Promote suburban deer management.

Get rid of no minimum age hunting and any blow smo can use a crossbow.

No comments other than thank you for the opportunity for online input.

Cross bow hunting should be limited to handicap and over 65 ONLY!!!

legalize baiting again lower the cost of bonus tags to $5.00

I feel you have a good grasp on what's happening in this unit.

Only thing I was concerned with was a limited crossbow season

Raise tags prices. Double for residents, quadruple for non.

There are way too make deer in my area of Marathon county.

To high of predator animals hunters can’t harvest(wolves)

We can't find a deer on our 80 acres, where did they go?

I suggest extending the gun season to more than 9 days.

I would like to be able to bait deer again in Marathon.

I think we should extend muzzeloading through December.

Do not change the bow or gun hunting season dates!

Right now I think every thing is going as it should

Cross bow should be for handicap and Seniors ONLY!

No bonus doe tags, no shooting nub or spike bucks

I do not like the method of deer registration.

Please leave the 9 day season as is Thank You

We need to extend the gun season by a week.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5702</td>
<td>keep cross bow seasons the same as archery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5703</td>
<td>You should allow wolf hunting all year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5704</td>
<td>Crack down on hunter harassment laws.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5705</td>
<td>Way, way to many crop damage tags !!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5706</td>
<td>There are too many special hunts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5707</td>
<td>Bucks Only for at lest four yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5708</td>
<td>You need to hire more wardens!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5709</td>
<td>Raise non resident license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5710</td>
<td>Leave the deer hunt as is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5711</td>
<td>Bring back earn a buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5712</td>
<td>Go back to back tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5713</td>
<td>Trust the science.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 451
   - Bow: 246
   - Crossbow: 213
   - Muzzleloader: 155

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.06
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 318
   - Mostly Private Land: 70
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 34
   - Mostly Public Land: 19
   - Exclusively Public Land: 28
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 12
   - Not too crowded: 42
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 28
   - Somewhat crowded: 34
   - Very crowded: 25
   - Not applicable: 10

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 105
   - Fewer: 150
   - Same: 188
   - More: 51
   - Many More: 9
   - Unsure: 4

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 205
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 118
   - I hunt in this unit: 471
   - General interest in this unit: 85

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 174, Oppose 277, Unsure 56
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 259, Oppose 189, Unsure 59
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 46, Oppose 435, Unsure 26

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 46, Oppose 435, Unsure 26

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- Should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID 46, NOT VALID 435, Unsure 26

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
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<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
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</table>
Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.

5714 Only seen two deer during hunting hour I hunt public land most of the time and with out baiting I was hard pressed and felt very lucky to have harvested 1 adult doe. In past years my wife myself and my boy did fair over bait my wife never saw a deer all season in 2019 and is probably going to give up the sport. My boy hunted on a buddy’s private land a got a buck heading for a corn field. if you have land for planting food good for you. Public land with no bait sucks. To many people to few deer. I think after 43 years hunting the last 5 have been the worst. Going to stop wasting money in Wisconsin and go out West every couple years, at least I seen deer out there in 2014. I have only shot 1 decent buck in the last 10 years and it was when a buddy let me hunt his land. I love venison and hunting but tag soup sucks. And it has been turned in to a rich mans pleasure. I do it for the food but the price is getting out of control. We used to lease but it cost to much now. So I believe it’s about over for us here. That’s 5 more that got tired of it. I am pretty sure that’s what it will be really sadder’s my heart to even think like that but my kids are quitting, my grandson sat with me a little last year and seen nothing. Hard to keep them interested when there is no place to go shoot or even see deer. He would not go back out after 2 days of nothing and I could not blame him. Rant over, sorry but extra seasons don’t mean a thing if you don’t have a place to at least watch deer. And they really miss up archery season. I love bow hunting and stopped doing that 2 years ago. Heading for the woods and kids wackiness at deer with rifles. Blaze orange and guns made me hang up my bow. Not just youth but all 4000 seasons out there. Try getting close enough for a bow kill with no bait and people running around shooting everything that moves every other week of archery season. We used to take 3 to 4 deer every year now it maybe 1 if you get lucky. If it’s that important for the state of Wisconsin to drive me away from the greatest sport in the world then so be it.

5715 Over the past 10 years there has been a steady decrease in deer numbers in our area in Middle Inlet. For a number of years my family has only been able to harvest very few deer, even though many hours and time were put into it. Every weekend was spent and during the week of hunts with very little to no success. You know something is wrong when for the entire gun deer season, with four people hunting on 40 acres, only 3 deer were seen the entire time from sun up to sun down. We have watched the numbers decrease over the last few years in bigger numbers over any other years. We even hunted the entire Antlerless only hunts and holiday hunt with my children and never seen a single deer the entire time. It was very disconcerning. I am trying to put the interest into our younger generation and it is extremely hard when they sit 4 days straight all day and not see a deer at all. In my opinion predators have taken over our area in extreme numbers. The woods are filled with coyote tracks and with numerous sightings during the day, which is rare, as well as rediculous amount of howling and yelping all night long just goes to show how there numbers have risen. 4 years ago I could sit in my stand, as well as any of my family members, and at minimal 3-6 deer a day could be seen any day of the week. There have also been a lot of black bear activity in our area as well as seeing them all season long. I am by no means a wildlife expert or have any personal knowledge of wildlife management but I feel that something is going on and that there is a very small deer population in our entire part of the state in general. I have a large amount of friends and family that hunt all throughout the state and the consensus is the same. No deer, dont even want to hunt anymore because of low numbers, cant afford to spend weeks hunting for no deer to harvest, etc...etc. Thanks for letting me speak my opinion and wmlenting the public's voice be heard.
In just a two year period, 2018 and 2019, deer numbers/deer seen the SW corner of Marinette county, has dropped. 2018, 23 does and 3 bucks seen, for four hunters. Zero harvested. 2019, 6 does and 13 bucks seen, for four hunters, 1 buck harvested. Very little hunting pressure and crops up late, that would figure into some of the decrease of does seen 2019. In 2018 days hunted = 7. 2019 days hunted = 7. It is obvious that the state is pushing back against the traditional 9 day gun deer season, extending and adding more seasons into the mix. Since the days when I started deer hunting in 1969, the state has added: Youth deer season, Muzzleloader deer season, and holiday antlerless deer season. That is three more seasons and correct me if I am wrong, the possibility of another 21 days for people to deer hunt. In our group of 4 hunters, two are Wisconsin residents and two are former Wisconsin residents, who still deer gun hunt Wisconsin, November of each year. We understand the sw corner of Marinette county is primarily agricultural. And that high number increase the amount or deem damage as well as car/deer accidents. Poaching too, has to figure into the factor, somewhere. I know we have had the wardens catch poachers on our property in the past. But, I cannot tell you why there seems to be a big disparity between 2-18 and 2019. And not, the proposal for permits in 2020, remains the same. In years past, I have attempted to obtain deer damage permits from farmers, who are being reimbursed for deer damage, only to be turned down, with the reason being, "I have too many hunters on my property." And yet, their tags do not get filled. Maybe the solution to deer numbers/car-deer accidents/crop damage, is to limit more human infringement into the land/areas where deer live.

I understand that the objective in the Marinette Central Farmland Zone is to decrease the deer population...specifically the antler less population. I agree that this zone has a "doe problem." What I cannot fathom is any talk of limiting the crossbow season. If our objective is to decrease the population then how is taking away an extremely effective tool in managing the heard in line with this objective? If we need to kill more deer, why would we take a step back and limit a popular method for killing deer? I hope the DNR and state officials would use the logic of keeping as many hunters interested in the sport as possible, not limiting in any way a popular method that attracts more people to the sport. I also hope the decisions on this are based on logic and common sense and not the lobbying of the WI bowhunters association. Unite all hunters no matter their legal weapon of choice. Also, I would prefer to start the WI Gun hunting season on the weekend closest to November 15th every year. Neighboring states do this (MI specifically). It would avoid the late start to the season that sees hunters in the woods during the lock down phase of the rut, and would put hunters in the woods at a phase of the rut that would give them a better chance of killing a deer. Again, if the objective is to decrease the population, why are we not allowing hunters to be in the woods when they have the best chance of doing that? Again...who cares what the WI bowhunters association wants for their little niche of the hunting community. I am a vertical and crossbow hunter and find myself gravitating more and more towards my crossbow for its accuracy and the ethical manner in which it kills deer. Please open up the gun season earlier, and do not limit the crossbow season or hunters' rights.
I have hunted in this unit for 46 years, I've seen the seasons evolve from a standard 9 day gun deer season back to the mid 70's to what seems like an endless amount of gun seasons from October to January 1st. I am mostly an archery hunter, I enjoy hunting alone, with out the large volumes of people in the woods. I love to hunt deer in their natural state, not pushed back and forth by endless gun shots and people parading around the woods. I was very disappointed when the decision was made to open crossbow use to anyone. I have no issue with crossbow use for handicap, elderly or other hunters with medical limits that don't allow them to hunt with other archery equipment. I can honestly say I've heard multiple, dozens of people say, "the only reason they archery hunt is because they can use a crossbow and its as easy and using a gun". With that being said, I've heard those same people say " I shot 70 or 80 yards at deer with a cross bow because it shoots like a gun" and wounded and never found that deer. Call me selfish, I don't think a lot of these people should be in the woods. I get enjoyment by trying to pattern and figure out the deer in the area, since the addition of crossbow use by anyone, the volume of people in the woods has definitely changed the deer behavior during the archery season. I would welcome the extension of the archery season to the end of January because there are very few people who would brave the elements and be out hunting that late. Except for the fact that the deer are pressured so much with the endless gun seasons, by the first week of January I feel we should give them a break to relax before winter. I DO NOT bait, and was very pleased when baiting was ban in this unit. I hope baiting remains banned.

In my hunting experience over the last 45 years in marinette county I have noticed a dramatic drop in seeing deer. back in the 70's, you would see 20 deer a day going past your stand. Now you are lucky to see 1. The Whitetail have slowly been adapting to our hunting routines, (Sunrise to dusk). Most deer especially the big bucks come out after and before we hunt. I would like to see the hunting hours extended, but only on private land for obvious safety concerns. I would also like to see the muzzle loader season to include using rifles.I have daughters and grandchildren that i want to have experience the Hunt. The issue is i have when taking them on a hunt is they dont see deer. this in turn drastically diminishes there return to hunting. I dont believe your count is accurate, I believe your estimate is to high. you go by harvested deer to determine the population. why dont you try using helicopters and count the herds in the winter when there herded up in the deer yards. Also the wolfs, how many do the eat? I was in amberg two years ago for a month and got to know the locals and wow was i stunned on how many of them shot deer at night. They say when i need venison i just get one. I believe there are far less deer then you show on your reports. especially bucks. I also know the bear population is exploding, there are not a lot of hunters hunting them on private land, and permits are to hard to get. We have bears every year know on my property. we never had bears. well that's my two cents worth.

We hunt (myself, 2 friends and 3 of my 4 children) bow and gun season, also small game on 140 private acres. The property is on the border of central farm land and northern forest of Marinette county. 6 plus years ago we were lucky to see a deer! This prompted my daughter to put up signs " Please don't shoot the does, their are hunting future (for now). Are neighbors so liked the signs that we had more made. Slowly we started seeing deer again. More deer were killed by Highway 180 then humans and predators so when I say slowly I mean slowly. The family groups finally got bigger to support the loses and we all are excited with a reasonably chance to see deer again after a long day in a stand. The daughter that made the signs years ago got a buck in 2019! Point is deer management units are to large. 2-3 sq miles will carry several family groups. As they thrive the adult does will kick out the young does and bucks and our neighbors then saw more deer too. It takes cooperation, restraint and lots of time. Yes there are areas where deer need to be thinned out but not by large management units. One size does not fit all. I think working with private landowners is fantastic but public land is where the real attention is needed with better land practices for wildlife. Everyone loves to see deer, its magical!
First off do away with the crossguns. Oh excuse me, crossbows. It’s one thing for handicap or elderly to use em. But when there’s ten year olds using em. Give me a break. And not to mention there a violators dream. Keep rifle season nine days over thanksgiving. Like it’s always been, tradition! Would love to see wi go to one buck tag. To be used for gun or bow. Double the cost of it. So there’s no lost revenue. Because we know y’all manage for money. Not the game. Anyway one buck tag would do wonders for trophy quality. And would do away with the argument of bow/gun guys. Would make a lotta guys think twice about shooting a spike! Keep the holiday doe hunt. It’s really fun and relaxing to get out over the holidays. The other doe season, what’s the point. Just confusing. And don’t need to be bow hunting till end of January. Bucks do loose there horns! And another thing. Bring back, back tags. How do we turn in trespassers? And bring back actual tags and tagging deer. I can’t even imagine how many deer get shot and not registered. But it is nice not having to go and register em. The online or call in is very handy. And the no baiting is nice. Just gotta enforce it.

I think with bow hunting, rifle, muzzleloader, and the 4 day antlerless hunt there is ample amount of opportunity for people who want to harvest does to be able to do so. I think the holiday hunt just takes away from late season bow hunting. With rifle, muzzleloader and the t-zone, you get one weekend to bow hunt for a buck. Then the holiday hunt starts and by time that’s over you get one more weekend to bow hunt, then season closes. If you extend the bow season you get a lot of bucks that shed so you can't hunt them or they mistakenly get shot think that they are does. Again you have plenty of opportunity to hunt does with the gun during the rifle and muzzleloader season that you don’t need to take away from bow hunting to meet the doe harvest quotas. There’s a lot of people in this county that don't believe in shooting does so they will never take part in these extra hunts. You're hurting the bow hunters with a hunt (holiday hunt) that not many people take advantage of. Late season is one of the best times to get a buck on his feet going to food and now you can't harvest him because of a doe hunt that not many people are using.

I have strong feelings on CWD and the baiting ban ever since I wrote my senior thesis paper in college on “The spread and effects of CWD across the United States” back in 2010. Bring back baiting in Marinette Co., there is so much farmland around our hunting spots that we are seeing far less deer because there is an abundance of food in the fields. I know cwd is an important issue, but they are just as likely to spread the disease in the wild as they live and graze as they would eating from bait piles. Eventually the baiting ban will affect the farmers who sell the bait and the dnr revenue because people will give up the great tradition of hunting. The ban came from deer testing positive on deer farms, where they import deer from all over the US where CWD is more prevalent, how is that fair to punish hunters hunting natural living deer? I do believe we should be monitoring the spread of cwd by increase testing on the kills and somehow make testing mandatory on the direct areas where there have been cases so we can study trends on the disease.

I have been hunting the same area for 36 years. I have seen the prime hunting and actually seeing deer decline since the mid to late 90s. This was all due to the countless farm tags and T-zones that were done. The introduction of the wolf in the area took a toll on the heard! I have seen more adult does with out fawns in the past 15 years then ever before. I truly enjoy my time in the woods for the nature, not always the harvesting of animals. But, it has gotten to the point where I can sit for a week straight and see no deer. If makes it frustrating that you increase predators population and leave us hunting with nothing to see in the woods. Also, the banning of baiting and feeding is not the answer to CWD. Try removing all of the game farms that the CWD has been linked to coming from. Why should the average outdoorsman who wants to enjoy the hunt per penalized for these private game farms that do not follow the rules. Just another frustrated citizen!!
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<tr>
<td>5725</td>
<td>In my opinion there are too many antlerless permits given out for this unit already and there is absolutely no need to have extra hunting seasons or to lengthen the current seasons. I hunt every weekend from September through November so I spend a great deal of time in the woods and I don’t see the number of deer to justify a need to harvest more antlerless deer. I’ve hunted with the same group of hunters for the last 33 years on the same 200 acres which is part of the DMap program and we keep great records of our deer sightings and harvests which have been declining over recent years. Our group is very disappointed with the way deer are managed in the state especially in our unit and we hope the board reconsiders any increase in harvest quotas and seasons. It my belief that the deer population in this state is much lower than is estimated and there needs to be a change in the way that number is calculated. Thank you.</td>
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<td>5726</td>
<td>I feel it is wrong and not fair to us to have a holiday hunt and not extend our bow or crossbow season. How can it be OK for Oconto county but not us? I buy a patrons licence every year and really felt slighted last year. I choose to pass on a lot of young bucks, but I also love to bow hunt more than any of my other outdoor activities. I understand the need to harvest does, so I’m not against a holiday hunt. But is it fair to keep myself and others from bow hunting because we hunt Marinette county. If violating is a concern, we opened a whole can of worms when we went to online registration. I’m not against that either! But why are we penalizing our honest sportsmen/women? We buy our licences to participate. We had (if my memory is correct) 4 days to Bow hunt late season (for a buck). My years are limited, but I still intend to continue to teach my grandchildren and enjoy the years I have left. thanks</td>
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<td>5727</td>
<td>I feel that there are just as many deer in this unit as the previous few years, if not more. I have been seeing more clusters of deer throughout the winter with larger numbers in those clusters. I think the late gun season dates this past year played a role in reducing the harvest and has created a larger population this spring than is probably desired. For that reason, I support a holiday hunt and an extended archery season since the true goal is a population reduction. These extended seasons could lead to a greater chance of hunting days with snow on the ground, which increases deer movement and harvest. I think the CDAC has done a good job of managing the population and has a good handle on what needs to be done to manage the herd. I believe their decisions are based on science, data, and hunter observations, not opinions. Thank you for considering my comments.</td>
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<td>5728</td>
<td>I personally believe your harvest numbers have become skewed since you went to online registration. I also believe people have learned how to “cheat” the registration system and it has now become easier for individuals to do this. Bring back the back tag and registration stations. The holiday hunt is a joke in my opinion along with the antlerless seasons. You want to reduce the herd then go back to earn a buck and force people to shoot does or better yet go to a No Bucks/Does Only season. My biggest complaint with the holiday hunt is that these kids are on Christmas break from school and DO NOT have an opportunity to shoot a buck late season. I have already made up my mind to hunt different states this year and every year hereafter until these seasons get changed which is sad to say considering I am a landowner and taxpayer.</td>
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<td>5729</td>
<td>The 'Earn-a-buck' deer management plan should be revisited for consideration in DMU's that have an excessive population combined with repeated years of inadequate harvest management-control numbers. Proper population control along with statewide baiting bans are responsible proactive measures to attempt CWD management. If CWD is not prioritized, and some type of control, or serious attempts thereof, shown to the public the hunting population will adversely react with more dwindling participation. The obvious next shoe to drop will be dwindling revenues from the proverbial cash-cow that deer hunting has been to Wisconsin. Please stop kicking this can down the road and make some smart, but probably unpopular, science-based decisions now while we still have a substantial hunting population base to correctly manage the herd.</td>
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I think you should allow people that hunt public land to use two gallons of bait. It doesn’t make sense that people that own private land are allowed to plant food plots and farmers can sit over hundreds of acres of corn field. By not allowing baiting on public land the DNR is discriminating against hunters that are not wealthy enough to own private land. The number of hunters in Wisconsin is steadily decreasing and I think that is because without deer baiting no one is seeing deer and people don’t want to hunt. If the DNR wants to continue the Wisconsin tradition of deer hunting they have to change the baiting law. Outlawing deer baiting on public land is not going to slow down the spread of CWD. All the deer gather together in corn fields and food plots so CWD is going to spread anyway.

Take all the extra seasons out. Bow hunt, nine day gun, then the Muzzle loader, bow hunt is done on December 31st every year. These deer have it rough not allowed to bait or feed the winters are bad up there not to mention bear kills, wolves that are killing machines, and coyotes and the bobcats. When I started hunting 22 years ago I’d see deer all day long on stand now I’m lucky to see 5-10 in nine days sad sad sad, and you want us to get kids involved, go back to what it used to be and let the hunters have an actual voice not just allowing us to think we do!! Remember there’s more of us then you and we have a better shot of getting all on the same page to not hunt which in the end helps pay your wages! You work for us so take what we have to say and listen to us is it that hard??

I have been writing my opinion for years about managing for quality not quantity, and every year its the same; manage for quantity only, ask questions about quantity only, analyze data for quantity only... We need to address the major imbalance of does to bucks within this unit, as well as the major imbalance of age distribution of the buck population. People directly correlate a good quality hunting experience with older aged bucks. Merely shooting does, and talking about how many does should be shot, while shooting every buck in the county, accomplishes absolutely nothing. Why do you think the majority of our hunters leave to hunt Michigan every year; the chance to shoot a QUALITY buck. You need to address management off of does and into the buck population dynamic.

Parts of this unit fit the DNR model for management but other parts do not. I unfortunately live and hunt in the northeast section of Marinette County where I have owned land for many years. Over the course of enduring three years of earn a buck seasons, the area has never recovered. There are little to no farms left in the area and the fawn production is almost next to nothing. If the does are able to fawn, the weather or predators seem to wipe out the majority. I have gone to the extent to travel to other parts of the State and out of State to once again enjoy my hunting experiences. I believe the central boundaries should be adjusted and the northern woodland should be brought down to bring the area back into giving the deer numbers a chance to recover some.

OUR PROPERTY IS LOCATED ALONG THE NORTHERN EDGE OF CENTRAL FARMLAND IN MARINETTE COUNTY. WE HAVE NOT SEEN A TOTAL OF 10 DEER IN THE LAST 5 YEARS OF HUNTING. LAST YEAR 0. I TRY TO AGREE WITH WHAT THE DNR RECOMMENDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE PEOPLE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE MAKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS. I LOOK AT OUR PROPERTY AND DO NOT SEE OVER BROWSING, DO NOT SEE DEER, DO NOT HARDLY HEAR A SHOT BEING FIRED OPENING WEEKEND WHEN THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE HUNTING. ADD THESE ALL TOGETHER AND IT IS NOT HARD TO SAY THERE ARE DEER BUT SO FEW WE HARDLY SEE THEM. I HAVE SAT FROM DAY BREAK TO CLOSE OPENING WEEKEND EVERY YEAR. I AM NOT SEEING THE DEER. I KNOW HOW TO HUNT, I GO TO ANOTHER COUNTY WHERE I GET A DEER ON AVERAGE EVERY YEAR.

I am concerned about the way we are registering deer in the last 2 years online that we are not getting the actual numbers of deer kills across the state. Without having an actual tag for a deer it is allowing people to not register their deer. Even when you take your deer in for processing they are not asking for your registration number you get when you register it on line. This would allow people to process their deer by themselves and not have to register their kill. It would also allow them to shoot more then heir quota. If we went back to tagging deer and registering the way we used to you might see the numbers increase. I think the reason for the decrease in kills is because of how we register deer on line.
I request all deer hunting seasons (for all legal weapons) be left in their present forms. Including set hours, Days of harvest, and zones. I know your trying to bolster the hunting license sales, but I think your biggest factor for the drop in hunters is the not so dedicated hunter who were angered by the no baiting laws. I think it behove the Department if they would change this to a limited amount of bait (say, a 5 quart pail broadcasted instead of piled.) This should get the deer to frequent certain areas with-out having grocery store for the deer and also it would make the deer browse more naturally without any more animal to animal contact from browsing beneath a food plot or food plot orchards. Thanks

The baiting ban due to CWD in a private deer farm makes no sense. The private deer farms should be banned. They are the reason for CWD in the county, it is not present or being transmitted in the wild population. Also not being able to transport a carcass across county lines makes it difficult to properly dispose of it. When searching the DNR website I see only 1 county dump to dispose of the carcass. That dump is only open every other weekend and not at all during the gun hunting weekends. If we are required to dispose of the carcass in the county then the county should have more easily accessible locations to properly dispose of them. Or at least deer carcass only dumpsters available to hunters to use.

where I hunt the deer numbers are not as high as around the farms if they have a problem there the dnr should give them more doe permits shot the deer where the problems are and let the people who hunt in areas not by farmers fields see some deer you wonder why young people are not hunting they sit all day and see nothing and they say I have better things to do and hunt no more young kids today have so many things to keep them busy that if they go out and see no deer they do other things same reason many older people are quitting also why go out and freeze and see no deer so if you want more hunters shot the deer where the problem is around the farms thank you for listening to my views

The over harvesting of antlerless deer is hurting the population of mature deer and as a result I feel this is going to have long term effects on a health deer population. Hunters enter the woods every year with a fist full of tags and most feel as though they need to fill them with every deer that walks by and in a hast to complete this mission more deer wounded, hunters are at risk. If antlerless seasons are going to continue there should be a point requirement for the buck population or this is a brown it is down type of hunting. Not to mention I don’t feel last years counts are accurate since you are relaying on all hunter to report their harvest.

I saw 0 deer on my own private property of more than 40 acres. Adjacent to my property is state lands. I have 3 to 4 people sitting in trees, on the state line and my property. With the elimination of bait piles or food plots, I did not hear a shot nor did take one. All I heard were people going into and out of the woods, and I could hear them 40 acres away. You would think people hunting public land would hunt the public land rather than sit on the fence line next to private property lines. I was a bit upset when, all I saw was 3 gray squirrels, and about 30 turkeys. It would have been nice to have seen more than small game.

I personally have seen fewer and fewer deer over the years in the Peshtigo area. In my personal opinion the private/public doe tags are filled wherever. People do not fill their doe tags on their private property. The majority of the deer are in or right around crops and crop damage permits should be used to manage such properties, not giving every body two to four antlerless tags. My family alone had 10 antlerless tags, very excessive. In closing I’d like to see no extra antlerless seasons, hunters choice tag, or strictly either or tags for archery and firearm, and lastly crop damage dealt with on site. Thank You for Your Time

I am totally against the Holiday hunt, especially on private property. Pretty frustrating to purchase land and pay taxes, only having a chance to bowhunt during Christmas vacation and when a Buck of a lifetime passes close enough to harvest….unable to shoot because of the Holiday hunt regulations. We are losing hunters at an alarming rate. The main reason my children, grandchildren, and nephews deer hunt is to experience the family time with me. Sadly this may be the last year that I and my family hunt if the Holiday hunt continues to deny us on private property to harvest the deer of our choice. Thank you for your time.
Moving here from Wyoming I find the deer management a tragedy. Always wondering why young hunters aren’t coming to the field anymore? There are no deer to see and they lose interest to quickly. We need to scale back harvest to especially antlerless harvest during gun season to get numbers back up so people have deer to see again. The mentality here sickens me that you always have to kill something at the cost of true conservation. Need to start hunting in Wisconsin not just killing. You have taken a great sport and tradition and ruined it because we are more worried about money coming in that anything else.

Season Types: Suggest establishing a tag system that recognizes Compound and Re-Curve Bows separately from Cross Bows. Cross Bow is very accurate and increases the opportunity to harvest deer substantially. Establishing a tag quantity for Compound/Re-curve bows and a separate tag quantity for Crossbow may provide a more dynamic hunting experience and also establish harvest numbers more reflective of hunting device utilized. 1 doe/buck Compound/Re-Curve 1 doe/buck Crossbow This would result in an overall license potential harvest increase of 1 deer per hunter who registers for both Bow and Gun seasons.

I do not like the wide open crossbow season. I am for even hunters between the ages of... let's say 15 to 40 should NOT be able to use crossbow in archery season without a health issue. Or... maybe only October and then the start of gun season to end of archery. Or... read a state is looking at.... crossbows CANNOT have more than 1X optics. Also like a FPS limit. Up to 350 fps is enough. By what I have seen in my shop... many XB shooters do not fully know their crossbow. A required class would be great. Muzzleloading... with today's gear.... get rid of it.

You estimations of the deer populations is way to high. You need to look at the whole area. The number of deer is very low. 8 years ago we would see deer all day. This year over 40 days of hunting I saw 8 deer. 4 were the same deer. Predation is very high. Allowing extended hunts is only killing the population to very low limits. After november we killing pregnant does. You can not know whether she is or is not pregnant. Please reconsider the age limit on purchasing license. To many times people are using this to get extra tags. We hunters are not blind to this.

Hunting in this area was forever changed for the worse when earn a buck was introduced 26ish yrs ago, since then it seems like it has been the DNR's objective to ruin our hunting tradition by being influenced by outside parties and not listening to the hunters/conservationists themselves... the ones who pay for everything! Keeping a healthy heard with good Buck to Doe ratios is one thing, genocide on the species is shameful! Listen to the ones who sit in the woods from dusk to dawn everyday of the season and no longer see a single deer. You have failed!

I am, and have been, completely against the Holiday hunt since it was implemented. There is no need for it in Marinette county. Having a successful hunt, one where an animal is harvested, is an awesome experience. However, there are not nearly the amount of deer that the DNR says/believes there are. Seeing deer while hunting keeps people coming back for more, so less deer equals more frustrated hunters and those hunters have tendencies to lose interest in hunting. No reason or need to have the Holiday hunt or any of the extra antlerless seasons.

My personal experience has been, the declining numbers of hunters is because of a declining deer population not a decline in interest. In the late 90s and early 00s everyone seemed to at least see deer every day while sitting all day during rifle season. In recent years several members of our camp have gone all season without seeing a deer. We have also had a couple members of our camp quit coming for that reason. Not sure why exhausting the deer herd is the current objective. You continue to loose the public’s interest by doing so.

IWould support one buck per hunter per year no matter what weapon way too many does which in my opinion results in very small bucks hunted in areas before all we did was shoot does for two years antler growth looked a lot better sick of people complaining that bow and crossbow shoot too many deer either allow baiting or actually enforce laws the people that are baiting really hurts the people that follow the rules amazing that a gas station can sell 200 bags of corn in two days every weekend from Labor Day until the end of December
It is finally nice to see deer. We live next to a farmer who when does utilize the crop damage program, will take as many as he can, then we are left with nothing, it is nice to see the amount of bucks now on our property which is not very big, I also feel and of course can’t prove it but I also feel a lot of bucks are harvested with crop tags because of no location registration, I feel the phone in system is showing inadequate registration because many don’t phone in their harvest. Many don’t buy licenses and just hunt.

I always felt muzzleload season should be placed before rifle season because of needing to be closer for shorter distance shooting! I also bow hunt but feel muzzle & rifle hunters do not get a fair shake on the deer rut time table. I’m seeing more does then bucks the last couple years and feel that now with more powerful bows and crossbows on the market that more bucks are being taken during the bow season framework. i feel the need to bring back earn a buck to control deer ratios. Thanks for letting me voice my opinion!

North of CTH X should be considered Northern forest zone and not central farmland. It is clear on a map that the farms ate from Porterfield South. I hunt in McAllister mainly. I have seen significant reductions in the deer population since I started hunting in McAllister. I also hunt in Wausaukee and I easily see 10:1 more deer in Wausaukee that is why I believe McAllister needs to be considered Northern Forest Zone. If nothing it's done to increase the population their, I will unfortunately need to quit hunting.

I would like to see DMU go back to county by county. The part of marinette county is in the central farm zone. I believe because that there far to many antler deer tag for the area. In the last three we are seeing less and less deer. I've hunting the same area for over 50 years so I know what going on in the area. At this point 2020 will probably be the last year I hunt.The time,money,and effort that I put into with nothing to show is not worth it to me anymore. My sons and grandson are start to feel the same way.

I feel the herd is plentiful with the buck to doe ratio slightly off. There are more doe than buck but the balance is not too far out of proportion. This is why I support issuing some bonus antlerless permits. I also support and antler restriction for buck harvest. Doing so will in my opinion require hunters to make better choices in the field, take more time in their decision of what to harvest and it will also give many younger bucks an opportunity to survive which will help increase the buck to doe ratio.

How about starting firearm season earlier and dropping the youth hunt? Some eastern states have a very long deer gun season I believe if you started much earlier you might get more younger persons out hunting as I'am getting older it rougher on me some of us old timers might hunt longer. Another Idea if the bow hunters get upset why not move the muzzle loader season earlier after all it to is a one shot challenge. Or flint lock season in early fall. Lets go back to open sights on muzzle loaders?

I believe with the lack of die tags available in the forest zone it increasing the hunting pressure on public land. Which is making for poor deer population on some of the public land in Marinette farm zone. I have hunted the same portion of public land and the deer numbers are down really low compared to three to four years ago. I really feel does permit should be cut way down and get ride of free public land doe permits. Put them up for sale only with a very limited quota.

The private property I hunt borders the northern forest zone with little to no agriculture near by. As a result we see more of a need to increase the population than to decrease it. We try to limit our harvest to mature bucks but see a good number of does. The public land to our north has no where near the number of deer it once had. We are not seeing signs of over browsing but the deer tend to migrate from the property in the winter so the problem maybe somewhere else.

As to having antlerless only hunts such as the holiday hunts: closing buck hunting to archers at these times limits ability to bow hunt during time periods when those who have jobs are off work and able to hunt (holidays). Please, consider this when scheduling such hunts. I won’t pretend to know more about deer populations than your biologists, but longer seasons and antlerless only hunts take away from a a very dedicated group of conservation minded hunters. Thank you
I see less and less deer in Wisconsin every year, back in the 2000-2006 I remembered seeing 30 deer a day so a person could sit all day. I sit all season for a chance to see one or 2 deer. I actually have been bow hunting out of state because of better hunting. I seen good hunting before and now it’s tougher than ever with little rewards. This could be the reason more people choose to go out of state. The tradition is being lost in my eyes. Less deer, less deer hunters.

No to the holiday hunt and extended bow hunting. I visit this area and no one ever is seen hunting late season. Farmers are not hunting in December and January, who are they trying to kid, they are not hunting it is too cold. Just and excuse, because they don’t want snowmobiling yet, just to piss off snowmobilers. Open trails to snowmobiling and other recreational activities. Snowmobiling would bring in more tourism dollars than the handful of hunters.

This unit now contains a vast area that used to be northern forest zone and I believe that it should be moved back to the northern forest zone. Way too many doe tags on the private and public lands that are available. Doe tags should be at around 375 for public lands and 1200 for private lands. No bonus permits and no holiday or doe specific hunts. Way too many Doe tags available along with all the people who are no longer registering there deer.

Please do not mess up deer hunting. It is all I have left! 66 years old not at all in good health for walking And No Climbing anymore but to sit in my blind and watch the day come alive and the sun rise come up is awesome! This will be my 54th. year of hunting! I do not like things messed with. I and my grand kids want to be able to hunt deer to see deer& turkeys. that is way God put them here in the first place!! Thank you for your Hard Work!!

Wisconsin needs to raise the out of state tags by a considerable amount. We are regarded as one of the top whitetail destinations in the world but are much cheaper than other leading states. Take a close look at how Iowa and Illinois manage their herd, and how much more expensive it is for out of state residents to get a license. Other states are catching us in trophy whitetails harvested and we don’t need every person coming here to hunt.

CWD never killed anyone in Wisconsin. DNR must realize that people been eating venison for a long time. Baiting should never be banned. The economic impact is too great that no one totally realizes what it does for stores and farmers. No one says you have to bait, should be left to individual. I hunted marinette county for 35 years, best deer numbers where in the late 80’s and early 90’s. Need to leave population come back.

My one comment is to let us bait again. The public hunting community is not the reason these deer had deadly diseases in them but it is the deer farms. It has been proven and there is no reason to ban the public from baiting and not ban deer farms. With the lack of baiting I saw 1 deer all season long. Usually I see at least 10 the first day and then some. But the fact that I only saw 1 deer ALL SEASON is ridiculous.

I don't believe the bait ban should of been enacted. All the deer on the deer farm should have been kill and that would be the end of it. How do deer in a pen in Dunbar matter if I'm hunting in Porterfield. You also believe there are alot more deer than there actually are. The last 2 years was the least amount of shooting in my life. Years ago opening day had more shooting then the last 2 seasons combined.

Although I live/hunt in the Central Farmland portion of Marinette Co I am located near the Northern Forest area DMU. My experience over the last 5 years has been that the herd size is too large and should be reduced more. Even though the last two winters had more snowfall than normal there did not seem to be an adverse effect on the herd. I am seeing a lot of deer in the area. For what it's worth.....
If a doe only holiday hunt occurs, the archery season should also be extended to make up for lost time in December. Having an extra four weeks of hunting will also increase the doe harvest which seems very important in the DNR priorities. Support purchased doe tags which will increase revenue. Buy as many as you want $$. Support antler point restrictions. Support non-resident tag cost increase.

I think all the extra antlerless hunts are hurting the hunting community do to us hunters that look forward to the late season and snow hunts, and now as the format was from 2019, hunters get weeks taken away from bow hunting, not added anywhere but lost, I am for the idea of extending the season to either sex with archery or crossbow till January 31st and removing ALL “special” hunts.

The one recommendation I would make that I didn't see in this survey would be to implement a “three on one side” rule. I feel that would create an abundance of larger bucks. In addition, I think that it would help people to shoot more does, because if hunters who generally shoot spikes and forks can't harvest them, they are more apt to shoot a doe if they want the meat.

I do not support the talk of a longer rifle season. I feel this would over do what we try to do. Lengthen the archery season if anything. I don’t mind your doe only weekends but the holiday hunt is during my time to bow hunt steady and I have no problem shooting a doe or two but I would also like to shoot my buck at this time and again would be restricted from doing so.

I hunt the very northern fringe of this zone. I always felt the area was more suited to the northern forest zone than the farmland zone. I understand the trials that farmers have with the deer population. I don’t see us ever getting into the northern forest zone; however my answers are influenced by the deer numbers I see though the many hours I spend in the woods.

I am not sure where to put my thought on baiting. My biggest complaint is the amount of deer that I see now that we can not bait. I strongly believe that hunters in my area still bait and we do not any more. Last year for gun season I saw one fawn deer in 9 days. we used to see anywhere from 5-6 deer a day. I think you need to open baiting back up.

We need to build the deer herd back up. Are future hunters don’t want to sit in the woods and not see any. If we don’t take action now many hunters will not be interested anymore. We have to also take care of some predators there’s an over abundance of wolfs, bears and cougars. They also prevent seeing deer. This needs to be taken into action ASAP!!!!

I don’t understand why we need to consider an antlerless only holiday hunt? What’s the point of it? Start the bow season the end of September, end it the end of December, everywhere. The 9 day gun season should be any weapon, the bow season should not include crossbows. Stop all the extra seasons, and special event weekends. Its too confusing.

Consider moving the northern boundary of the Central Farm Zone to the South some. I believe north of Crivitz or there about should be part of the Forest Zone as Farm and crop fields are very minimal compared to forest property. Marinette County is large and the current designation of Central Farm to Forest zone is incorrect in my opinion.

I would like to see season start earlier so the rut would still be on. Post-rut the deer are not moving around near as much. The deer are spooked by the earlier hunts allowed (youth hunt and bow/cross bow). I only saw 1 antlered deer in the last season, and it was a spike and 200 yards away. Does were also on the run most of the time.

Ive been hunting all my life but I am done. I’m sick of not seeing any deer. there is too many hunts before gun season!! why do youths get their season, when I started I went with the big boys in November. are our kids so soft they need their own season? Now one year old kids can legally hunt I’m done cause of your money hunger.
I really feel wis could be better with a 3 or really preferably 4 antlers one side to get more mature bucks specially would make public land hunting better way is now brown down so people don't hunt just for antlers but meat and bigger bucks would be nice I think public and private lands should be changed to 3 or 4 on a side.

I would like to understand why I have many quality Bucks on trail cams right until gun season opens. When gun season starts they are all gone... I guess they go underground. Would it be possible to try and have gun season coincide with the rut? Just wondering aloud. Thanks.

The only comment I have is monitoring for poaching at nighttime. The land that we hunt is private but we still could see someone overnight took a deer and gutted it on the main track to our stands. I know it isn't possible to patrol everyone but it would be nice to see at night some of those poachers being caught.

I hunted for 4 days during the gun season I saw 1 deer, a doe. My son hunted for 3 days during the gun season he saw 0 deer. A friend hunted my land for 1 day during the gun season he saw 0 deer. 8 man days hunting on 50 acres in the Marinette Co. Farmland Zone. 1 deer viewed. Need I say any more.

Would like to see an earlier start to the gun deer season (maybe in place of the Holiday Hunt?) 4-7 days earlier start and added days. More people could get the days off to hunt well. It could help spread out the hunter congestion. It could also help with matching up with the rut better.

I disagree with the early and Youth hunts. by the time I get to hunt rifle the deer are already pressured So much that we don’t see any deer. They bed down for the next 9 days or more. A lot of my friends just stopped hunting rifle. I myself am starting to look out of state for better hunting.

Please keep the Holiday Hunt. I feel that the woods has a chance to settle between the 4 day antlerless hunt and the holiday hunt. The last 2 years I have harvested a number of does during the holiday hunt due to the lack of other hunters and the woods having a chance to settle.

It seems that predators are making deer more nocturnal, except in spring when they are very hungry and food sources more limited. I also think that banning baiting in Marinette Farmland wasn't necessary as CWD was extremely limited in the county, nor have I heard it spread.

I am fortunate to be able to go on numerous out of state hunts for white tails, many of the people that live in these other states and that I hunt with look at Wisconsin as what not to do in whitetail management. Less is more, listen to the hunters not the money, thank you.

Keep crossbow and make “archery” a single tag to be used for crossbow or archery. There should not be a distinction. Crossbow allows 4 out of the 5 hunters in our house to hunt. Without crossbow we would only have one person able to hunt due to age or medical reasons.

When you got rid of baiting in southern farm land the population of deer went up now you want to reduce the population. There is no CWD in the county so let people on their own land bait. You guys don't even know without a doubt that baiting has any influence on CWD.

Baiting needs to open back up. All the antlerless only hunts in December absolutely destroy any chance for late season archery. This needs to end. Keep seasons open to all sex all season long. I would much rather see earn a buck than all the stupid antlerless hunts.

Far far far too many coyotes. The are I’m in, near wagner, is much more like northern forest than central farmland. I understand it’s an arbitrary line, but there is comparatively little ag within 20 miles compared to places like crivitz, Coleman, etc.

The only thing I ask, get rid of this “public" and "private" b.s. on tags! I have several places to hunt, depending on weather and hunting pressure. But, I get limited by this b.s. of public/private. Just make tags for the units, and leave it alone.
I would like to see the antler less holiday hunt changed to a late muzzleloader hunt where hunters with unused buck rifle tags could harvest a buck. Also, allow archery hunters who still have a buck tag to harvest a buck during this timeframe.

Not sure where you get your numbers but I never saw a deer this year. I hunted in 6 different spots. I feel we need to move the season earlier like Michigan is. I am thinking about hunting in Michigan this year since our season is late again.

Please consider APRs in the future. Other states have successfully utilized APRs (Lower Michigan Big 12). It actually builds hunters interest and youth interest. Results in the same amount of deer harvested and makes for a more enjoyable hunt.

If a holiday day hunt was to occur please allow archery hunting for antler deer during that timeframe. For a lot of us that is a time frame that we have off of work and have the time to hunt, but not the opportunity do to the holiday gun hunt.

There are plenty of does to harvest and plenty of tags and time to harvest them. I will never support harvesting does after they have been bred. If you really want to reach your doe harvest number, stop charging extra dollars for bonus tags.

Need to increase the amount of science in managing the Wisconsin deer herd. For as much money as hunter licenses provide, funds need to be used to study deer, deer biology, deer habitat, and habitat carrying capacities.

Am a little puzzled about predicted numbers of deer. When gun hunting in our usual area, our group of 10 hunters did not see many deer as in the past 5 years. Only 2 antlerless were harvested, versus an average of 5.

I saw 2 deer last gun season. There are too many early gun deer seasons before the traditional gun deer season. Hence by the time the Traditional Hunt starts, all the deer are hiding in the swamps & Not moving.

Hunters cannot bait deer, so deer farms should not be able to feed deer either. All hunted animals must live off the land. All game farms must go. They created CWD and are not responsible for containing it.

Please publish results from this and other surveys to see if hunter’s input was really taken into consideration. Deer numbers are seemingly much lower than they ever have been despite what experts say.

I would like to see crossbow and vertical bow stay the same as last year. I do not think there should be separate seasons. I would like to see the gun season stay the same as well.

Go back to the standard 9-day gun hunting season for buck only. Get rid of all the extra hunts. I don't see hardly any deer like I used to. Go back to the standard seasons.

I personally feel there should one buck harvest permit allowed per season. Any legal weapon. Doe permits also to be issued for any legal weapon throughout the open seasons?

Hunting on our private land has got worse the last 10 years we see fewer to no deer at all it is hard to encourage the young one to hunt. Not enough deer and to many coyotes!

There’s no need extra doe hunts and get rid of the holiday hunts. There no need to extend the hunting either 9 days is enough can’t get a deer in 9 days you shouldn’t hunt.

The farmers do not shoot does during the season because they wait to get paid for their crop permits. There’s too much bait also. I would like to see earn a buck.

Deer vehicle collisions are more a result of much higher vehicle traffic in our area than higher deer numbers! That has been progressive over the past 46 years.

I noticed extreme browsing on cedar this spring. If there is another bad winter, there will be a high mortality rate next spring on the deer head in this area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5813</td>
<td>I’m tired of not seeing the number of deer I saw 10-15 years ago. We need to grow the herd. In my opinion a strict doe only pre rut season might be good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5814</td>
<td>Deer are not over populated in the central farmland section of the county. The goal should be to maintain or increase the deer numbers, NOT reduce them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5815</td>
<td>Go back to the old boundaries that we had my area making it part of in the northern forest zone. This is the area north of RT 64 and west of RT 141.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5816</td>
<td>You have to many privet land owners not shooting does on there land then you see them out on the public land shooting does. very disappointing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5817</td>
<td>Hard to get a young child interested in the sport of hunting when you do not see any deer in an area that is supposed to be overloaded with deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5818</td>
<td>stop cwd ban deer farms hunters who want to bag big bucks and spend big bucks are jeopardizing the future of deer hunting for the rest of us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5819</td>
<td>I can't see hunting does after the regular season. If they are bred and we have a hard winter it will be hard on them and the offspring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5820</td>
<td>I would like to see the baiting come back. It could only be up to a gallon, just something for them to stop and give a clean shot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5821</td>
<td>Having a holiday hunt to only harvest 179 deer is hardly worth it. You already have the antlerless hunt after muzzleloader season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5822</td>
<td>Need to have normal seasons. No holiday hunt. Keep bow/crossbow season the same length as last year. Gun should only be 9 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5823</td>
<td>I think they should put point system. On bucks three or more on one side. Like Michigan does. Or less you are a youth hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5824</td>
<td>Have the muzzleloader season open the following Saturday after gun not the day after that way we have 2 weekends to hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5825</td>
<td>Coyote numbers are significantly up west of Lake Noqubay from 7-10 years ago. Have seen them chasing single deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5826</td>
<td>I shot at 1 deer in 7 years and never got any. There are not many deer in the area just 3 miles east of Crivitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5827</td>
<td>WELL DONE, THANK YOU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5828</td>
<td>Don’t like the antlerless holiday hunt it’s only time I get off of work and can’t bow hunt for a buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5829</td>
<td>In my opinion we should go back to baiting, no one wants to sit all day and hope a deer walks by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5830</td>
<td>Recommend earn-a-buck instead of doe-only season to &quot;force&quot; private landowners to harvest does.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5831</td>
<td>Allow coyote hunting during deer season. Remove youth hunt, have it the same as regular season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5832</td>
<td>I’d suggest bow and Crossbow seasons to open Oct 1. Also a Nov 15 opener for gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5833</td>
<td>Stop crop damage tags and thanks for killing off the deer heard... Have a nice day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5834</td>
<td>Why deer move only at night? Didnt see any deer during 2018 &amp; 2019 deer season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5835</td>
<td>would like to see hwy 64 used as the northern boundary for central farmland area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5836</td>
<td>Harvest and car kill numbers don’t lie! STOP with all the antlerless seasons!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5837</td>
<td>Wish there was a 8 point or better buck restriction. Quality over quantity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5838</td>
<td>Have our deer season like Michigan starting around the 15th of November.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I feel that there should be only 1 anterless permit given per license
I support a 15 day gun season. Should have had one years ago.
Bring back registration stations!! It keeps people honest.
Strongly disagree with extending the firearms deer season
continue to maintain or grow the population slightly.
do not support extending the gun season to two weeks
Eliminate all pre-gun season hunts, (youth hunt).
Reduce impact of crossbows on archery season.
Bring back baiting for private land owners!!!!!
OPPOSE restrictions on crossbow hunting.
Would love to see a four on one side rule.
Bring Wisconsin back to what it use to be
baiting should be allowed on private land
Please Ban Baiting state wide!!!
Make the units less confusing
I never saw a deer in 9 days
Keep up the good work.
Way too many coyotes
End the baiting ban
Marinette, Northern Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

865 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 160
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 289
   - I hunt in this unit: 834
   - General interest in this unit: 147

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 791
   - Bow: 377
   - Crossbow: 391
   - Muzzleloader: 232

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 26.83
   - Maximum: 99

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 249
   - Mostly Private Land: 105
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 137
   - Mostly Public Land: 111
   - Exclusively Public Land: 221
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 11

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 29
   - Not too crowded: 128
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 125
   - Somewhat crowded: 148
   - Very crowded: 136
   - Not applicable: 8

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 231
   - Fewer: 274
   - Same: 241
   - More: 83
   - Many More: 26
   - Unsure: 10

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
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</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
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<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
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<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
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<td>NOT VALID</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

392 359 114

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
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</table>

Report Generated: **Friday, May 01, 2020**

Marinette, Northern Forest
I would like to see the deer population increased through fewer tags and the predator population decreased through increased tags. There is an abundance of bears, wolves, and coyotes. Since coyotes are not hunted as much due to the fur cost being down there needs to be an incentive to get more hunters out in the woods trying to harvest them so they don’t over populate more than they already are. I saw 2 deer all bow season last year and I hunted every weekend. I saw just 4 deer all gun season all in one day and I sat all opening weekend and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Thanksgiving week. My brother didn’t see a deer all bow or gun and my dad saw none during bow and two during gun. It’s hard to stay interested in a sport where you have no success even seeing deer. At this point I would be the happiest hunter if I saw a deer all weekend but if you ask people who hunt in central and southern Wisconsin they would tell you if they saw one deer all weekend it was their worst hunt. I don’t expect to kill a deer by walking in the woods and not putting in effort scouting, but I’d like to see more deer than I am right now. I put in a lot of hours scouting and it doesn’t even pay off. It’s hard as a young adult to sit and see nothing and if this keeps up we won’t have any new people hunting in northern Wisconsin because the kids will get bored and angry they can’t see a deer. A majority of the revenue comes from deer hunting not from hunting bear, wolves, and coyotes so there should be more tags for them to lower the predator populations so the deer numbers can grow and the state can make more money by keeping deer hunters around. Also where I hunt in Dunbar they are logging all the oaks so all we have left is pines, popples, and swamps. They are not removing the limbs on the ground so you can’t even walk through the clear cuts and they grow up with popples or pines so future generations won’t have new oaks to hunt in. The county should be planting oaks and cleaning up the brush left on the ground so the land can be used again for years to come. It’s forcing deer into pockets and hunters into those pockets so it’s harder to find a spot with deer where other people aren’t already hunting. Northern Wisconsin counties have a lot less food (limited crop fields) and public land is even worse. We have harsher winters and more predators than anywhere else in Wisconsin. It will take a long time to get the deer populations to where it needs to be (same as in central and southern counties) so that hunters in northern Wisconsin can enjoy the sport like their fellow hunters down south.
I have been hunting in the Marinette Forest Zone for about 14 years. Never have I saw so many fewer deer walk through my property during the 2019 bow season. It is to my understanding that baiting was deemed "illegal" due to the CWD outbreak on a local game farm, which in some cases may help specific hunters acquire their goal of harvesting a whitetail. What I want to know is, how many deer have tested positive for said "CWD" during the 2019 bow/gun seasons for our DMU NOT including that specific game-farm in which the CWD was originally detected? Also, I do believe the timber wolf populations, as well as the coyote populations have rose a great deal in my area over the last 3 years, hence helping push away our once established deer herd. I, along with many other concerned hunters have expressed a great deal of concern about the predator population numbers and how they essentially need to also be controlled, but have yet to hear from the DNR about our concerns. I also believe that the cross bow season should, in-fact be shortened to its own season, unless you have medical documentation that deems you unable to bow hunt, therefore affording you the opportunity to harvest deer with said crossbow. It is in my opinion, unfair to deer, and to the "Bow Hunters', who's whole goal is to harvest a deer with the challenge of regular bow hunting, just to have that taken away by crossbow hunters where the challenge of regular bow hunting is essentially taken away to make it easier for hunters to harvest a deer. I ask you to strongly consider making crossbow its own season, and to keep both crossbow season and bow seasons separate. I would also like you to consider how the local populace can help sustain our deer herd through the tough winters we experience here in our DMU. Since baiting is now deemed illegal, may you communicate better with the local populace to help educate us on how we can help sustain our deer herd during the harsh winter months? I think their should be a program in which private landowners may apply to in order to "legally" help supply our herds with specific food types that are approved from the DNR. If there is already a program for this, may you educate the locals on this topic more frequently?

In the past ten years I’ve noticed a decline in the deer population even with more forest harvesting especially in the last three years. Marinette County's deer populatio/harvest was managed in more specific divided units like 45, 51a, 51b, as an example and being more specific to the type of terrain. Such as farming, some farming, cottage populated area, forested, and heavily forested such as the thousands of acres of the Marinette County Forest areas. The area that used be unit 45 was north of Cty. C, west of Hwy. 141, south of Hwy. 8, and east of the Marinette/ Forest county line. This area is heavily forested mostly public especially from Cty.A west to the Forest county line. I've seen and heard wolves, coyotes packs, and spring bear/fawn predation. Then you add to that mix the last two years a recently higher than normal snowfall. This area needs to be divided out and managed differently than the eastern side of Marinettes Counties Northern forest Zone. Last season I hunted the first four days of gun season around the Harper Sweed John intersection area dawn to dusk. Then discussted I only hunted mornings. No sign, hardly a shot fired around me for miles, one lone track in the snow even Road driving it after gun season. This area is hunted by many for bow, crossbow, gun, and muzzle loader. Another problem is guys cheating by spreading corn out undetectable. I walked on the second half one windy day to find deer stands baited along Harper, Sweed John, and FR1512. I abide by the law and because some have been baiting since opening of bow I have nothing coming my way. The few deer stay close to the hidden bait piles. At my age of 68 I love to be out their and look forward to hunting but because of the mentioned above managed process and I realize our wardens are busy I am starting to realize as many who hunt this area have told me it hardly pays to hunt something that has no deer herd to speak of. I suggest divide this area (Marinette County Northern Forest Zone) up again to be specific as past years DNR practice as I mentioned above as the Unit 45 boarders were and no public antlerless permits to compensate for the predation, hunting, and winter severity.
The northern forest area of Marinette County used to be one of the highest deer producing areas in Wisconsin. It was over hunted in the early 2000s and the lower deer population adjusted the predator prey balance. I feel that now predators seem to be keeping the deer numbers in check more than hunters (predators kill more than 2300 in this area would be my guess). We have struggled to get deer population back to a more enjoyable hunt with opportunities to harvest bucks and does. Based on my quick calcs - this area is about 460,000 acres and only produced 2,300 deer last year (sad - this is what is upsetting folks because they used to be able hunt this area with success on the giant chunks of public property). Now we average 1 deer harvested per 200+ acres (with most of those harvests on private land with foodplots etc). I would like to see harvest be closer to double that in my lifetime and it doesn't seem possible unless we take action on a number of fronts. 1.) 0 doe quota 2.) reduce predators (coyotes, bears, bobcats) 3.) increase buck age structure (antler restriction to protect yearling bucks) If we can protect the bucks I think hunter moral will be better in 3-4 years once that starts paying dividends more deer in the woods will be spotted as you will have to pass small bucks and at the end of the day - when someone shoots a nice respectable buck it will bring great moral to hunting camps vs the one yearling buck that's shot in every other camp in this area. The biologist indicated that we can only expect a 2% increase in population with a zero doe quota. So we can talk a lot about doe quotas and trying to increase the herd but its not really helping much unless we act on a few fronts. I understand CDACs don't have that power but I am ready to back that sort of environment if we can get traction - otherwise you wont be able to get deer numbers back to a level where quality hunts can be had on the 200,000 + acres of public land in this area.

I have deer hunted with both bow and gun on public land in the Athelstane area for over 40 years. I put out about a dozen trail cameras starting in July and all through the bow season. Last season there was a better acorn crop so I had anticipated having a number of bucks on camera. Unfortunately that was not the case. Over the years I have identified every major stand of oaks from county C to the south, the Forest county line west, the Florence county line to the north and from Dunbar down through Athelstane to the east. I place cameras out on Sunday and pull them every Friday during the archery season. I also move the cameras weekly within the area described earlier. I have been doing this the past 10 seasons or so and last year a few things become obvious. First is the wolf numbers in my opinion are much higher than what is believed. Last year was the first year I had wolves on camera at almost every location. Second in typical years I would see 3 to 4 yearling bucks for every older buck, last year that number was closer to 1 or 2 yearling for every one adult buck. This was not because I was seeing more adult bucks but rather I was seeing limited number of both. I concluded the most likely reason was the prior year winter kill was more severe than anticipated. I agree that this unit needs to expand the herd size I would just recommend bucks only for a few years. I disagree with those that argue over browsing of the county forest is a problem. A couple of seasons ago I came across one of the deer browse survey areas near Swede John road. The funny thing is there was less browse growing inside the fenced in area than there was outside. No rational person would conclude that deer over browsing is a problem anywhere in the area I described above. The quickest way to grow the herd is do not shoot any does.
We had 2 antlerless tags for the northern forest of Marinette county. We saw doe but all had small fawns with them so we did not fill any of those tags. There didn't seem to be a lack of deer but the antlerless deer we did see were on the small side. I would attribute this to the feeding restrictions put forth. I believe this is hurting the deer population greatly as food is not as abundant. Also there is a large amount of logging in public areas adjoining our private property which is affecting deer migration. If the idea is to limit the amount of out of county/state hunters traveling to public lands then I believe the plan has worked as there has been a serious decline of hunters in the public areas surrounding our land, which in turn allows deer to bed down and not move during the day. This should result in an increase in deer population. I am a proponent of lengthening the gun season to increase selective mortality decisions. I like seeing deer but I like taking my time and not feeling rushed if we get bad wind for a couple days and I passed on small deer early I now feel I have to take a deer I normally wouldn't. Also If the season were longer we could put a stop to driving in the northern forest zone until the latter part of the season. I have already been sitting on my private land and seen hunters passing in front of me on the second day of the season driving the woods. I believe driving is ineffective without the adequate amount of participants and from what we have seen there never seems to be more than 3 or 4. Also driving adds a level of danger that i believe doesn't need to be involved in the hunting season. In southern parts of the state I get it, but in heavily wooded public areas there doesn't seem to be respect for other fellow hunters.

Overall nice presentation, but incomplete. Data in presentation does not describe overall buck exploitation rate or hunter densities. That would be relevant data to assess whether there is capacity to host more hunters or sell additional buck tags. Furthermore, the data should also reflect wolf and bear population estimates in the County each year. Predation rates are density dependent on the predator side as well as the deer side. Season structure should also consider hunter R3 strategy. There is a loss of participation in many long-standing deer camps. This means less hunters to some degree, but a more significant loss in number of days and hours each hunter spends afield. For many, deer gun season is all about opening day and traditions. It is important to maintain the traditional opening day and Thanksgiving week hunt for family travel and congregation. However, late gun openers are problematic for biological and social reasons. Those years are especially well-suited to an extra early 1 or 2 day gun hunt to compensate and help retain more hunters. Very short (1-2 day), early gun / muzzleloader hunts would offer options for more hunter engagement. Also, given the harvest numbers, I feel muzzleloaders should be allowed to hunt concurrent with archery / crossbow hunters after conclusion of the gun hunt. Lastly, I have observed that elimination of bait is a negative factor for hunter engagement and participation. Baiting elevates engagement before and during the seasons. Alternatives should be evaluated for limited use of Bait in CWD affected areas as a means of hunter retention and engagement.

 Been hunting the Dunbar Goodman are for over 40 yrs Last yr was disappointing The 2017-2018 seasons were encouraging but things took a downward cycle again /I know the season opened late so that is a factor Another fact that can’t be denied is the pressure of cross bow users Their season Has to be adjusted I know for a fact of at least 8 more cross bow users in both the private and public land areas I hunt that never bow hunted before While this may seem like a good thing ,this is putting more pressure on the deer herd before the gun season I fear this is going to be the end of all the gun season traditions that I truly cherish because the gun season will be totally meaningless.I am not totally against cross bows as I have 2 brothers who shoot them (Age 72 and 70 ) so they have their place, I just don’t like the excuse that kids and women need them Daughter shoots a compound at 43 lbs and has killed several bucks and does .It takes practice and patience to let the deer get close which bow hunting should be .Way to many kids nowadays just want the easy way for everything and instant gratification Time for them to put down the phones 📞 for a while and put in the work Another thing that bothers me is how many yrs a youth can keep shooting a buck in the youth seasons Some of these kids have shot many trophy bucks by the time they are 17 ,putting unrealistic expectations for when the hunt the reg seasons ,9”Once they shoot a buck they should move to the reg season like we did as kids You have varsity football players still hunting in a youth season (come on ) Thanks for allowing my input
We are on the western edge of MARINETTE county and started hunting up there after buying a cabin 20 years ago. I have 3 sons who I hunt with and another 8-10 people that stay at our cabin for gun season and almost all of us hunt. Half of us are on private land and half on public but unfortunately the results are the same. We all see very few deer. Sometimes wolf sitings equal deer sitings. Not uncommon the last few years to sit all opening weekend and see 1 deer or even none in our group. It’s difficult to get a kid to want to hunt when there’s nothing to see and less to shoot. I’m amazed my kids have stuck with it to be honest. They are all 18 or over now, but I would only allow 18 and under antlerless tags to be available. I told my boys when they started hunting they could shoot anything until they shot their first deer, but bucks only thereafter to try to increase the herd. I don’t need to shoot a deer every year to just shoot a deer. I would like to see the herd size increase. It’s been getting worse the last few years and coincidentally the wolf population seems to be increasing. There are too many predators. I realize it’s natural selection, however, we can eliminate some of the antlerless tags given out to return some balance to the population. Let’s get kids off the couch and into the woods. We need to make it exciting by increasing the herd size by minimizing the number of antlerless tags to adults and giving the opportunity to shoot bucks or does to the kids. We need to increase wolf harvest tag amounts before they completely decimate the deer population. Thanks for listening.

I have hunted the same area in Silver Cliff for 40 years. In the early 80"s I counted 28 doe opening morning. I also remember counting almost 60 vehicles as they drove down the dead end gravel road. Now I count 8 cars or less. It took 5 years to get my 1st doe tag. Years later, doe tags were given out like candy. A bad winter followed and the population has never recovered. Once this happened, the hunters have no longer returned to this area to hunt. Fewer deer means fewer hunters and less hunters to push the deer. Crazy cycle. But I like heading north for the opener, tradition you know. I live in Marquette county and it looks like a pumpkin patch. One year we counted 38 hunters in 1 square mile. I always head north for peace and tranquility. I really enjoy the quiet time in the woods. I never see orange unless I want to. Within recent years, I have seen sows with 3 cubs, the fawns provide food. I spot them when I head to the river to trout fish in the spring and summer. I am unsure how much impact the wolves have in this area. About 10 years ago there was a Gypsy moth invasion and it wiped out a lot of mature oak. The worms were so numerous, the droppings sounded like it was drizzling rain. The last few years the loggers have been cutting the remaining acorn bearing trees. Very upsetting. The Poplar tree will only provide a few years of browse and then what? I don’t envy your job trying to keep all the hunters happy. In my opinion the population is small where I hunt but I usually get to see a few deer every year.

Since none of the 231 wild deer sampled tested positive for CWD, why are you still proposing a baiting ban? It was sold to hunters as a 2 yr ban only and now it seems like the norm! How can you justify large land owners with either food plots or crops for cattle that have hundreds of deer coming from miles around congregating in one location but prohibit me and others from throwing out 2 gallons of apples to attract 6 deer? It’s unrealistic to think you can walk into a National Forest and sit from dark to dark and see adequate numbers of deer to keep people interested in the sport without bait. Not everyone is a land barron, has private property, or equipment to build food plots etc. You would attract more people to the sport especially the youth if you lifted the baiting ban. In addition, people would make and take more ethical shots resulting in more success and fewer wounded deer in the woods. Let’s face it, nothing gives hunters a worse name than when the beautiful 8pt crosses the road in front of a family going to Christmas at Grandma’s house dragging a partially blown off leg. Use your heads, you can’t stop private property owners from planting crops for the deer and attracting lots of them, nor should you basically discriminate against the public land hunter by not allowing them the same advantage. Bring back baiting and watch license sales sore once again or continue to watch the sport so many of us love die off to lack of interest!
I have hunted 57 years in this Northern forest unit 2019 1st time I did not see a deer on opening day of gun season. your numbers are wrong the fawn mortality rate are much higher start to control the wolves , bears and coyotes and you will see more deer Stop shooting antlerless deer in the northern forest and put an antler restriction on bucks. That would at least be a good start, I saw more wolves than deer in 2019 stop it now, start to control them now. Your baiting ban is a joke if you stop deer farms the cwd will go away, If your native american you can bait so your ban does nothing, every farmer I know and I know some own property in the northern forest zone leave up several rows of corn and the spills a little and the deer come every day, so thats not baiting, another joke, on the hunting public Deer lick each other all the time if you spent time in the woods you would know that if its in their saliva the spread it every day not from bait . After 57 years of hunting I would like to take my grandson hunting and hope he sees a deer. It's not going to happen if you continue down the path of less deer. I hunt about 40 days a year and these are personal observations when I was growing up we saw 20 deer a day now 1 if your lucky, with all the logging there is more brouse than ever in the forest, please increase the deer population and stop shooting small bucks and antlerless deer.

If your serious about eliminating baiting in this area please eliminate the feed you can buy at gas stations and stores. Driving through the towns in this area all these people have done to eliminate deer baiting is change the signs in front of the businesses from "deer bait" to "wildlife feed". Increase timber cutting! Nothing will increase the deer numbers more than creating a younger generation of regrowth. Most people I have come in contact with aren't putting deer bait out. The corn piles in the woods are now for squirrel bait piles. I personally enjoy the no baiting regulations but if they are not enforced or access isn't reduced the people in this area are still baiting because it changes your odds when their are so few deer. So I still need to pattern my hunt around who is still baiting. Hunting deer trails on public land used to mean travel routes. Now if you find a deer trail I can pretty much assure you 95% of the time they will lead you right to a bait pile. The deer sightings/numbers in the last ten years have dramatically dropped off. It has been increasingly difficult to keep my kids interest up and wanting to go into the woods when you can go for days without seeing deer. Fortunately for me, my kids have come to understand that their is more to our hunt than just killing a big buck. But I would still like to have them at least see more deer.

I know this is not a CDAC issue but I believe the days of hunters going "up north" to hunt are coming to an end. The deer have adapted to the southern part of the state do to the farm fields, climate and lack of predators, and so have the hunters, and who can blame them when they sit all day in the northern part of the start and do not see a single deer. I have hunted the same area for 30 year and every year the deer and hunter sighting go down. I realize that less hunters in the woods equates to less deer movement but even the trail cameras aren't revealing nighttime movement and also very few road kill sightings. Further evidence of this shift is that wooded land prices in the north have froze for several years and are actually starting to decrease compared to the southern part of the state. I'm not sure what the answer to this problem is without wolf population control, I know there has been some timber harvest on county lands which should help to hold deer but a couple years of 0 Doe harvest (including youth) should help. With no back tags and no in person registration I know for a fact that there has been more deer being taken from the landscape then reported. Both of these issues have been requested to return from sportsmen at the spring hearings but have fallen on deaf ears. (Again not a CDAC issue but needed to vent.) Thank you for your time.
Long time hunter and land owner (30 years) in Marinette county northern forest. I see a decline in the number of deer over the last 10 years and your graphs i looked at show this. Deer have been on the decline and there was way to much over kill from to many season options other then the 9 day deer season and bow season you have been playing with. You showed that you plan to increase the deer population is not working. Why focus so much on killing so many anterless deer? This is factor in the decline of the herd. You need to get back to basics and just do a bow season for both regular and cross bow at the same time. Stop bow season over the 9 day gun season. Get rid of the all the extra hunts. youth, Holiday etc. Limit the number of doe permits to a lower number then last year to give the deer a chance to increase numbers. Please look hard at what i stated on the seasons. Also predators are taking more deer that you think. wolf, coyotes are running all over the northern forest. The last weekend of gun season snow did not effect the deer harvest as much as you think. I have hunted in a lot more snow many times in the past and more deer have been taken. So do not use snow as a excuse. I talk with money group camps that have land by me and they all say the same/ where are all the deer gone.

Our crew of five sat all 9 days of gun deer season plus we crossbow hunt. During the 9 days gun season we saw a total of two deer between all of us and no chance of a shot even if they would have been considered harvestable in our opinion. We did not see see anything that we would have harvested during crossbow hunting either. When I first started hunting as a teen we at least seen deer on a daily basis while hunting, now we are lucky if we see a deer during the whole 9 days of the season. And I don’t like the idea of changing crossbow to just a short season. It should remain the same as regular archery season. And the possibility of the no hunting of any kind the week prior to the 9 days don’t make sense. Neither does extending the 9day gun season. Not to mention all these extra hunts don’t need to be happening. When we were growing up and starting to hunt we didn’t have a special youth hunt season or the ability to harvest an anterless. We were just like all other hunters. I’m all for getting youth into hunting but why the extra season. Also because of where I work I can talk to a lot of hunters and they were saying the same thing. That they were not seeing anything and ended up getting nothing or their group ended up with maybe one. Most that I talk to hunt archery/crossbow and gun deer seasons.

Crossbow hunting 2019, was a late start for me. I hunted some in the farmland area of Marinette County, but overall my chances to hunt were very limited. The 2019 deer rifle season was the first time since 1976 I have failed to even see a deer sitting in my blind during the entire deer season. I sat daylight to dark on opening day, opening Sunday, Monday from noon to dark, daylight to dark Tuesday, Wednesday was the storm, Thanksgiving the afternoon to dark, Friday morning only. Gave up after that! Opening weekend I sat in the same blind I have for the past few decades. The other days I sat in different blinds to at least look at different trees. But they were in a few square miles of one another. The past few years I have seen more and more wolf sign, and less and less deer, turkey, and coyote sign. Use to always see several deer crossing the road driving from camp to the deer hunting area. This year I saw three on Thanksgiving Day, otherwise nothing. What I did encounter a lot of were wolves. Opening morning before sun up they were howling. Tuesday more right after sun up I heard them again closer by. Saw more wolf tracks in the snow than any other animal, except man. Muzzleloader season in Marinette County was done in the farmland area.
As a female hunter, I have a huge passion for hunting for both bow and gun. Over the 15 years that I have personally been hunting I’ve seen the deer population low on many occasions. The best years of my hunting experience was when The DMU was a buck only unit for a couple years to repopulate the deer. It made a huge difference and I would love to see that happen again. A few things that don’t seem to be brought up with deer numbers which include poaching because sadly it happens and there is no accountability anymore with doing online registration for harvested deer. Another issue that I have is with private land anterless tags. You should have to prove that you own property in that DMU in order to purchase anterless tags, because sadly when public land tags are gone everyone starts buying the private land tags and again there is no accountability for it. I own land in Marinette County, but I also hunt public as well and for the 2019 deer season after only being in line for 10 minutes online to get an anterless tag, all the private tags were sold out and usually it doesn’t happen that fast. I would Also like to see crossbow season shortened considering it’s just like using a gun. Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns!

I would like to have a doe permit for either bow or gun!! I’m a blue collar worker an do not have time to buy extra tags when they go on sale! It’s unfair to us who spend the money an time in the woods!! Most of these tags are sold to retired people who can be there for the sale but won’t spend any time in the woods!! And all buck movement I see from September through January are all night time pics!! The predation is terrible!! Bear, wolf, coyotes!! We need to fix this!! Plus the coyote hunters an bear hunters with dogs is unbelievable in my area and those deer have no peace from dogs, bear,wolves, coyotes!! There are constantly being chased!! I was awarded a bear tag last year an I was unsuccessful because of the dogs running an i applied the last 3 years an they awarded me last year!! Unfair to us guys that want to sport hunt for our game!! Skip years between the dog hunters for bear an sport hunters!! I mean every other year not the weeks rotation!!!! I’m tired of the souther people coming up here to chase bear and littering all over our roads also! Beer cans thrown out the windows!! I wish I had authority to enforce some of the BS I see on the back roads an in the woods!! Give me a badge an I will enforce the laws!!

We need to control the predator population. I've seen more coyotes and wolves than deer while hunting the last two gun seasons. The County needs to look at the cutting of so many the large oak ridges in northern Marinette county. Especially all the areas replanted in pines. What are all the animals going to do that use the mast crops for food? The two year ban on baiting needs to be lifted. With limited time, no mast crops some years, and the limited hunting pressure some areas see there is no deer movement, even if they are there. The kids and old folks need to see some deer to get them interested, or to keep them interested. Not seeing deer for multiple years is no fun. What is wrong with happy hunters? The argument about carrying capacity has me wondering. If the land couldn’t carry the animals they wouldn't be there in the first place. It's not our duty to kill them off to a certain carrying capacity just "in case" there is a bad winter. The bad winter will do that for us. If that is the case we should wipe out 75% of the world population, so that we are all 6' apart "in case" another pandemic spreads across the globe, sounds pretty ridiculous right?

One of the special times of the year is deer camp you get to spend with family and close friends, up north has always been the place to be but when you sit for a week straight and dont even see a deer and you see more predators than deer its a little absurd. Deer camps that have been running for 50-70 years are breaking up and selling because no one wants to come up any more because there is nothing left, something needs to be done up here predator check, no antleless deer for a couple years and when the herd gets healthy dont give out more tags than what people can shoot, more bear tags taking 11 years to a shot at one bear is outrageous when they do just as much damage as other predators, wolves run unchecked and destroy the deer herd. Something drastic needs to happen to help the deer herd in northern counties because if nothing is done to help more and more deer camps, traditions, and hunters will be done hunting. I hope the DNR does something because watching old timers talk about how things were and how they are now is extremely disappointing along the way people have fail the hunters of northern wisconsin.
Bioligist mentioned seeing deer of private vs. public in northern forest. These are 2 independent categories. People and seeing and harvesting deer are the private landowners that can put food plots in and hold deer (pull deer form neighboring public areas). Its obvious to me that skews your numbers. Area I hunt I have had to adjust. I used to walk in 1 mile and see no deer. I now hunt 100 yds off the border of private land and of the few deer I see. They are all heading to private land withing 1st 2hrs of the season and then see nothing after that. Now lets talk predation. I feel there is High predation rate. Why does it take 9-10 year in this zone to get a bear tag? I have literally have seen just as many and in some cases more predators than deer. I used to spend all 9 days supporting marinette economy. Now I leave after 2 days and hunt near home to see and harvest deer. I am going to retire in 5 years and have the ability to spend alot of time in marinette county. I am considering selling my property and going to oconto county where the numbers are better. I can also get bear tag much sooner.

Since the the November 2017 deer harvest, I have notice a significant growth in the coyote population. This past march I have found one recently small deer killed off County C outside of Wausaukee taken down buy coyotes. Off long lake road you can still see 5 rib cages of small to medium deer taken down by coyotes. The huge growth to predators of the deer population north of county C, which I believe is the Marinette Northern Forest DMU, is reducing the deer herd in our area. The taking of more deer will reduce the herd smaller than what they are already. It is extremely frustrating to hear about people wanting to reduce the deer herd when they are already severely impacted. Going up north deer hunting has been a tradition in my family for over 50 years in the area. Back in the 70’s we had the issues with poachers and the herd recovered in the late 80’s. Now it appears we are going thru a similar issues just with different predators. My question or concern is this: Is the DNR taking into consideration the coyote impact on the deer herds in the Marinette Norther Forest unit??

I have seen packs of wolves the area I hunt the last 4-5 opening weekends. The wolves have 100% decimated the deer populations. I used to see 10-20 deer opening weekends. Now we are lucky to see 1-5 deer. I hunt near a bedding areas with large game trails surrounded by water sources. Everytime I see the wolves they are chasing yearling deer. I usually here them howling at dusk and hear 7-15 calls in the surrounding area. Depending how close the wolves are other deer in the area are frightened and we see them sneak out. They don’t come back for days I would also including suspected poaching of larger bucks by local hunters. They shoot deer out of season for sure. Most of these hunters appease the DNR by portraying themselves as rule followers and outdoorsman but are sneaky criminals. I’m a novice who treasures my peace and hunting time over opening weekend. Our family has hunted the public land since 1950s. It’s really sad to see things get this bad. Sincerely Concerned Please open a wolf season and catch the dirty local criminals ??

I think the department is moving in the right direction keeping antlerless permits low in this unit. This unit is a very diverse unit with many changes in ecology. I hunt in the northwest corner of the unit where it is largely big woods. This area continues to suffer with very low deer numbers. So low in fact that we are seeing cedar regeneration in nearly all of the swamps. Last year I saw only a handful of deer in an entire gun season. During bow season I hunt further east and do see more deer. However the areas further east recieve significant pressure on public lands, especially during the gun season. The lack of respect of other hunters frankly makes it not worth a better chance at seeing a buck. When you spend all fall scouting, pick a few areas to hunt and still have multiple people set up within 50 yards of you it just isn't safe or fun. I am accustomed to hunting heavily pressured areas in the fox valley area during bow season. It seems hunters down there are much more respectful in giving each other adequate space.
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I feel that there needs to be more deer in our area. The population is so low that I barely see deer anymore. There once was a time when this area was known for their deer population and it was great seeing them. I would suggest that they bring back the "party permit" it gets people hunting together and that way even if it is 3 people for one permit instead of 3 permits for those same 3 people. There should not be so many permits out there, let people share! I also feel that there should not be a youth hunt etc. Kids need to learn the old fashioned way like all of us did. You wait until your legal age to hunt and then go out with your parents in the chilly weather and try to harvest a deer. Show them what hunting is really about, not that they get to do it when it is warm out and then when real deer hunting comes they don't enjoy it because it is too cold for them due to the fact that they were able to do it in the warmer weather. All these special seasons are killing all of our deer population.

No baiting because of the CWD is dwindling the number of people hunting. The number of deer seen has drastically gone down during season, prior to these sanctions. People young and old are starting to lose interest in this beloved fall past time. As patrons who love the outdoors and take pride in their property. It is our responsibility as a landowners to pass on any information about issues that may correlate with CWD and get qualified individuals involved to take immediate action. To pass down sanctions for whole counties and most times adjacent counties as well is taking the landowners out of the picture. Landowners who are part of programs such as QDM, Property management, etc. Should be held to a higher standard and given benefit of the doubt when these county wide sanctions are brought down for consecutive years. As a responsible landowner who takes pride of the well being of the property, these CWD sanctions need to be looked upon with grave detail for our upcoming outdoorsmen and women.

I own and hunt on both my 80 acres and the public land which joins my property on one side and I have been hunting off CTH K for the last 45 years. Which means I KNOW MY PROPERTY and the PUBLIC LAND next to it. The DNR Big Game Specialist and the "Local" appointed DNR Representative are DESTROYING deer hunting in my area by allowing the constant harvesting of does. My land is ALL woods and there are very FEW deer on it. The Family Tradition of Deer Hunting as and is being destroyed by the "Brown is Down" Policy PROMOTED by the DNR. When you hunt with 6 hunters for 8 of the 9 days of the season and hunt from 5:30 Am until dark and you don't even see a deer it's really sad. What Grand Child wants to go sit in the woods all day on a stand and NOT EVEN SEE a deer. There are too MANY deer seasons..from the middle of September to the end of January..bow-crossbow-youth hunt-gun season- muzzle loader-Holiday hunt-and Bow Season again ..Is the deer Population endless and bottom less...Are you NUTS ?

I watched the video provided (graphs,numbers ect.) and it helped me with my decisions. In my area I have noticed a definite decline! The area I'm talking about is what used to be 49B. I have lived, hunted and watched and listened to people here in this unit for 45 years. What I have learned is first off the pressure on community and wildlife has grown extremely--- to the point of over harvesting our wildlife. Last year my population of deer has DROPPED greatly to say the least. The 2019 deer season I saw 5 deer the total gun season----9 deer bow season and I'm sure those 5 deer where part of the 9. Just for general information my land borders appox. 3 square miles. What I have noticed is in the last 10 years the population here is crashing more and more each year mainly, I believe is to over hunting! Just way to many people in this UNIT and NOT enough management or enforcement!!! I hope this helps you people---I know I would like to see some help with this problem here and I'll help if I can.
Last year we observed some hunters who harvested deer and found bait piles and others who didn't but we're baiting. I own private land and for safety factors, hunters shouldn't be allowed to face into someone's property to hunt. I don't think trying to get rid of CWD will be accomplished by wiping out large deer populations or banning baiting. If game farms with infected deer are allowed to operate because you don't want to destroy someone's business, then what about struggling farmers who sell deer feed. Healthy and well fed deer can fight disease and reproduce better than sick or starving deer. Driving past a corn or hay field doesn't reflect deer population too well. Whatever a very small select group of DNR personnel decide what is to be, we will be stuck with. Just like the meeting on the Oxbow recreation area and wanting to rip a dam out and not let people use it, it is more about a few trying to control people with very narrow minded objectives.

I hunt Minnesota and Wisconsin wolves have more influence on deer population than anything man is doing besides antlerless permits at this time. Farm tags nearly annihilated the deer in the area I live in and hunt in the farmland zone of Marinette Co. Crossbow season should have been limited to an actual licensed season aside from archery season that is the only way to get an accurate count of crossbow kills by the way bear baiting season and bear dog season should have been conducted the same way. What dictates Wisconsin hunting is money that is why the deer population is dropping youth hunting is declining and wolves and special interest money is growing this will never change in Wisconsin as long as money is the prime objective of the state also, I am a hunter safety instructor. PS The wolves introduced in Wisconsin are not natural the gray wolf was the natural predator in Wisconsin not the Timberwolf God for bid the truth be told to the public.

I've hunted this area for quite a few yrs and have sat with my dad for many before. The numbers are not changing in the woods. I see the same amount of deer every yr. I have seen many more hit by cars tho. Including ourselves. I travel from southern Marinette county to my land in northern Marinette county every weekend. The predator and bear population has been up since this management unit stuff has begun because they don't have laws to stop them from taking what they need. We hunt hard and have a family of three in the woods. We would like to see more antlerless tags so we can put food in the freezer. It's so costly that we might as well just buy a cow. I would like to pass the tradition down but this limit of tags is pushing many away. I’ve had four friends quit hunting in the past three yrs because of it. Could even bring back the either sex tag. That was our choice on what we wanted. Thank you for hearing me out. And have a great year.

I have been hunting for 45yrs on the same property which is joined with PUBLIC HUNTING LAND along an 80 Acre line.. PUBLIC HUNTING PRESSURE and KILLING OF DOES IS DESTROYING DEER HUNTING ON MY PROPERTY...I have more BEAR on my property than I do deer...Why would my Grandchildren want to come up and Hunt with me...WE SEE NOTHING IN ALL DAY...Public Hunting pressure is HIGH...The DNR Big Game Specialist have pushed for the Antlerless Doe Killing since the late 80's...The deer population in my area CTH K is tanked out, and YET you are setting the doe harvest numbers at 500 for deer gun...How about BUCK ONLY archery, crossbow and deer gun. Let the numbers come back. There are enough of the neighbors up by me and family members that are not buying deer licenses. You..the DNR..are destroying the hunting tradition..The family tradition of hunting...You can NOT HUNT what is NOT THERE...You can NOT Harvest deer if there ARE NOT ANY...

Too many antlerless tags are given out. This area should be buck only. Also, add a minimum points to stop the slaughter of so many small deer. The public land is hammered and they shoot every deer they see. Stop the antlerless tags and make bucks with 3 points on 1 side only. Private property owners have leased their lands to others who slaughter the deer there too. Too many people on the public lands and then the road hunting starts when they don't see deer where they hunt. It's a stupid cycle. I hunt private land but we kick people out every year. It's posted with lots of signs. We've thought about posting it public to keep people out. That's right. Post private land as public so people drive past due to lack of deer on public land. We're close to that thought. Police won't ticket trespassers. Telling us to talk to the offenders and work it out! Really? News flash! That doesn't work.
In my opinion northern Forest zone should be buck only with a four point on one side minimum Marinette county has some good deer genetics I can see it in some of the few bucks registered but they never get to get mature because of a kill everything mentality we need to encourage quality over quantity I think this would bring in younger Hunter interest if we had bigger deer. Also I own 100 acres and see very few deer in general in a spot we’re deer should flourish? I spend about a lot of time in the woods each year please take my advise and consider buck only with a four point minimum, many other states have this program and it's very successful and they have larger bucks in general which brings in more tourism and generates younger interest which in the end that's what the future of hunting is all about. It would bring controversy at first but once hunters see the results they will much appreciate it.

CDAC Committee, I have hunted in Northern Marinette county for almost 50 years. I’m more of a walker than a sitter, so harvesting a deer is not that important to me. However, I am concerned about the declining deer numbers are having on the rest of my hunting camp. We have four young hunters who hunt hard all day, but have little to show for their efforts. Only two bucks harvested in the last decade. I dreaded last deer season because only three deer (Doe and fawn, Doe- without fawn) were showing up on my trail cameras. Only one hunter in our camp saw a deer. The six of us hunt both private and public land. There for, I would recommend that this committee make the Marinette County Forest unit a "Bucks Only" unit for the gun season. If the DNR needs to have does to evaluate the health of the herd, they should require the bow and crossbow hunters to bring in their deer for examination.

I do not believe this area too be over hunted. During the rifle season opening day I heard three shots (all day) I saw one doe for the whole week of hunting. We have way too many predators around here. I do not understand why so few bear tags are available for this area. Years ago you saw no bobcats. Now I get them several times a week on my game cams and it is almost impossible to draw a tag. It is not uncommon to see coyotes in the middle of the day. I hunt them and it does not scare them away. Wolves are showing up more lately then other years. You can hear them howl at night. I have not shot a deer in years because I will not kill a doe or small buck. The difference between now and 20 years ago is unreal. My Son and I filled bow and gun tags on Bucks almost every year then and passed by a lot of Bucks. We would take doe also as they were in abundance. No more!!! Time to take action on predators.

Bring back baiting!!! A lot of people I know are on the verge of quitting deer hunting, including me. I already quit bow hunting. If it wasn’t for loving the outdoors I would be done, but if I’m out there I may as well carry a gun. What difference does it make if the deer are eating under all the apple trees in Wisconsin, or eating off the same trees in a logging operation, or if I throw a little bait in the woods? There isn’t any!!! CWD is here to stay. You keep talking about the drop in license sales but yet you keep driving people away with more laws that are absurd. Once my sons generation is gone there will be a big drop. Most kids now a days don’t want to be in the woods, especially if they’re not seeing anything. Hard to keep them interested. They’d rather be on their phones than out in the woods. So you just keep driving people away, or get some common sense!!!!!!

When I first started hunting this area 40 or so years ago, there were deer to be seen while hunting. I was able to keep interested in the sport. Now time has passed and there were a few large bumps along the way with over harvest, which I do not feel we have over come yet. I have tried to get a few others out in the woods to enjoy the sport, but do to the fact that the numbers are down, they do not hold an interest for hunting in this area. Hard to get people interested in deer when they sit for days on end and see nothing or very little. My family has kept records of our hunting sighting to include, number of hunters out that day, number of deer seen, sex of deer seen, number and sex of any deer harvested. All numbers are down. For the last few years I as a die hard have had to hunt alone. Now I have a person interested, but 2019 season did not show any sign of change.
I have hunted here for almost thirty years and have witnessed many changes ranging from wildlife management to forest management and predator management. Of these, I believe forestry management practices have changed for the better, providing better and more suitable/abundant habitat that ALL animals benefit from. I have also witnessed a drastic decline in the number of animals both in the woods and along the highways. I believe predation is of the greatest concern. This would include the increasing number of wolves that require better management, bears, and over predation by humans. While I opposed the antlerless tag use for youth, it is because I have witnessed what I believe to be abuse if not outright illegal use of it by unscrupulous adults that only care about harvesting an animal, rather than their child learning fair chase and ethical hunting/harvesting.

I own 33 acres bordering county land. I have 3.5 acres in food plots. I know I attract deer because of the plots. Three years ago logging was done. I plant trees every year. The new growth and several planted oaks are browsed on very heavily. My observation is if people can't put bait out and shoot deer by walking just off a logging road they don't go. I see deer all over in the county land. People have gotten lazy. Do some scouting. Find the oaks. Hunt river and creek edges. I see deer all the time. Am I lazy? No. Three does and four yearlings were observed in the winter wheat and alfalfa plots before the last snow storm. Now the snow has melted again and 11 deer are in my plots. I'm sure you can imagine the browse that's happening in my woods. I was on line to get doe tags last year 15 minutes early with none to show for it.

With the amount of deer up there i wouldn't bring my grandchildren up there to just watch empty space. This year gun season I saw 4 deer for about 6 seconds total. I sat sunrise to sundown the first two days Spent three more days sitting at night and walking in the mornings. Saw one deer walking. The baiting thing is a total joke. Either it needs to be enforced or let everyone bait. If the DNR is really that concerned about the baiting/feeding of deer for the health of the herd why don't they take a ride around in the winter when there is snow. It doesn't take long to figure out who is feeding and who isn't. All the same people are still feeding all winter long. I found 12 stands the weekend before gun season 8 had bait. The entire gun season has become a one morning hunt again. It saddens many of us up there.

I am retired and can spend hours hunting in this unit. The only bucks I saw were on camera. I went in farmland zone adjoining forest zone and saw 1 doe. I did see tracks and sings of deer. I also came across bait piles when non are allowed. Last year one question concerned baiting and I believe majority said to get rid of baiting state wide and I feel this should be done. Also having a county split by forest and farmland is confusing and have talked to hunters who say they have doe tags and they are hunting forest zone and don't know that the tags are no good. I do see fewer hunters every year and hunters are needed to move deer. I actually liked the old way of sending in your money for a draw for a doe tag rather than spending 2 hours on computer and waiting to see if you have a chance for a tag.

For years the DNR gave out way to many does permits in this area, so along with all the coyotes, wolfs and black bear in this area the only place I see alot if deer are in and close to town. We need to end all the additional hunts for everyone and go back to Now and gun season, if people want to use black powder they can do it during gun season, and the youth hunts and antlerless can be gone to seeing as though any child of any age can by a tag which seems to be just plain stupid and unsafe. Either end baiting in the entire state and enforce it and not let places sell bait or allow it every where it is not fair to the guys that are being legal, the place in my town sold tons of apples and corn so it makes it very tough on me because there's still a load of people baiting.

The survey didn't touch base on CWD. It is my belief that not enough regulation on game farms are implemented and we all know this is why it popping up in areas as opposed to spreading in a natural manner. Anyway here is my take on CWD and how it affects my hunting, when I feel CWD has spread to my area I will be giving deer hunting up unless there is irrefutable proof that consuming the meat is not harmful. I'm not the only one that feels this way and that could have a negative economic impact as well as uncontrolled growth in the deer population should a majority of hunters feel this way. I do not hunt just for trophy or for the kill, tradition, family & friends and the meet if lucky enough to see a deer, in 2019 none of the 4 of us saw a single deer where we hunt.
I own a cabin on Jones Road in Town Of Athelstane but hunt on public land in the Marinette County Forest adjacent to my property. Our hunting group at one time consisted of 10 hunters. Last year we were down to 5 due to some hunters giving up because of lack of deer. Our group of 5 hunted 3 days and saw a total of 3 deer and no bucks. We have not harvested a deer in 3 years. While I understand that there may be many deer in other parts of this unit I do not think this area has enough deer to sustain interest in our continuing to hunt there. Continuing to give out antlerless permits on the public portion of this unit will only make the problem worse. Your proposal of 375 is an improvement which I appreciate but why give out any? Thank you for your time...

I have seen fewer and fewer deer every year over the past few years. I have also seen more and more wolves and wolf sign. This year I literally saw as many deer as wolves. I think this is a direct correlation. Based on the tracks I’d say there is definitely more than one pack that frequent the area as well as individual wolves that stick around the areas. I also think that the baiting ban is the reason I’m seeing many more hunters since we all seem to gather to feeding areas now to hunt. Probably why we see more wolves since they too would be flocking to those areas looking for the same thing that the hunters are. Instead of spreading out the heard with baiting all over they congregate to locations of natural food sources such as oak ridges.

I own 45 acres by Amberg Wisconsin. I am never able to get a answer list deer tag for my property which I pay taxes on because everybody else always has them all right away in the morning. I work first shift so by the time I have time to even get online they are all gone. We feel that landowners should get priority On the Antlerless tags. People like myself that work very hard all year to get the deer population where it is don’t even get a chance to harvest one of the doe’s. This problem happens year after year. Please ask the landowners in the county if they would be interested in harvesting a doe once in a while. Thank you for your time.

Thank you for your out-reach and efforts. I generally rely on what I see/experience from one year to the next in forming my opinion(s). For example in 2018 I know for certain (as can be verified through my Snapshot program participation) my immediate deer population in the Northern Forest zone of Marinette County sustained vast fawn mortality primarily due to a resident coyote population. In 2019, the fawns fared much better from a survival standpoint. Neither of these events appeared to have any effect on the overall population. The not overly adverse winter has helped as well. I’m simply using those very basic examples to say the population appears to be doing well regardless; and your modeling and research efforts prove solid.

One of your proposed rule change is to not allow crossbow hunters to hunt during the rut is JUST PLAN WRONG. WE have just as much right to hunt during this time as anyone else. We pay for our license just like everyone else. We paid good money for our crossbows not to be able to hunt with them during the one time of year that we can actually see deer. Since we are unable to bait right now that’s just about the only time I started to see deer was after October 31st. I KNOW SOME HUNTERS THAT TOLD ME THEY WOULD QUIT HUNTING if that rule would be passed. I myself would probably quit crossbow hunting because I can’t afford to go out and buy a new vertical bow. SO PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS RULE TO CHANGE YOU WILL loose A LOT OF HUNTERS

I have seen a lot less deer over the past 30 years. I feel it’s a direct result of high doe quota’s. Reduce the number of doe permits for a few years and lengthen the gun season so hunters don’t have to compete so much for vacation time to hunt. You want younger people to hunt. Well and good. But their the ones without seniority in the workplace. Make a 3 week season and even if they can't get off, more will go on their days off. This could also increase the opportunity to hunt the rut and reduce competition for hunting areas as well as improve hunter safety with fewer people in close proximity to one another. There’s a good chance the deer won't be as skiddish and bedding down and staying put in a safe area so to speak.
I would fully support an antler limit being imposed on the northern forest zone of Marinette County. I would also support this state-wide. I believe we need to get young people EXCITED about deer hunting and the best way to do that is to ensure a healthy, mature buck population with proper QDM age-structure. When a youngster sees a large set of antlers it will get his or her heart pumping faster than any yearling spike or doe ever could. I truly believe that feeling is what will get an outdoorsman hooked on hunting for a lifetime! I would appreciate any DNR official to at least consider this idea. I also believe more hunters state-wide would support this than one might think. Thank you for your consideration!

I think the DNR is catering to the rich people who own their own land. When they say that my 2 gallons of corn is leading to deer swapping spit. Very seldom have I had more than 1 deer come into my bait at one time and if they did it was a doe with her fawn. Take your food plots and tell me when 10, 20 deer come into it they are not swapping saliva. You and I both know the answer. Another thing is even when you go up north you see lots more deer around the private land then public. Why? Last deer season bow hunting I saw 2 deer Gun season I saw nothing I put in hundreds of hours in the woods Good thing I enjoy the peace and quietness of the woods. I saw more bobcats, bears and coyotes than deer.

I have trail cameras up year round including one that is part of the snapshot program. I have seen fewer deer in recent years. I believe this to be caused by several factors. Many of these factors are hard or impossible to control (road kills, predators, winter). The easiest way to improve the deer herd in the area is to completely stop taking does for the time being. I personally have not taken a doe in years because of the drop in sightings. The easiest factor in all this to change is the amount of doe tags. Also the deer I do have in camera tend to be young. It is very rare to see a mature buck or doe on camera. The deer are not surviving past a couple years of age. Thanks

The fact that you are even considering giving out antlerless permits in the northern forest is completely irresponsible. You can make all the excuses that you want for the numbers being down but one thing to consider that none of you seem to talk about is the fact that there are not many deer in the woods. That is what my observations are anyway, along with 90% of other hunters that I speak with in the area. A ZERO quota should be put into effect for this year! Follow the lead of Forest County, directly next door with very similar topography as they push for zero quota this year. Give the herd a chance to make a legitimate rebound we will all be better off in the long run.

Thanks for the work all of you people do. I hunt county land exclusively in northern Marinette County as I have for 49 years. The county is doing logging operations on this land all the time which I would think would be great for deer and all other species. Every year for it seems like at least 5-10 years not only do I not see any deer but I don't even hear much shooting. Maybe 5-6 shots all day. I know there are some deer in the area, I can see the tracks. Is it that there are less or do they just not move around as much? Maybe there are not (enough) hunters to move them. I'm not sure. I just enjoy being in the woods but it would be nice to see a deer once in a while.

Been hunting up their my whole life. It would be nice if the DNR would go back to the $2.00 application fee for a chance to get a doe. Like the lottery. So if we do not get one this year, within at least 3 years we would get a doe tag (as long as you keep applying every year for that unit) How you have it now being at 10 on the computer, first come first serve most hunters get really disappointed because we never will get a chance to shoot a doe. Myself and my hunting group of 12 are meat hunters. Sure would be nice if we could shoot at least 5 does to get some meat for the freezer. Thank you and hopefully you and your staff will put this into consideration.
The deer herd is much too high, especially within the forest/farm boundary area. We own 80 acres and have significant damage to native flora and tree seedlings/saplings. Performing effective forest management is difficult, as herbivory is high. Hunting pressure has all but disappeared in +/- 20 years on the county forest surrounding our lands. Deer hunting is an important family tradition for us. We don't care about bagging the biggest buck, we want to manage the herd effectively and have healthy forests. We want to kill more does and feel hamstrung by the direction of Marinette and most other counties in northern WI wanting to increase the herd.

There are at most 20-25% of the deer there were 35 years ago. Even 20 years ago. Yet, your moronic numbers say the population is many times higher than it was back then. Stop killing antlerless deer and severely limit the buck harvest. When the population is 10 times what it is today your current numbers will then be correct.

I hunt in northern forest Marinette county for 30 years I will say 20 years ago it was normal to see 15 plus deer a day we stopped shooting does around us about 7 years ago because we were seeing less and less deer in the 2019 gun season I hunted 8 straight days and saw 4 does 2014,2015,never saw a deer 2017,17. 6 guys hunted private and public and saw 9 deer total in 8 days 2018 5 guys saw 7 deer in 8 days over the 30 years of hunting here we are seeing fewer and fewer deer in the 2019 season we saw more bears than deer I would say no doe tags gun or bow public or private for at least 3 plus years thank you for your time Sean fitzwilliams

I hunted gun season for 7 consecutive days. I had seen 4 deer. I use a climber and enter before sun up and come out by sun down. I don't leave for lunch or weather. After hunting for 40 years I find it becoming more discouraging to want to spend time when you don't even see a deer all day. Extremely unlikely to entice the next generation to get engaged in hunting. Please lower the public land quota to zero. Ran into others that were hunting forest zone with farmland antlerless permits. Told them they were in the wrong unit. They didn't seem to know the laws or boundaries. frustrating when I know we have been trying to raise the herd.

I think people that hunt public land should be able to hunt with 2 gallons of bait. Hunter's that own private land are able to plant food plots and farmers can sit over hundreds of acres of corn fields. This no baiting law discriminates against people that are not wealthy enough to own private land and is not fair. The number of hunters in Wisconsin is steadily decreasing. Part of that reason is because without baiting hunters don't see any deer and don't want to hunt. If the Wisconsin DNR wants to see the numbers of hunters increase they have to allow baiting. Making it illegal to bait deer is not going to stop or slow down CWD.

After hunting this unit for several years it's clear to see the lack of doe tags has severely upset the buck to doe ratio !! The number of does is tremendously compares to the bucks. By not having doe tags the hunters that were perfectly content shooting a doe verses a small buck are now forced to shoot that small buck if they want meat in the freezer. My recommendation is to have a limited number of doe tags and at the same time implement a point restriction of four points on one side to keep all the small bucks from being harvested. This will be a rough two year wait to see the results but it will have a definite pay off !!
5922 The wolf and winter kill is helping ruin the deer population as well as clear cut deforestation. The wolves are getting the benefit in areas where clear cutting is practiced. There are more wolves than the state of Wisconsin and the dnr realize. I'm hoping other hunters will tell you this as well. Having hunted the same area for 20 years I am finding the deer population rising in areas of large swamps where they can hide from predators, and decreasing in more open and hardwood areas where wolves and coyotes can hunt. Wolves need to be hunted under strict rules, and clearcutting needs to be limited in order to better conserve.

5923 There are simply just too many deer in the northeast part of the county. We can't drive down the road without constantly swerving for deer, can't keep a garden or apple trees. My property is over browsed. I planted 1700 Norway pine trees and the tops are all chewed off. I think a private property owner should automatically get a doe tag for any season to reduce the herd in this area. I also think the deer in Michigan testing positive for cwd was a political stunt of some sort. The only wils deer in hundreds of miles happens to be on a politicians farm. Sounds fishy to me. Then Michigan thinks it came from Wisconsin.

5924 I hunt and live on 40acres of what used to be unit 41 in Marinette co. I don't think the number of doe permits is sufficiently helping hunters or the herd. Not in my area any way. The number of doe permits needs to be raised, especially with us residents. The deer are so abundant, they trashed my cedar swamp. They eat all the seedlings. Then come to my yard and eat all the shrubs. It’s nothing to see 30 or 40 deer roaming the back roads on any given night going from yard to yard destroying gardens in the summer and shrubs in the winter. Give residents doe tag preference if you live on 40 acres or more in 1 parcel.

5925 This was my first time listening in on the CDAC meeting where recommendations were finalized. It was quiet alarming to me the "shot from the hip" approach to making decisions based on hear say, small sampling of sighting (by a few loggers) and gut feelings. In other words, quotes and decisions were made with there little actual evidence or true actual facts. There was one senior (maybe to old) coming up with his opinion based on the non-factual evidence mentioned above and the rest of the people in the forum feel in line and approved. So I was very disturbed by the DNR allowing this type of practice to be official.

5926 The DNR does not listen to people who live up there. The deer numbers are way down. Every year is a new batch of excuses like "the weather didn't afford people access", or "the rut was early". Trail cameras dont lie. Snowshoeing and observing deer yards in the winter dont lie. The deer are not there. Predators take the numbers down, winters take the numbers down, and you still have to get your money from the doe tags. It's really about money for you guys, not quality of deer hunting. And the 19 day gun hunt?! What an absolute joke. I hunt in Colorado and Wyoming also......this state is a joke compared to them.

5927 Over the past few years the deer population has declined greatly. Part of the reason may be the release and increase of the number of wolves. There is also an increase in the bear population. It almost makes hunting less fun because you may not even see a deer the whole season or you may see one or two and thats sad. I feel like better measures need to be taken to help increase the deer population because if we don’t take care if what we have now, we won’t have anything in the future. I also feel like the number of farm tags should be regulated. A lot of farmers take advantage of being able to get so many tags.

5928 Personally I believe that preventing hunting the week before the 9 day season would be extremely detrimental for the archery season. Even though the archery season is the longest deer season out of all the deer seasons most of the archery deer are harvested during this week. As to the extended gun season, I do not believe that it is a length of season problem. I believe that it is a timing problem. Having the gun season so late in November is the reason for the 2019 lack of harvests. As many people saw the rut was practically over before the season even started. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Our hunting group of between 20-25 has been hunting the same Marinette county forest area for over 50 years and several generations. Four or 5 deer (mostly bucks) used be the norm for opening weekend. The past number of years that average has dropped to maybe 2 with occasional years that we don’t harvest any. I personally believe that it has to do with a higher predator population of which we see more wolf and bear tracks in the area. Most likely these predators may need more population control in order for deer numbers to rise namely, the grey wolves and possibly bears and coyotes.

The wolves, large coyote packs, bobcats, and of course bear are much more of an issue than back in the 1970’s when we began hunting the Dunbar area. Coyotes and some bobcats and bear have been there all along, but the wolves have absolutely made an impact. We often see pair of tracks and packs of 4 tracks that come out of the Coleman Lake Club. The deer herd now is a fraction of what it was in the 1970’s and 1980’s. We are overrun with bear as well, since it takes 10 to 12 years to get a shooting permit. The spring fawns have an uphill battle against the predators.

As i have hunted there the past 25 years I have seen the deer herd going down the last 2 years, I see way to many wolves and bears in the woods when I am hunting. I believe there should be more bear tags handed out and no one should be waiting 12 years for a tag the bear are as thick as rats. Also someone has to wake up and start eliminating some of the wolves in the north. If everyone thinks they are so great then lets transplant them to the Madison area and watch the herd grow. I believe the deer herd struggles enough just because of the winters that are in that area.

When applying for the public land antlerless tag, the process is concerning. I have been trying for many years to get a tag and get on the site early the application process only to miss out on a tag because they seem to be gone in seconds..this needs to be fixed. Or give everyone who buys a license to get a doe tag..many of us hunt for sport and meat..it is great to get a buck but not necessary to hunt just for big racks..big racks are big business and it creates land access issues and a terrible attitude against hunters who don’t mind taking a spike or a doe...

Other than someone feeding them out of their backyard, the deer are few and far between in this area. It’s kind of sad trying to get my kids into the hunt in this area. We have resolved to just knowing that we will hunt opening weekend and not get anything and then hunt around our house in Waupaca County to harvest our deer. It’s too bad that they might never get to know the experience of going up north for the hunt with high expectations. At least we have a few options. I feel bad for all of the people that come up north only having this area to hunt.

Haven’t hunted in Wisconsin consistently in 4 years due to military service. I have been home and have been to the family cabin and have walked the area where I gun hunt. Nowhere near as many deer as I used to see. Would just like to let the numbers higher because my brothers stopped hunting because of it being too boring when they sit all day and see nothing. Even seeing a deer whether it be a buck or doe makes young hunters excited and want to keep up with the sport. I truly think there should be an antlered only unless the hunter is under 18.

The state needs to work to get back management of the wolf population. When re-introduction was done, there was a population goal set and in all honesty I believe your wolf numbers in the state are 30 to 50 percent low. The last time the state had a hunting / trapping season some areas didn’t even make 2-3 weeks open (if I remember correctly) and the quota was reached. That is a good indicator our population is high. I know people who quit hunting northern Marinette county because of high numbers of wolves and the lack of deer in them areas.

I would recommend considering extending deer gun season to 16 days which would allow 3 full weekends giving more people opportunity to hunt. We have noticed that in our area the seasons tend to be too late (post rut) and there are fewer hunters moving deer resulting in seeing fewer deer. This is discouraging especially to younger hunters. Start a week earlier than traditional opening and remain open thru the Thanksgiving week. I feel expanding the season by one week might very well encourage more people to participate and aid herd control.
I personally think you should get rid of the holiday hunt. Leave the rest of deer season the same. Leave the crossbow season the same. And leave our 9 day gun season the same. I think the reason the 2019 gun season was down was because the rut was mostly over. I would also like to add I think more people enjoy crossbow hunting do to the better weather conditions. So I would personally leave the crossbow season the same. Younger hunters are starting to get into hunting since we have a longer crossbow season. Thank you for allowing my input.

With all the Bears, Wolf's, Bobcats, Coyotes we need to keep the deer population higher until they lower the number of predators. Hunting the public forest land for 37 years I have seen the deer heard go down and the predators go up. When I first started hunting if you saw a bear or bobcat, even a coyote you would tell that story all year long to your friends. Now when you enter the woods you see 1 of these predators 3 out of 5 times. Please keep the antlerless permits low in the northern part of Marrenitte county low. Stay Healthy!!!

In northern forest of Marinette county the deer population has been decimated over the years by harvesting to many does, by heavier snowfall than usual, and predators namely wolves. Last season was the first year I hunted with my 10 year old son on opening weekend. We saw one deer. One! I have sat in the same spot for 25 years and have never seen only 1 deer on opening weekend. Back in the day I would see at a minimum of 10 deer each day on opening weekend and would harvest a nice buck almost every year and letting smaller bucks live.

I don't like the antlerless tag purchase option ..the license sellers near us take names and same people get them every year and don't stand in line like everyone else ! lower the amount of land needed to get land owner antlerless deer tags to 35 or something less than 40 acres . In our area there are three of us land owners with 36 to 38.75 acres due to listed county right of way easements . Then we have a landowner that owns 8 forties and doesn't hunt so we have an abundance of does that we haven't been able to thin out.

I spent a lot of time hunting in the area. I saw more deer in 2019 than 2018. I strongly believe that 2020 is going to be a better year. With short winter a a lot of acorn on the ground for picking. There are also a lot of standing corn into the middle of winter. I have never seen this much standing corn field in wisconsin in my recent memory. I also hunt western part of the state and I saw fields with standing corn over there too. I strongly believe that with the abondun of food many fawns should make it through the winter.

We have hunted the same forest area for almost 50 years- this season was 1st time I saw only 3 deer in about 10 days of bow season AND not a single Deer in 31/2 days of Gun season. Marinette County needs to be split so Farmland may have Antlerless tags BUT the Western County forest public land needs to be ZERO antlerless tags for few years and place a minimum 3 points on a side for Buck tags as was done many years ago- this will stop hunters from shooting too many yearling bucks that never get to mature into mature bucks.

There's a big problem in some of the areas of Marinette County. With not being able to harvest does for so many years we have a overpopulation. In my Area I would say I have 15 does--to one buck I really believe as Hunters we have a responsibility control are heard in our area. I just wish that there are more Hunters that we could count on to do that correctly. Too many people out there think that if you give them five tags they should kill five animals. I honestly don't think half my does get bread every year.

I want to see bigger bucks. We need some way to protect bucks. Everyone shooting spikes and forks is not good. I know some Michigan counties have an antler restriction to 8 points or above. That would help. Also, I feel a hunter should only be able to harvest one buck per year. Not one buck per weapon! Also, the group party hunting should stop. I have a friend that shot multiple bucks to fill others tags. This is not sporting and hurts on the age structure of bucks. I think every buck he shot was a spike!

We have to start saving up for the kids to go hunting because my cuz. Kids are lossing interested in hunting because they don't see anything now. When I was hunting when I was a kid hunting with my dad you seen herds after herds you don't see that this days. I'm almost ready to stop going hunting because there's no deer out there. I think that go back to the way we use to hunt in stead of making more days to hunt. This goes for the youth hunt for bow and gun. I do not see to extend or make the season longer.
I wish Wisconsin could get over their carved in stone annual nine day deer season and go to a 15 day deer season like Michigan. This gives all hunters a better chance to enjoy the sport of hunting deer when their jobs or other circumstances stop them from doing so. This is also true for the spring turkey season which should have been changed to allowing hunters to hunt any season & zone between April 15'th and May 27'th. It's quite surprising to me that with the Covid 19 that this wasn't done!

I am very concerned about the NRB's proposal that would do away with the Northern Forest/Central Farmland units in Marinette County. For as long as the CDAC system has been in force, the goal for Northern Forest has to increase the herd and the goal in Central Farmland has been to decrease the herd. Obviously, no "one size fits all" county-wide plan would accomplish these diametrically opposed goals simultaneously. I would strongly support keeping the present structure intact. Thank you.

Baiting is still an issue even though supposedly stopped. Check out the amount of corn and apples still being sold at convenience stores etc. I am not a baiter and have never been, but do use scents when appropriate. Hunting large public blocks is what I prefer, but it seems that my 60 + years of hunting skills are not on par with trucked in corn and apples. I would also like to see the rut season swap between bow and gun season to hunt the rut as a gun hunter.

Where I hunt on private land, we are overrun with bears. We see them all the time. I've had 2 adults and 3 cubs in the same frame on my trail camera. I understand we're supposed to be talking about deer, I think we NEED to reduce the bear population to allow the deer herd to grow. On an average year, I normally see 2-3 adult does with assorted fawns, usually 1 and an assortment of bucks on my camera. Last year the biggest buck was barely a 6 pt. thank you for reading my comments.

Hello, I am a private land owner and hunt public land in the northern forest zone. When I hunt public land (Marrinette County Forest) I notice it is not that busy except for the opening weekend of the deer gun season. I've yet to be able to acquire an antlerless tag for private or public. I'm fine with that, but have you considered more public land antlerless tags for archery and gun seasons? As far as the private land antlerless tags, according to the numbers, looks spot on.

The deer population here is higher than the reasonable environmental carrying capacity. The deer are not allowing trees to regenerate in forests. The deer paths are so beaten down they look like cow paths. Predators are not even putting a dent in the deer population. There are deer vehicle accidents in Marinette County daily. If hunting is not used to bring down the deer population, disease will do the job. Better to use hunters to lessen the deer population than using disease.

I have been in the Goodman Park area for 32 years and our camp for 67 years. This was one the worst years ever up there. There is 4 camps of hunter which is around 60 hunters, 4 bucks and 7 does were taken between all of the camps together. Nobody is seeing anything and there isn't much sign either. There is ALOT of wolf sign and you can hear them alot too. Lots of wolf tracks and also cat tracks. Until the wolf population is controlled, there will not be many deer.

Hunter population on public land has dwindled severely over the past 35 years. This was not due to hunter population situation, but the lack of animals to harvest, which in-turn, led to less hunters. The remaining deer population has seemed to become nocturnal with the slightest presence of human activity in the woods. Wolf activity has also changed their behaviors, almost cyclical to sightings/hearing wolves, the deer seem to disappear from area for a couple of days.

The deer season structure and weapon specific seasons the past few years have been very good. I would not be in favor of any major changes to weapon use, especially reductions to crossbow seasons. I am a conservation patron license holder who hunts with all types of gear. With the loss of Hunter numbers nationwide anything that might infringe on Hunter recruitment is not good. Crossbow seasons are a great way to get new hunters involved with a short learning curve.
I have heard of some regulations proposed to boost the harvest numbers during gun season. I heard that there was talk of closing the archery season the week before gun season. This is one of the worst ideas I have ever heard of, and many others have now hunted for years and the rut it one of the most thrilling and fun times to get out there. Closing the season for literally the best week of the year often would decrease the kill and leave many hunters upset.

2019 was Terrible hunting season! spending many hours in the woods only to see very few deer. Baiting still going on widely even though illegal. predator are on the increase especially bears. it seems on my trail cameras i get more pictures of bears then deer. I been coming up here my whole life hunting and believe the bear population grew a 100%. Must continue to keep alantenerless tags low until population increases or make buck only for a year or two.

I have been hunting the same area for 38 years. I up until about ten years ago I used to get a buck every year. the group I hunt with would tag out most years. its not that way today. we ended up with 3 bucks and 1 doe for 26 hunters. Back in the day we had no wolves and very few bow hunters. the deer have gotten very nocturnal from being bow hunted. the youth hunt doesn't help either. we cant be killing does until we get rid of the wolf.

I think the baiting ban imposed is a joke and the DNR knows it. Deer herd up in the winter and always have and that has never caused CWD. The DNR and anybody with a brain knows where CWD originated and where it continues to spread. It was never seen until the start of corporate deer farms. Do your job and eliminate them, root cause, and it will make controlling CWD much easier, don’t blame baiting for the spread of it, it’s a joke and you know it.

I am sick and tired of paying for expensive licenses, and the costs to get me to the hunt. Tired off seeing wolf’s constantly !!! Two years ago had 4 different wolves run past me on opening day, within 40 yards!!!! And not at the same time!! And other sightings through the years.. Thinking about quitting deer hunting like many other people around me. When you sit for days from dark to dark and see nothing.. What do think is going to happen?

Hi, I think at the moment it would be best to leave as is and let the population of deer come back to its natural order. I’m all for giving kids and first time hunters the ability to harvest either a buck or doe like the hunters choice back in the day. I’m getting a little older myself so harvesting a deer isn’t so much important to me but growing up having that thrill every morning was amazing. Keep hunting alive in Wisconsin!

The goal for this DMU is to increase deer population. The CDAC has not met this primary objective to date. Dave stated - if we issue antlerless tags - the kill will happen. So, if the tags are issued we can expect once again to not met the prime directive. So, the CDAC would purposefully be making recommendations counter to its purpose. If the CDAC refuses to do their job - which is to increase the deer population in this DMU, then .......

I would like to see a early gun hunting season and a longer one. Maybe nov.15- nov. 30. It works in Michigan why not Wisconsin. I feel that the junior hunting season should be suspended for 3 years to let all hunters have a chance at harvesting deer. I would like to see more deer in the woods like I did when I was a kid. Early hunts should be for everyone not just for kids. We are not showing our kids of the true meaning of deer hunting.

I have been hunting "Up North" my entire life. It is something me and my family look forward to every year. I am quite disappointed with the mismanagement of the deer population in Marinette County over the last decade. With all due respect to who reads this, the number of deer hunters will continue to decrease until something is done with in regards to providing a better opportunity for deer hunters to be successful in Marinette County.

The quota was 500 last year and you gave out 1425 tags total between public and private. This year you're saying it will be a 500 quota again but you're giving out a total of 1625 tags. Check your math, that doesn't add up. Regardless, there should be no tags allotted this year in the northern forest zone. Back to back winters with deep snow. Everyone is seeing way less deer the past few years. And the harvest numbers support that.
Predator is at an all time high especially with coyotes it would be nice if all land owners could participate in control which at time spooks the deer population and makes it hard to hunt deer. I also believe there is an abundance of deer on the north side of hwy 180 in wausaukee changing deer management units would help and it would be nice to actually get a doe tag for up there instead of buck only every year. Thankyou for your time

I strongly believe the youth doe tags are filled as often or more by adults, which is very difficult to police...however, when bonus tags are very limited, there is more incentive for adults to use those tags and showing youth that there is grey area in “ethical hunting”. I get increasing harvest opportunities for youth but the hunting culture that I see in northern Marinette county is not conducive to ethical use of youth bonus tags.

Allow 2 gal of bait for hunters over 65 and handicap hunters. If you want to keep the elderly hunting and introduce young hunters the grandparents do it. They no longer can beat the brush like they did years ago so they have to bring deer to them with the use of some bait. If something isn’t done you will lose both young and old. I’m 76 with a bad heart and pad in my leg arteries. I like to hunt but is getting awful hard lately.

Close all deer hunting seasons December 24th to allow families to enjoy all winter outdoor activities in the northwoods for the holiday season and beyond. The hunters, which I am one of have more than enough time to harvest a deer. The long seasons especially interfere with the snowmobile season at holiday time when families are able to get together. This also cuts in to the amount of money spent for recreation in the northwoods.

I am against the baiting ban in Northern Marinette county. This makes bow hunting public land much more difficult. Many private land owners can plant food plots to attract deer within bow range for a clean shot. This is not possible on public land. I have 4 boys that I am trying to get interested in deer hunting. Without the opportunity to see a fair number of deer and a chance to shoot one, they will quickly lose interest.

I have 2 sons and only reason they come to our cabin for deer hunting is because of my father and myself if we pass away they won’t go. As for last 3yrs the 2 boys together have seen 3 deer. No bucks and i won’t let them shoot a doe as we haven’t seen enough deer. I been hunting here for 38 when i started hunting at 12yrs i would at least see 5 deer opening weekend now i sit all day and maybe see 1 deer. Kids need to see deer.

I hope the DNR/NRB/Legislature does not consolidate Marinette county into one DMU. If they do I suggest all members of the CDAC should resign since they will have made your job impossible. There is no reason to have a local council if they are not going to allow decisions to be made with local knowledge. I cannot imagine the DNR staff from the Wausaukee office want this change since it ignores their input as well.

Get rid of farm tags my father and I have 80 acres of property next to a farm that has turkey and deer crop damage tags my dad had a turkey tag for the first season and we couldn’t even hunt turkeys on our property due to people shooting turkeys days even weeks before the season even started it’s pretty depressing that we pay so much in taxes for recreational property and can’t even call in a single turkey.

Cut out antlerless hunting and decrease the total number of Wolves in Norther WI. The deer populations are far lower than in the past and I would say that the deer are being targeted by Wolves. I would only allow young hunters to take antler less deer to keep them involved in the sport. But hearing Wolves every year for the past 5 or so makes me feel that they have taken more deer than anything else.

I believe there are a couple pockets of Deer herds in this unit that should be allowed to harvest Antlerless deer on private land only North or 180 east of hwy 141 and south of county highway k in Amberg “One example” but i don’t think there should be any public land doe tags available for this entire unit. Private tags should be limited to around 500 and the farmers that have crop damage can get permits.

Why so many buck permits. My property is overrun with does. I hunted cross bow, muzzleloader and rifle and saw one buck, A small 6 pointer that I harvested. Half the does that I observe from my living room window, do not get bred. When I lived in New Mexico, you got one buck permit. If you used it to harvest a buck, that was it. Stop thinking in $$ and give the bucks a chance to mature.
You need to allow bow hunters to be able to harvest a buck or a doe like they could in the past. I bow hunt an area that there are very few hunters and I never see a buck during the day. It is extremely frustrating never seeing a buck. I am never able to get a doe permit and I don’t feel a bow hunter should have to. The should have a choice. It is hard enough to get within shooting distance of a doe.

If your going to limit the number of doe tags in the upper county's as much as you have the past few years. I would like to see the tags put in a point system like bear hunting. The gamble of getting a tag with the go wild system sucks. A lot of hunters are at work when they go on sale. I gone several years not getting a tag through this system. I would like to have a fair shot at getting a tag.

Give everyone in the county one doe tag for the year and then a buck tag for bow season and a buck tag for gun season. Or one doe tag and one buck tag for the year to be used during either gun or bow not everyone that hunts is looking for something to put on the wall but being able to harvest a doe would be able to put meat in the freezer for the year and still allow you to wait on a trophy.

My proposal would be to have a camp deer harvest of one doe per camp until you reach a certain number instead of bonus or youth hunt deer! A lot of these youth hunt deer are shot by adults! Also I would like to see more than a piece of paper for a license! Not waterproof or tear proof! For the amount we pay for a license we should get a better Thing. To prove we purchased a license! Thanx!

Their should not be a separation of doe permits between private and public lands. The deer don’t know the difference between private and public land. Why should somebody who hunts on 20 acres of private land surrounded by public land have a greater opportunity to receive a doe permit over somebody who hunts on public land. This just does not make sense and needs to be corrected.

I like the season framework as we currently had in 2019. I like the opportunity of being able to use my crossbow during the archery season. I wish hunters supported each other more and their choice of weapon instead of different groups ganging up against each other. I enjoy seeing the sighting of deer on a hunt but understand that we need to consider the impact of the herd.

I have said this in the past not enough deer we have tried to increase deer numbers in our area by only shooting bucks and that is maybe 1 per 10 guys we might get 1 and no does and this year didn’t see a deer all gun season and you want to increase antlerless numbers you are nuts we all need to see more deer cut back on the antlerless permits I do hunt in northern zone thanks.

One problem I have heard of: A person I worked with would hunt antlerless deer on public land but not on land he owns. He did not want to kill "his" does, but still wanted to harvest a doe. His thinking being it was easier to kill a doe. (He does not hunt in the same DMU as I do.) I know this doesn’t pertain directly to Marinette county, but I think it is a problem regardless.

Concerned over how low the deer population has become over the last few years for our specific area. Hunting party of 10 had only six sightings during the entire gun season. No shots taken. There have been rumors that the dates of the future hunting season may change and/or be extended. I feel that these changes would not improve our harvest nor our hunting experience.

Did not see any deer at all in the Northern Forest Zone. Neither did any of the 6 people with me. Numbers of sighted deer are significantly lower during the past three hunts than they were previously. Our overall harvest is down 75%, when compared to just 3 years ago. Human habitation has increased in our area (just south of Niagara). I really appreciate your efforts!

More hunters are looking for trophy bucks and if you would start shooting bucks with at least 4 points or more on one side in a couple of years you would have awesome bucks and would draw more hunters even more out of state hunters right now with the wolf problem and high bear count the deer population is down so shooting less does and let smaller bucks go would really help.
I am a disabled hunter now and can't use a compound bow anymore. I want to be able to crossbow hunt from Sept to Dec. I see 25 doe to 1 buck on my property. I have 15 acers and believe I should be able to take a doe or 2 every year without the lottery system. I also believe we should be able to bait the deer. Since most of the deer on my cameras are from 11pm to 4 am.

I went to the meetings every year trying to get area 45 split up into two units forest in farmland with no results for years. Now you went to Counties , private and public farm land or forest, my opinion you went from doing nothing to totally messing up the units, 2020 I’m hunting in Indiana, Wisconsin made such a mess of the deer hunting I will no longer hunt in Wisconsin.

Please allow baiting again in the northern forest zone. I take my grand son out with me to get him interested in hunting but it's very hard to get him interested when we sit for hours and sometimes days before seeing any deer even does. IT WAS'NT LIKE THAT WHEN WE WERE ALLOWED TO BAIT. At least than we could watch does come in and that would at least keep his interest.

DMU 45 should be two separate units. The northern part is mostly national forest with very little crops. While the southern part is mostly private land with many acres of crops for deer to browse. I feel a lot of the hunting pressure is in the north on public land where deer populations are much smaller than in the southern part where it is mostly private land.

2019 our hunting group of 5 hunted all week of the gun season. We never seen a single deer. Could barely find a track after it snowed. Had 4 trail cameras out for a month before the gun season and saw only a couple deer on them. But did get lots of wolf pictures. Make the antlerless permits 0 for 2020. Very few deer in the northern forest zone on public land.

the DNR and governmental authorities need to strictly enforce the ban on feeding / baiting deer. It is out of hand. In my area, almost all the private landowners have feeding stations set up. Nothing is done about it. I know you are spread thin but maybe we should deputize others in county govt to enforce. Its really bad for hunting and for the deer.

We have seen considerable drop in numbers of not only bucks and does also, seem to have an increase in predators, see bear on a regular basis compared to previous years on cameras regularly, also bobcats and coyotes seem to be increasing. Have been wolves but not regularly. Disappointed to find several does that did not make it through the winter.

My "opinion" is there might be enough deer, but to many hunts that force the nocturnal movement for regular seasons. Propose moving gun season earlier, joining with youth and handicap hunts. Then extend season for 3 weeks. I have been hunting for 30 years and the last 10 have been pathetic, probably our party's last year if something doesn't change.

There isn't enough hunters on County Forest land. On our 80 abutting 4000 - 5000 acres of County Forest, the red oaks have multiple tops from continually getting bit off in the winter and the deer are out in the cornfield looking for leftovers even after a foot or more of snow and first thing in the spring because there isn't enough to eat.

Deer populations north of highway 8 are much lower than to the south. Wolves are becoming quite populated on the north side of 8 as well. For this reason amount of doe tags need to be dropped lower. Private land tags can stay the same because south of highway 8 where deer populations are higher have a higher concentration of private land.

The herd is slowly rebounding in my opinion. We had over 18 inches of snow in the middle of march and that made it hard for deer movement. It gradually melted over the next couple of weeks, But definitely put a stress on the deer-which means some fawns will not be born, or born in poor shape. I recommend 0 antlerless permits for 2020.
I believe the bear population in northern Marinette county is much higher than past years. Bears along with coyotes and wolves are having a noticeable impact on the deer population. Without increasing the number of bear tags or allowing wolf hunting the only way to offset their impact is to reduce human impact by taking less doe.

It seems like the deer population has us increase tremendously in Marinette northern forest. I could not receive a tag last year for Doe On public land even though I saw many more deer from the previous year. So far through the spring I have traveled several times throughout the county and have seen more deer than most past years.

I just feel we could back off on the doe tags a little. We've had two consecutive winters of deep snow. We always seem to exceed the quota with all the extra tags (junior etc.) in addition to the regular antlerless permits. The deer numbers don't seem like they are increasing much in my area. If anything, they are going down.

Predator populations are out of control. The time to get a bear permit is excessive especially when compared to heavy deer population units that could use more natural predators. I believe the current wait to get a bear permit in marinette county is over 9 years where it is under 3 in units with out of control deer populations.

I am a land owner in Marinette County. I can hunt both Private and Public land. My concern is on how the Anterless Tags are sold. With the sale being online and starting at 10:00am on a Monday Morning, it is very difficult, if not impossible for some people to step away from their jobs and log in to the Go Wild site.

I have noted the lack of Sugar Maple regeneration due to sapling removal presumably by deer after the saplings reach about 6 inches tall. Some people blame earthworms but but that, I think, is disproved by maples growing within fenced areas around apple trees. I do not know whether this is true on public property.

Thank you for all that you do, I feel that we need to continue with the the direction we are heading for the northern part of the Marinette county. To make big changes in our deer season length ect I believe is a knee jerk reaction to a poor gun season that had many contributing factors coming together all at once.

I hunt in the national forest. Near chickadee road. Last year i saw a lot more padded paw prints than hooved prints. In the last 3 years there has been no gun shots in the area. When i put my deer camera up last year. I only got pictures of Black Bears. You need to increase the bear quota in this area.

If most of the deer are being shot on private land than there should be some way of encouraging an increase in population on public. If private land owners own more than 20 acres then the public should have limited access during the gun deer season to hunt on private without permission. No favoritism.

I used to be a avid hunter on public land in the area. Since the adaptation of youth hunts and seeing wasted animals lying around, I have really no desire to be in the woods after the special hunt. in conjunction with hunts the devastation of forestry to the area. Really took the joy out of it for me.

I believe it would be beneficial to decrease the number of anterless permits available as well and finding a way to increase the number of bear permits available. I see bear on a regular basis while bow hunting and also during the gun season this past season. A wolf hunt is necessary as well.

Bring back the back tag. It helps with trespassers. Can get their number without having to confront anyone.

Very important Allow baiting. Many are still doing it, and the ones who follow the rules are the ones who suffer. Deer go to the bail piles Limit the amount you can put down.

There is not the number of deer in this unit that the DNR say’s there is. The only way to keep people hunting and especially the younger generation is to have more deer to see and bigger bucks with all the doe tags many young bucks are killed and don’t even have a chance to grow up.

I do not see any significance to increases in CWD from baiting deer! Deer are normaly social animals with each other. So there is always close contact, whether it be licking, rubbing or playing with one another. If you keep making more rules you are going to lose more license revenue.
I am very against having a doe (antlerless) hunt following the rut, it's makes no sense to me. I also believe the only special hunt should be for the Veterans... you may like the youth hunt, but there aren't that many honest hunters out there... Thank you for the opportunity.

The deer population has yet to recover from the deer slaughter of the 1990s. Cedar trees have not been eaten on. Unless you are feeding your lucky to see more than 5 deer during the rifle season. CLOSE THE DEER HUNTING FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR. A the very least stop antler deer seasons.

In the last 10 years the deer herd is significantly reduced I have hunted for 40 years with friends who have hunted for 55 years - we just don’t see many deer. My friend has 80 acres and the change in numbers is huge. But we also see many many bears. Is there a correlation? You tell me.

There are a ton more predators in the woods. We have seen many more wolves and coyotes in this unit. We need to open a season on wolves, and allow the deer population to overcome this predation. The businesses in this area depend on hunters. We need to keep the population thriving!

Been seeing less and less deer every year. People are harvesting doe in late season when that doe is pregnant and will provide us with more deer next season. Stop giving doe permits in certain counties. Giving doe permits where the deer herd is low is just plain old stupid!

With the new way of going online on certain days and times depending on what unit you are in, I feel hunters are frustrated with the process. I believe going back to the application with a deadline for antlerless tags was a better process. It gives everyone a fair chance.

Stop the baiting! In the snow you see deer tracks going from house to house cleaning out the bait piles and back in the woods you can't find a track. If you don't stop feeding the deer, then the hunter should have the right to road hunt because that is where the deer are.

I believe the DNR should eliminate all the special hunts as get back to the standard bow season, 10 day rifle and muzzleloader seasons. To hunt every day of the gun deer season in 2019 and only see 2 deer is unacceptable. The amount of tags given to each hunter too many.

There are fewer deer on public land for 2 reasons 1. Bear hunters chance all deer onto private land where they can stay underestedered. 2.4 wheelers do the same. But we both no it's not about the deer, it's about the money, an bear an ATV's mean more money for the state.

I've hunted in this area for the past 30 years. There is absolutely no shortage of deer by my. The biggest issue is the buck to doe ratio. It's somewhere around 20 to 25 doe per buck. Permits are way to limited for antlerless deer and are difficult to obtain.

With limited permits we need the preference point system back. I mean really what are the odds of ever getting a chance at a permit when they go on sale on a workday with 375 permits they are gone in minutes. just asking for a fare chance at a permit. PLEASE.

I seen one deer over opening weekend. I do not like the system in place to register your harvest. I think too many hunters do not register there deer and are taking multiple deer. I also think the bow season is too long and forgo the extra antlerless season.

According to photos on our trail cameras, there were fewer deer on our 17 acre property in 2019 versus 2018. In 2018, we viewed 5 different bucks throughout summer/fall. In 2019, only 1 occasionally was photoed. Was an interesting and curious change.

Friend hunted on public forest land. Surprised by deer on the run from behind, no shot attempted because of surprise and shocked again when spotting either coyote or wolf on trail of deer. I believe the deer population is way down from predators.
I personally think the northern forest boundary should be moved north up to hwy. 8. Where I hunt just north of the boundary, there's many, many deer. Does have to outnumber bucks 5 to 1. Trying to get a bonus tag is like trying to win a lottery.

Bring back the baiting small amounts. It's been 3 years and you said it would be reviewed to open up the baiting again. If you want to control the heard this is needed because the deer have gone to moving at night only. Baiting helps make them move.

Antlerless permits need to be distributed through a lottery in order to give all people who would like to get a permit and equal chance at getting a permit. The first come, first served policy currently is discriminatory against people with jobs.

I believe the Predator kill is underestimated in Marinette Forest unit we are seeing less deer sightings with investing more hours in the tree stand I believe 0 antlerless tags to be given out to increase the deer herd at a faster rate thank you.

The high predictor population in this zone is having adverse effect on deer numbers. Extremely high number of bears. It is very difficult to pattern deer with out the use of baiting. Bowhunting is difficult with the bear dogs running constantly.

Get rid of the baiting ban your only making deer hunting a rich mans sport rich people don't need to hunt public land they own their own or lease land I've hunted in a lot of Wisc and am sure cwd has been around a lot longer than the DNR knows.

I hunted Goodman Park area [east] for gun season and saw only 3 deer Also other hunters in area said there were lots of wolves around This was not a good season Our hunting group got 1 buck out of 12 hunters wolves need to be controlled more

I don’t hunt simple for the harvest. I enjoy the outdoors and love the challenge that bow hunting provides. I don’t have a lot of free time to hunt as much as I would like, so when I do have a chance to go, it would be nice to see more deer.

I don't believe there should be any antlerless quota in the Northern Forest unit since deer killed by wolves and bears is already too high. WE need to build the herd up and allowing an antlerless harvest makes this even less likely.

The area I hunted had much fewer deer this past year. I think a good indication of this was we saw very little sign and no wolves. Normally we see several wolves throughout the season and throughout the area we hunt south of Goodman.

I would eliminate the private/public permits and simply allow land owners first chance at purchase. After all our taxes pay for the public land as well. I have land to hunt on. I would be nice to also hunt on the nearby public land.

Much of the lower populations in northern Marinette county is due to violators. Especially in the Pembine and Niagara areas. Increased Warden presence in these places could hopefully prevent a portion of these illegally taken deer.

The deer herd seems to be coming back slowly as your presentation suggests. Lasts couple of winters have been tough but I have seen less wolf but more bear. I have seen good amount of both buck and doe early bow season last year.

I think the DNR needs to leave the deer season alone and let be the same every year. Tradition for the gun season before Thanksgiving is a way for friends to be together and the bow/crossbow season needs to stay as it has been.

I dont like the talk of limiting crossbow hunting. I'm a crossbow hunter and this would affect the number of days I could hunt. It's not any easier to get a deer within 40 yards of you with a crossbow, than with a compound bow.
I believe the predation by bear and wolves are higher than people think. I also believe the DNR should STOP giving out multiple tags for all these units. It is very frustrating sitting in a woods and not seeing a single deer.

There should be a limit on the size of bucks shot in this area such as 3 or more points on one side. To many small bucks are being harvested by people that come from out of town and do not care about the deer population.

We both use walkers. We’d like to at least feed 1 quart of corn so that we could actually have a shot at seeing a deer coming in with the range since we can’t go chasing after them. We have not seen a deer in two years.

Eliminate public, private, forest and farm designations for antlerless permits and just have a number of permits for the management unit as was the case before this new complicated and failing system was introduced.

We need to see more deer. Hunted public land saw few hunters and few deer. Saw bear and coyotes on trail cameras. The few does I saw were average size, no young deer. It appears fawns are not making it to the fall.

I would like to see landowners get a preference to obtaining 1 bonus antlerless tag. As a landowner, it is really hard to get a tag with the limited number available and the huge number of non-landowners applying.

Getting a doe permit is rather difficult for this zone. Can't it be a points system rather than first come first served? I've been trying for years with no success. I see doe every year but never a permit.

The problem I have with the way we have to get our tags is very wrong. I don’t have the ability to get on line to sit there to get a permit. I Have to Go to Work. That’s being Selective to a few not all people.

Very few hunters in the Marinette county forest land I hunt. Love the area but deer hunting has been very poor for 5 plus years. We are finally starting to see the deer coming back in our area don't kill every dam doe like the dnr did years ago we have enough deer killed by coyotes and wolves on our 30 acers 2 this last winter. 

Thank you for the excellent information. The only thing that has ruined our deer hunting in northern Marinette county are the wolves. What happened to the supposed 250 wolves for the entire state?
I think people should be able to use corn as bait because the deer still eat from the same fields and food plots and drink from the same watering holes. Banning baiting doesn't make any sense.

I have been hunting in northern Marinette County for 35 years. I have seen the deer population go DOWN over the course of many years. Stop the harvesting of does during bow and gun seasons!

Let's try to rebuild the deer population to much larger numbers, the new hunter's are are going to become discouraged and not hunt. I feel the same way about the south east areas as well.

We need DNR enforcement presence. How many deer were also harvested illegally. When 8 people gun hunt for 7 of the nine day season and do not see a single deer there is a problem here.

The gun deer season needs to be lengthened to a 14 day season with a buck and doe tag issued to each license holder with a earn a buck option if tag is used for an extra buck to shoot.

Predation from bear on fawns is up from a larger bear population along with no control of wolves and less hunting of coyotes has lead to less deer sightings and less turkey as well.

There are no damn deer in this unit!!! Theres too many wolves, no one is harvesting trees, there are no hunters because there are NO DEER Stop with all the damn different seasons.

During the 2018 and 2019 gun deer season I saw more bear and wolves than deer. I've hunted these same woods 40+ years and the deer population is NOT growing; it is shrinking.

Do a manual verification of deer numbers not a best guesstimate. I am certain the numbers will vary significantly and then allow you to adjust accordingly for permit numbers.

Based on my 23 years experience hunting the North Eastern section of this unit, if we want the deer population to increase, we should make this unit a 0 quota area for does.

Antlerless tags on public lands should be zero. Get rid of on-line registration and go back to a tag and registration Close all deer hunting the 5 days before the gun opener.

2019 was abnormal deer season for deer movement so the general public will react to that. However, deer population is likely greatly affected by bear population in spring.

Always concerned about diseases within the unit and nearby units. Am weary that we are about to see a resource being subjected to high rates of CWD in the future.

I think to get a actual reflection of how many cwd cases there are , you need to allow baiting and increase the number of deer shot and compare the numbers then.

Should allow crossbow hunters to hunt the month of November. This should not change. People spent their hard earned money on these. And to hunt the prime months.

Way to many small cabin s . That people use private kill tags on public land are possible. Do something with wolf's. Bring back baiting people want to see deer.

Current landowners/ residents unable to purchase extra deer permits, phone system part of the problem, outside the area people wind up with most of the permits.

You are not harvesting enough Bear in this area. You have to increase kill tags to significantly decrease the bear population. To many fawns are being lost.

Hard winter, no feeding, I guess it would be an indicator of a very high probability that there are less mature deer now than there was in the fall of 2019.

All of Marinette County should be included in the farmland management zone authorizing buck and antlerless deer - to difficult to determine break in zones.
Hunting participation at our cabin continues to fall because of no deer being seen in the woods during season. Nearby baiting does not help out either.

Thank you for taking my opinions. That means allot. Overall I’d like to see deer numbers up and wolf/coyote populations down. They kill a lot of fawns.

Do not allow new roads to public land after tree harvest. They should be block after tree harvest. A deer season starting first weekend of October.

I’m in favor of no antlerless in the wooded areas west of 141, except allow the youth hunter only to harvest an antlerless deer for northern Marinette.

I presently own 42 acres completely surrounded by thousands of county property why can’t I apply for a antlerless tag when I only hunt on my property?

I would like to see the DNR go back to a lottery system for antler less permits, instead of waiting on phone to be told we just ran out in your area.

The antlerless tag availability for private lands was far too low. Over six days of hunting our party saw ZERO buck and close to 45 antlerless.

Not enough deer no doe permits please in Northern Marinette co. Keep northern unit separate. Ok allowing junior antlerless but that’s it.

Would like to see the deer population increase in the Marinette northern forest zone so if that means less antlerless permits that would be fine

Highway C is too far north for the farmland zone. My hunting partner and myself see more bear on camera than deer. Need to kill more predators.

We need to also eliminate farm damage tags. Big problem. And in person deer registration is a must. There are no deer in northern marinette Co

Stop the antlerless and youth hunts. These are just hunts for meat predator's. Lengthen the hunt by starting earlier in the month of November.

This past year the presence of predators that affect the deer population was much higher per visual confirmations and game cameras in our area.

Please consider a hunters choice option in this area to allow hunters one tag person and the choice of either a buck or a doe with that tag.

Too many predators in this unit. Open bear hunting again with no waiting period. Increase the bobcat bag limit and rid the state of wolves.

I just have not been seeing the numbers raise in this unit and there are never many if any antlerless permits in the northern forest area!!

Give power back to the DMR rangers. Complaints are not being addressed and none are in the field anymore or have no power to do anything.

Do not add additional hunting days in the year and keep the beginning day as the Saturday before Thanksgiving for the 9 day rifle season.

Gun season should begin on Nov.15th and run till the end of Nov. Last year we missed the entire rut because of how late the opener was.

There is to many doe being taken in Marinette, Northern Forest. I would be for the buck would have to be at least a 6 pointer or more.
I think there should be more antlerless tags available because there seem to be higher numbers of does compared to bucks in our area.

There should not be any antlerless tags except for youth. None on private or public lands. Deer numbers in the forest are very low.

Baiting during the hunting season is a major issue. Fines and penalties need to be increased dramatically as well as enforcement.

I believe there is a very big need for wardens presences in this DMU in the fall. Lots of ATV problems and potential poaching.

Seeing more deer. What ever you are doing keep doing it. Bad winter will sway things one way or the other. Can’t predict that.

Based on the number of does and fawns that I saw while hunting I believe more antlerless tags should be available on public land.

The last few years we have had a lot more doe’s in my area, but have seen the number of bonus permits go down. Why is that?

Do not change the cross bow rules and do not change the season for either bow/cross bow or the gun season. Leave it as it is.

The only way the deer herd can increase on public land in the Northern Forest is to go with 0 doe permits. Stop delaying this!

The DNR needs to get a hold of the wolf population. It is depleting the deer population and creating more danger to hunters.

We (our hunting group) have hunted this area for a very long time, and are seeing less and less deer as the years go by.

I believe you should minimize hunts. There are too many early hunts before gun season. Do the youth hunts after gun season.

Deer numbers are way down from the past. Too many being taken with extra tags and also too many being taken illegally.

After Covid 19 and the virus let’s make the season like MI starting 1–15 for 15 days. It’s time to switch and this year.

I’ve been hunting this area for 42 years and the deer population is no where near what it was in the 70 and early 80’s,

We don’t see deer like we used to years ago it’s hard to keep the young hunters interested when you don’t see deer.

The wolf population is way higher than u claim it to be. Marinette county should be buck only like forest county.

would like to see a minimum antler point provision to decrease the amount of immature bucks from being harvested.

I would like to keep the younger generation’s interested in hunting and seeing deer while hunting would help.

If you want an increase in buck harvest why don’t you consider and early muzzleloader season during the rut?

Last gun season hunted 8 of the 9 days our hunting group did not go a day without seeing or hearing wolves!

Deer numbers are way down in on the public land in the northern forest. We need 2 years of no doe tags.

There are way fewer deer and way more predators That I can remember in my 39 years of hunting this area.
Marinette Northern Forrest is in dire need of increased deer population to keep this tradition going.

A large concern on predator control needs to be looked into. Wolves, coyotes are a serious problem.

Wisconsin should have a gun deer season that runs from November 15th to November 30th every year.

Stop shooting does, stop special interest hunts, shoot wolves. There are no deer in this county.

Hunt entire season, lucky to see a deer, young hunters have to a deer, not tales of yesterdays past.

To many local people shooting deer all year and don’t even buy a license during hunting season.

Eliminate food plots, there is no scientific evidence that supports deer need these to survive.

Bring back in-person registration, bring back back-farmland/northern forest designation.

Get rid of the farmland/northern forest designation. Go back to one unit.

This unit needs to be buck only. And baiting has to be made legal again.

Keep up the quality job, be Safe, stay healthy!

Keep up the good and critical work! Thank you for allowing my input.

Stop cutting trees down in units sooner than the week before hunt.

Let crossbow hunters hunt the full season and overlap gun season.

I would like to see a 4 points on one side buck limit.

If we don’t get to see or shoot deer why go hunting?

Ecosystem can support an increase in the deer herd.
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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tr>
<td>6160</td>
<td>Allow deer baiting in northern unit public land.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6161</td>
<td>The “no baiting” should be lifted in this area</td>
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<tr>
<td>6162</td>
<td>Leave the bow/crossbow and gun seasons alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6164</td>
<td>Landowner preference for private land tags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6163</td>
<td>Wolf Hunt to help deer population increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6165</td>
<td>low. low. number of deer in this area!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6166</td>
<td>I think the no baiting ban is ridiculous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6167</td>
<td>We need more doe tag permits. Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6168</td>
<td>Ban baiting and feeding deer stat wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6169</td>
<td>Close deer hunting for a couple years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6170</td>
<td>Get a wolf season &amp; stop the pouchers</td>
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<tr>
<td>6171</td>
<td>Thank you for listening to hunters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6172</td>
<td>Coyote problem is bad I this unit</td>
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<td>6173</td>
<td>No extra hunts. No doe tags</td>
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<tr>
<td>6174</td>
<td>I prefer a longer season.</td>
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<td>6175</td>
<td>No doe permits...m</td>
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<td>6176</td>
<td>No wolves</td>
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Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020  Marinette, Northern Forest
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Marquette, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

648 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 217
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 164
   - I hunt in this unit: 602
   - General interest in this unit: 125

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 570
   - Bow: 369
   - Crossbow: 247
   - Muzzleloader: 222

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 23.58
   - Maximum: 63

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 440
   - Mostly Private Land: 77
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 36
   - Mostly Public Land: 12
   - Exclusively Public Land: 32
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 31
   - Not too crowded: 50
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 29
   - Somewhat crowded: 25
   - Very crowded: 12
   - Not applicable: 10

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 109
   - Fewer: 188
   - Same: 257
   - More: 71
   - Many More: 13
   - Unsure: 10

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
## Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>108</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reference deer population; I had many hours in the woods as I have other years before. There was a 50% drop in sightings for me 2019. Coyotes are an issue. I will also admit that the private area I hunt, the outlying farm crops were either harvested early, or the crop was not the preferred food. The amount of rain also changed the routes the deer took due to standing water. New tactics this year as the water is still there. I hope you leave the seasons alone. We don’t need an early gun season. I love tradition. I would hate to lose that. Leave crossbow season alone. I have used one out of necessity due to a bad shoulder. I am female and 62. I use to hunt with a stick bow but injuries and age has changed that. While I miss the challenge, the crossbow gives me time in the woods as before, and that means something. I would hate the opportunities to change because some strictly gun hunters say the crossbow hunters are harvesting all the bucks. I love my time in the woods. When I had a low paying job and was looking for meat because a gun license was not enough, I learned to use the bow and then purchased a used muzzleloader. Meaning: if the gun hunters are upset, maybe they should take up a bow to. I am sure in my lifetime I have harvested over 100 deer. So many good memories, but no all. Wisconsin is a great state with many opportunities to harvest deer, and we have choices how we chose to do that. I have also hunted the public northern area since 1978. My point is, if hunters are not happy, they have choices to search for another place, or use other weapons. I have hunted since 1978. I picked up bowhunting and muzzleloader years later for an opportunity of more time in the woods, and meat on the table as a single mom. Time and patience always pays off. If gun hunters are upset because the rut window was missed, then I suggest the next time the rut season falls late, make gun season a 16 day season which would keep the tradition of Thanksgiving with gun hunting. If you recall, the DNR extended the gun season in the 80’s an extra weekend due to the heavy snowfall. I don’t remember if it was just the northern counties, but I had a doe tag for unit 45. I hunted the opener as well as that 3rd weekend. I did get a doe. Just a thought. Thanks for your time.

I have 2 land parcels in Marquette County, one is just south of montello and the other is on the north side of puckaway off hwy c. We do many management plans on our properties, planting trees food plots we add water holes etc. My family and I love managing our property for white tailed deer and all other wildlife. We are outdoor enthusiasts. I have 2 concerns, the first is cwd and it’s impacts on the deer herd and how we manage the deer herd because of it. The 2nd concern which I believe is of higher importance than the first is the mis management either under or most likely what i have witnessed many more times is the over harvest of our whitetail deer population. I have seen over harvest of white tail deer in Northern Wisconsin, in dodge County and other surrounding counties where we are instructed by the dnr and wildlife biologists that we have to reduce the deer populations because they are way too high. So we did what we were told we had to do, we reduced deer populations with earn a buck in those areas. Bayfield and dodge counties were the two I had the most experience watching deer populations get reduced to very low numbers. With the population decreases comes the decreases in deer hunters because people want to see deer when they are deer hunting. My worry is we will do the same thing that I witnessed in those other counties in Marquette County. I understand that the data points to we have to do this or we have to do that but I was fooled with this exact sort of stuff before. I am not sure what the best plan for managing white tail deer is in the future but I will say this as loudly as I can. HOW WILL YOU MANAGE WHITETAIL DEER POPULATIONS IF YOU HAVE VERY LOW HUNTER NUMBERS? I know this is a very long response but I am near the end of my road with wanting to help control deer numbers. I am an outdoorsman through and through my family and I enjoy the outdoors and all it has to offer, we will continue to do habitat improvement but if new laws and regulations become too much for us we will find something else to do in the fall and you will loose more participation in your herd reduction management plans.
With the large presence of predators both coyote and wolf in this unit the deer herd may never recover. A previous unit we hunted in was part of the T Zone years ago. The deer herd was slaughtered by out of town people and never has come remotely close to recovering. Between the wolf presence and some harsh winters it could be a recipe for disaster. There is a vast amount of landowners doing logging and practicing good land conservation practices to bring back young regeneration herbaceous growth to properly maintain the herd. Nobody needs to harvest 8+ deer in a year for any reason other than just being greedy and wasteful. The over abundance of tags leads to a lot of wounded and not recovered deer because careless hunters shoot at any deer even if it is not a good shot because they feel they need to fill every tag. The neighborhood we hunt most land owners and hunters talk regularly and harvest does regularly to keep the deer herd we all watch and monitor all year in check. The problems come in when you have a few hunters in the area who hunt land they don’t own, manage, or care about and is typically a relatives property. These are the people who do not know the herd, population, or conditions but come out to fill every last tag they are issued because they have them. I would prefer one antlerless tag with each license and everyone has to pay to buy additional tags if needed. Right now most land managers and hunters of private lands would likely be harvesting more does but knowing they have a neighbor that has 24 tags and is going to do whatever they can to fill every tag they got the regular landowners refrain from shooting more does. This is because they are afraid if their neighbor shoots all 24 which is unlikely they shouldn’t shoot any to protect the herd for what’s left. Change it to one tag per license and watch the doe kill go up if the fear of the herd being decimated is eliminated by minimizing the number of free tags.

The dnr/cdac needs to keep things the way they are. In their mind they want to slaughter all the deer. It doesn’t make sense to extend rifle season or start it earlier. There is plenty of time and plenty of deer to harvest within the seasons we have now. One proposal that really makes me sick is the starting of rifle season early and then making it so we can’t bow hunt the week before. Why take away the rut from the bow hunters. We are already at a disadvantage using a bow. The problem is that newer hunters don’t wanna take the time to learn how to bow hunt and rather just sit in a shack and shoot at deer at 500 yards. Our gun season has been like this for years, the 2019 gun season harvest numbers shouldn’t even be considered in this since it was almost a week later and the weather wasn’t favorable. It happens, it’s only going to make the 2020 season better. Everyone loves seeing deer. If you guys want more money from the purchases of tags, you need to bring back in person registration. That was the downfall of this whole thing, you took away a lot of tradition and local economy from local establishments, also you can’t tell me you don’t think people aren’t registering deer since they don’t have to go anymore. And up the prices of our of state licenses! Look at Iowa, some of the best deer in the country and not every out of stater can show up every year and buy tags. Imagine doubling the price of the non resident tags, the money that would be coming in would astonishing.

To me its pretty obvious that one of the issues is the number of both sexes of deer on private land in the county. I hunted for 4 days with three other hunters on public land, dawn to dusk and we saw 1 doe! This has been the story for over 5 years. We did see at least one and half dozen other hunters walking through where were hunting (another problem). There is NOT enough public land in the county to support the number of hunters who must hunt public land. You can give every hunter 50 anterless tags and it won’t increase the harvest if no deer are seen. If public landowners want to harvest more deer, let them open up their lands to public hunting, even if they want to charge for leasing it? Does the DNR have a website for landowners to publicize available land to hunt? I also think the CWD issue has been blown way out of proportion! 2 deer out of 500 sampled in Buffalo County? I will probably stop gun hunting in 2020 as I will be 71 years old and tired of not seeing deer! I you shorten the crossbow season for whatever reason I will give that up as well. A little story...I have a good friend in Lincoln County whose group owns well over 900 acres which is managed by a biologist for tree harvest and deer management. That group of 12-15 hunters have killed less than 10 deer in the last 10 years because of the wolf population! Maybe you can trap some of those wolves and release them in this county in order to decrease the herd size. A very unhappy old hunter!
In my opinion just by extending and adding additional seasons isn’t the only way to reduce the deer herd. I do agree that we should keep the youth hunt. This gives the younger hunters a better chance to bag a deer and get the hunting bug for future years of hunting. Yes by extending seasons it does give people more options to make it out in the woods. But with this guy going out on day one and sits in his stand all day. Just to wait for "the big one". And then his neighbor across the fence who just didn’t want to or couldn’t make it out on the first day. Does the same on day two. There isn’t as much hunting pressure at the same time in certain areas. Deer are smart and just move around between the hunters. Years past when we only had a shorter season available. If you were a devoted hunter and wanted to bag a deer for the meat. You didn’t have such a long season to wait for the right one to come by. You would take a smaller deer and would make more effort to get into the woods. If that meant taking vacation days or going out on the less desirable days. You would do it. With more people out at the same time. Deer don’t have so many areas to hide or and move around between hunters. Another option that may help is extending season but earlier in the calendar. Thus would get a chance to kill some of these deer prior to the rut. Shoot them before their bred.

I voted the bonus and antlerless numbers were too high because there wasn’t anywhere near the demand for those tags as what the quotas were. The quota could be 100,000 kills, but if only 6,000 are going to be harvested it doesn’t matter. The season needs to be adjusted to allow for more harvest, the amount of tags available has not affect. I support extending the firearm season, but not during the rut, unless it is antlerless only. Hunting with a firearm during the rut may have a one year increase in hunter participation, but the amount of 1.5 to 2.5 y/o bucks that would be killed when they are the most vulnerable would severely limit the amount of mature bucks and the buck to doe ration for years, further affecting the quality of the herd. I think the seasons should be extended for antlerless deer, and programs should be promoted for donating meat which would help with the hunter image in the community. Also, there should be more invested in programs like the Turkey Access Program that give hunters more access to private land, maybe just with archery, and possibly just for antlerless harvest as that is where the majority of the deer population is. Hunters could get written permission from the land owner to harvest antlered deer, otherwise just antlerless harvest if hunting under the access program.

My advice is if you truly want to increase the doe harvest I suggest a holiday hunt again in Marquette county, which I am not a fan of, and under all circumstances include crossbow and bow season until Jan 31st. This is a must. I manage my farm for quality deer and I tried my dangedest to kill a doe, does of which I could not. In January when it got colder and the archery season was closed I had deer all over my beans. I would have gladly shot at least 2 does at this time as they were all over my standing beans and my Dad would have taken 2 does as well. My Dad harvested a nice buck in 2019 with the crossbow but we both wanted at least 3 more does in the freezer. The holiday hunt proved worthless only due to the fact that they were not hitting our beans as they were high in moisture yet. This extended crossbow and bow season in our area could well be the ticket for us to be able to fill the freezer with does as in January they are hitting the standing beans hard and are much easier to pattern when it is cold and they need to eat. My father and I manage 108 acre farm in Northwest Marquette County and believe me we do everything in our power to fill the freezer with does. Please give us the month of January to allow us to reach our herd management goals.
I am a snowmobiler and oppose the Holiday Hunt! In my opinion, if you can’t harvest your Deer from September to December, you don’t need to be in the woods. The committee has no idea the time and effort our snowmobile clubs put into trail maintenance nor do they consider the revenue that snowmobiling brings into our country. It is much more than the Holiday Hunt brings in. This yearly fight gets old and for the harvest of 140 some deer taken during last years Holiday Hunt it doesn’t seem worth it in my opinion. Why can’t we bring back the "Earn A Buck"? As it seems, the committee already has its mind made up before these meetings take place. Last year it was suggested that we alternate years. That’s about the only fair way this can be resolved. Somehow, I have a gut feeling other members of the committee won’t even consider it. Why does the committee have to find the smallest room possible to hold these meetings? They do that because they want to limit the public input. Unfortunately, I’m sure this will be a yearly fight and be guaranteed the snowmobilers will be there to stand their ground.

There are definitely hot spots within the county that there are too many deer and those are primarily on private land. The holiday hunt is a good way later in the season to assess the heard in those areas and let landowners shoot some additional antlerless deer if they feel the need to reduce the heard. An option to increase the antlerless kill would be to extend the archery/crossbow season to January 31 and only allow antlerless deer to be harvested. Maybe end the late archery buck kill season the first weekend in January like it is now or around January 15, but allow continued hunting of antlerless deer till the end of January. Another option is a spin off the earn a buck season and maybe allowing the earning of one additional buck if you harvest 3 anterless deer - this would create some logistics on registration and probably require in person registration of some sort, but an option to increase the antlerless kill. Also the addition of a deer donation program in the county would give hunters an opportunity to donate meat for extra deer that are shot and they can't utilize, but know they need to harvest more antlerless deer.

I come to you as a representative of my family who owns 200 acres, and has over 15 hunters that go out every year. I also come to you as a representative of Marquette County Snowmobile Association. As hunters, and snowmobilers, we do not agree with decreasing the herd and having the holiday hunt. Our snowmobile trails could not open to due to the holiday hunt in 2016. A lot of my friends did not even hunt during that time. Snowmobile trail openings are extremely limited due to time frame. I heard a lot of complaints from community businesses, and fellow riders about them not being able to open. The hunt is from 24th to 1st, but we could not open at all during December due to 1 landowner not wanting them opened before the hunt. Due to 1 landowner out of 74 that said no, we respected his decision and closed them prior. And once Jan 2nd came, all the snow was gone. There are so many other hunting opportunities in this great state, I feel the Holiday Hunt is not needed. In Summary I respect all our landowners, without them we could not trails. 2nd, I am against the holiday hunt.

Instead of all the extra anterless seasons. Extend the muzzleloader in conjunction with archery to the end of the year. The archery season can still extend to Jan 31 if warranted. The anterless only seasons just makes myself and the guys I go hunting with not go in the woods. We fish instead. Too many changing seasons and regulations pushes avid sportsmen away instead of the goal you are trying to accomplish. I am very passionate about getting kids into hunting, my son harvested his first buck last rifle season and it was just as exiting for me as for him. We do not participate in the youth deer hunt, I want the experience for him to be part of the group of getting up with the guys and be a big boy. If Marquette county was made anterless only I would think it would be a reverse effect, and you would have less interest and less hunters providing food plots on the chance of a trophy walking past. Hunter interest is going down and trying to force the group that is still passionate is a mistake.
The gradual spread of CWD is, in my opinion, inevitable. Millions of dollars have been spent for the last 18 years, to monitor this progression. Populations are increasing in those areas even with all the money spent. Reducing deer population may slow the spread. I encourage the DNR to use some CWD testing money to enhance the use of the deer, (meat and hide) so people may be more willing to harvest, and utilize a deer, as opposed to just killing a deer because we are told we should. Make the ability to donate to a food pantry easier through meat markets and small "mom and pop" start ups interested. Promote use of the hide, which in my eyes Many get wasted, through finding someone in each area to accept them. Promote and encourage utilizing the wonderful resource, instead of telling people they have to kill more. (I know there is a push for Earn A Buck again and people Hate being forced to kill ) The DNR has promoted a fear of CWD into peoples minds and that needs to stop.

Having hunted 14 years in this unit and on many different public properties, with what I would consider a good amount of success, I think there is a large difference from private and public Antlerless populations based solely on personal observation and opinion. While I do think there is good opportunity for success on public land hunting, I think the population of antlerless deer on private land is very high compared to public. I have observed both private and public lands during the same hours of day and have noticed some private lands to be holding 50 plus antlerless deer at any given time and then see the same thing a quarter mile down the road. I know deer are free to roam and could be on either type of land, but I think to help decrease the population, the landowners have to play a big part and not the public land users where there is a lot more human pressure year round due to various outdoor activities including all hunting seasons.

You want to keep killing off all the doe. All you need to look at for our county is the kill ratios from private to public. I hunt a public area and the private landowners have elevated permanent stands surrounding the entire public area I hunt. Because we are below hwy64 you can't put up a ladder stand in advance of the season and you must take it down AND OUT of the woods each day. You know that makes it impossible to use those stands. If you were really concerned about heard size you would change the regulations so that public hunters have in our country are afforded the same ability you allow the hunters north of hwy64 to use. In the 80's I used to see groups of 8 or more deer wandering the woods. Now, I'm lucky if I see one every season. It's time to change the stand rules if you truly want public hunters success. I believe that one of the reasons we continue to see a drop in hunting is because of the success hunters have.

In all the years I have hunted I have watched the deer population dwindle. I have also seen the number of hunters decrease. We used to have many people hunt both private and public land. I know deer and hunter numbers have dropped from the number of deer sightings, and the number of people I see hunt. I used to see several deer opening weekend. The last 15 years since we abandoned having to send in for a possible antler less tag I have seen one or less. This recent craze to issue numerous extra tags is killing hunting. I expect farmers and home owners to see something that has already existed as land is shrinking and the person population is increasing... It is unreasonable at this point for them to want more deer dead. If you plan to issue numerous tags, expect to see the decline of deer hunting. My family at one point could legally shoot over 20 deer. Our ecosystem cannot handle that. Thank you.

The wolf situation needs to be address. They are on the Endanger Species List. The law is for species that are endanger of becoming extinct. With an estimate of 150,000 wolves world wide, they are not endanger of becoming extinct. A BIG reason hunting license sales are down is because the wolves are killing the deer. I have friends that gave up hunting deer because all they see is wolf tracks and no deer tracks where they hunt. When they hunted, they heard howling and saw pack of wolves. Where is the control. I though a population of 300 was all we were going to have in WI. With all the sighting reported, there must be 3000 in WI. That is a big concern. CDAC should be active in getting a wolf reduction season in place. I also send my thanks to each of you for your time involved in deer management. I believe we should start gun season closes to the 15th of the month for a 9 day season.
As hunting pressure continues to increase on public lands, the deer hunting on these limited properties will suffer without effecting the overall deer numbers. Public land is quite limited in the county, so the only activity that is going to affect deer numbers is that which is done on private land. Many private land owners are implementing various forms of buck management program to increase the size of the bucks on their property. Since I am 100% in favor of people doing what they want on their private land, I have no real problem with their game management practices. However, the numbers of deer will remain high in the county. The deer on public lands will be increasingly harassed and reduced while doing little to change the overall deer overpopulation problem in the county. Figure out a private land partnership with the public hunters, and it is possible that herd numbers can be managed.

While I love seeing a lot of deer while hunting, I am not a proponent of judging populations based on the number of deer seen during a particular season, as this can vary widely from year to year regardless of real population numbers. In my opinion, the amount of deer viewed throughout the year, as well as the number of dead deer laying along the county's highways/town roads reflect a large population. There seems to be no easy way to address over-population and I appreciate the DNR's attempts to find a variety of ways to lessen numbers without decimating the herd. The focus has obviously been on harvesting antlerless deer. However, after filling my crossbow buck tag, I did not fill my gun buck tag. I would have been more apt to hunt more hours and later into the bow season had I been allowed to use my gun buck tag for another crossbow buck. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Wisconsin should give out my landowner tags depending on acreage size. We own and pay for 168 acres and high taxes and can't shoot deer cause all the neighbors kill EVERYTHING. One neighbor has 18 acres, 6 tower stands and invites the whole town of montello to hunt. They killed/wounded 21 deer 3 years ago. 2 years ago 15, last year 5. It's obviously not working, we see very few deer. If the state gives out 4 tags for antlerless, stuff is going to get scary stupid. I don't know how a whole county can be blanketed w one rule. Rather than figure out how to increase doe killing, the wealth should be spread out in a better way. We are hurting from this and not shooting deer because we are trying to increase or save what we have due to neighbors that don't have any conservative ways. I can't fathom thinking there could be 24 antlerless tags for 18 acres. It makes me want to puke.

We keep the same recommendation to decrease the heard and I am in full agreement. The problem is that the DNR is not implementing or insuring that the goal to decrease the herd will be met with programs or regulations to manage hunter behavior. - We lost 2 of the key deer processor's in the county due to increased regulation and as I understand, the classification of a deer carcass as hazardous waste. - There are no processor's in the county to support and receive deer for the deer donation program. - Both of the above limit the # of deer a hunter will harvest. I think they will also impact the 2020 season negatively. - You will not increase the harvest totals until you change hunter behavior. Earn-a-buck is the appropriate tool to manage & increase the harvest totals as it insures more hunters will take multiple deer. The DNR's own harvest data supports this.

I would like to see less doe tags given out per weapon, I feel doing so would still maintain or decrease the population like the goal is. I think it would give more hunters a chance at being successful during the season because people aren't filling 10 tags. Even if you drop the tags given per weapon to 2 and still keep the bonus tags you will see similar harvest throughout the year. I personally feel with the doe tags given out right now and the wolves coming in it's going to really thin the heard out to extremely low numbers. I did a t-zone hunt a couple years ago on a bigger public marsh and saw more wolf tracks then deer tracks. That same public from 2013 to about 2015 I saw a decent amount of deer 17 a year average for gun. Since then the numbers have drastically dropped to seeing 5 all of last year on that public. Thanks for your consideration.
You can give every hunter on public land 20 antler less permits but if you never see a deer, they will not do you a bit of good! The deer, doe and buck, are on the private land which is primarily who own the vast majority of the land in the county. It is posted and rarely can you get permission to hunt these lands! So, keep giving the antler less tags to the private land owners as they will be the only hunters capable of harvesting a deer. Last year, we had 4 hunters who hunted all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday of opening weekend on public land and they saw a total of one (1) doe. That has been pretty much the standard for the last 10 years. I am 70 years old and quitting deer hunting and will spend my time cooking and washing dishes rather then wasting it sitting in woods occupied by 10 hunters per 40 acres and only 1-2 deer.

I think the only thing that I have feedback is three things: 1. no back tags or way to tag your deer. When you are hunting out in the elements how practical is it to carry around paper? I have not liked this change one bit! 2. No talk of illegal harvesting of deer due to not having to register them at a registering station. (how do you know people aren't cheating the system?) If you want to boost our local businesses how has that helped? People miss visiting with friends or strangers asking about their hunt and etc. It hasn't helped our businesses its more for convenience - 3. Increase the licence price for out of state hunters. I feel Wisconsin is too lenient on the pricing. It would be another source of income to help support the DNR staff. (if that is even where the money goes?) Thank you for reading my feedback.

Stop issuing so many tags. I can not understand why the quota for harvest is so high when I can sit in a deer stand night after night in Marquette county and not see a dam thing. The sampling method for counting the heard is subjective and does not accurately reflect the dear heard. This is why the DNR/CDAC is not meeting their harvest quota, because there are not enough deer to harvest! The antlerless hunts are not necessary. Stop issuing so many tags. Go back to the traditional archery season and 9 day rifle hunt. All these extra tags are ruining the sport and tradition of hunting in Wisconsin. Stop issuing so many tags. The extra tags promote trespass issues on private lands. Stop issuing so many tags. The car/deer crashes are way down from what they where prior to CWD. Stop issuing so many tags.

While it's understandable to want to track which type of land, public or private, a deer harvest comes from, it's ludicrous to force a hunter to buy two licenses just because they hunt on both public and private land. There either needs to be an option for "Both - Public and Private" on the license purchase page or the ability to report as Public or Private when registering the harvest online. The ability to use one of these options would also probably result in much more accurate harvest numbers, especially when a hunter, with a Private license, also hunts on public land adjacent to, or contiguous with, that private land. And, because many hunters that use private land do not also hunt public land, this would give those that do an option for doing both and offer better, maybe more truthful, harvest reporting.

I hunt on private land. Last year I hunted 13 days with Rifle and muzzle loader. I saw a total of nine deer. I had three members of our hunting party never see a deer during the rifle season. That's never happened before and I've hunted in Marquette county for 39 years. Had, I had the option of using my antlerless tags on public land, I would have continued hunting. In my opinion if we want to decrease the deer population, having land specific antlerless permits is detrimental to that objective. Also why not run the Holiday hunt for two full weeks of antlerless only? Or have a doe only season from Dec 15th to the first Saturday after Jan. 1st. However both of theses options would not have kept me in the woods because I only had private land antlerless tags and was not seeing deer on our land.
What I noticed is a large number of hunters I know investing in crossbows and hunting earlier better weather and wanting a chance at a bigger antlered buck. Not willing to hunt for doe and eat meat due to CWD fears. So I would recommend as much positive truthful information on CWD be continually sent out and secondly maybe encourage some how giving meat to the needy by hunters programs can be a real advantage when we need to reduce the herd size. Lastly Doe only hunting opportunities to increase I really like them because I have young grand children that can have more opportunities to harvest a deer and enjoy the outdoors. I also really think venison is a wonderful meat to enjoy with my family and friends. Thank you for all you are doing to keep our deer herd healthy in Wisconsin.

If you impose an 10 day extension to the gun season or holiday hunt I will not be hunting at all. This needs to stop I’m an avid bow hunter and practice QDM and I’m sick of the holiday hunt. All it does is screw up the late season bow hunts. I’m also against the youth hunt in early October. I never had this as a kid and I can see it is nice to get young kids out early when it’s warmer but all this does is educate the deer. I’m so sick you mismanaging the herd you have no clue what you’re doing and I know all you care about is the money. One thing I wanted to add is my brother lives in upper Michigan and can get a bear permit every year but we must wait sometimes 10yrs to draw a tag. Wake up and do what you're paid for or get out and let someone else attempt. Thanks and be safe...

During the 2019 Gun Deer Hunt, I harvested the 1 and only deer I saw, outside of a lone fawn. Deer sightings were way down, I think due to the 'rut' being over the previous 7-10 days prior to the opening of Deer Gun Season. Bow hunters see the greater share of the 'chasing' activity each and every year. They have much more opportunity-half of Sept, all of Oct, most of Nov, Dec, and now Jan?? I allow people to hunt my property, but some will not consider shooting a doe unless required to. I would have shot a mature doe, but then again I didn’t see one. As I near 70 years of age it is tougher trying to dress out and drag a deer all by yourself if you take one after everyone has left after opening weekend. I like venison, but processing a carcass is also not easy by ones self.

I would like to see a earlier gun season that is during or before the expected rut season. Gun hunting is easier and more efficient to take a deer. The weather should be better allowing more time in the field and daylight hours are longer. Older and younger hunters would also enjoy hunting in better weather. Perhaps a late October doe week similar to earn a buck but without the requirement to earn a buck. I have noticed fewer hunters last year 2019 and I wonder if the out of state license fee is a deterrent. If you want more deer taken, make it easier to be successful and cheaper. Also given the economic downturn caused by the pandemic we need to make hunting more affordable to all. If the decrease in hunters continues we cannot achieve the goal of taking more deer.

I highly oppose the holiday hunt! If you can’t fill your tags from September to middle of dec you probably shouldn’t be hunting! I am a snowmobile and it cuts into us being able to open the trails! I don't believe you have any idea how much time and effort go into getting trails ready. The amount of revenue that comes into local businesses when the trails are open is much higher then what the holiday hunt brings in. And it is getting old having to go to these meetings every year and fight for are trail system! The committee seems to have there minds made up before these meetings and don't want to hear anything from anybody on the outside! We have been at the meetings the last 2 years and they seem two find the smallest room to hold there meetings so nobody shows up!

It would be nice to able to tag another buck. Even if a person had to pay a respectable amount for an additional tag. Only one additional tag per deer year. Meaning, your additional buck tag, is to be used in the archery, or rifle. It doesn’t mean you get one additional for archery and one additional for rifle. Just something that would be nice to have in the outdoors person’s pocket, for that moment when you approach your kill and see those two numbs on his head. And they just happen to qualify as a legal buck, and the next morning. Your “30 point” buck comes out broad side and you can’t shoot. It’s just another tool to in you gear case, and if priced right. The state will make money on it. Thanks for listening, and I hope this matter is at least talked about.
6210 Bring paper tags back as a mandatory. Your numbers are very much so off because anyone can poach without using a tag. I rarely see game wardens out policing public land checking licences and non locals very much so could just poach their private land and get away Scot-free. I also do not support the extension of gun season as it just allows excessive amounts of deer to be harvested. I heavily track deer activity on our 70 acres and we do not have a large population. Bring back paper tags, help support local sports shops in that sense, charge more for non local licences, and decrease harvest counts. If you want to exterminate the deer population completely, keep pushing for a larger harvest number and a longer season; but I do not support that idea.

6211 Get rid of the antlerless only extra gun seasons and holiday hunts. Keep the gun season 9 days and around November 20th opener. The key to more people hunting is people a large deer herd. People don’t go anymore because they don’t see enough bucks. Especially up north. Manage for trophy bucks. The best deer hunting states have implemented antler point restrictions in at least part of their states. Stop killing all the does. Preference points and increase out of state license fees, like Iowa. Turn Wisconsin into a trophy state and you’ll see young and old come out in droves to hunt. If you lower the deer per square mile, people won’t hunt any longer. It seems you guys want a Michigan deer herd. Well new flash Michigan hunting sucks.

6212 Expanding available venison donation sites within the county would personally expand how many antlerless I would be willing to harvest. I can imagine increasing ease of donation locally would increase participation in the program and therefore harvest. Continuing to offer more antlerless tags has not worked so I dont understand how continuing to change that would have any impact. Most archery hunters I know dont desire to hunt with a bow past rifle season so I cant imagine extending that season would expand antlerless harvest. Incentivizing hunters to harvest does may help, EAB is widely unpopular i'm aware, but maybe consider offering a 2nd buck tag if someone registers two does until the population is under control.

6213 I think we need to stop having all these early and late hunts and let the deer get back to the normal rut. The deer are getting so chased around during rut that 20 to 30% end up getting bred so late that there fawns still have spots at gun hunting time. I believe it because of all the extra gun seasons making it impossible for the deer to live a normal rut. When we had only a 9 day normal gun hunt this was not a problem, but every year they add another hunt and chase the deer around just to satisfy the insurance company's who would like all the deer killed off. But as we all know they have the money and get what ever they want.. JUST PAY SOMEONE OFF.. politics controls it not science.

6214 Deer management needs to be science-based and biologically sustainable. Wisconsin needs to develop policy supporting return to healthy balanced natural ecosystems which includes returning top tier predators historic role in achieving this. Humans need to work to protect & restore biodiversity of the natural world - we need to be part of nature, in balance, not ruling dominion over it. Nature, water, air, land, forests, prairies, wetlands and the predator-prey balance was in pretty darn good shape prior to European conquest, settlement and presence in North America. Let’s continue making progress in restoring this natural balance, particularly during this 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

6215 It is high time that we allow the DNR experts in forestry, biology, zoology and environmental sciences to do their job in managing the deer herd and other natural resources based on fact based science! Politically and economically motivated parties should not be the ones to tell us how to manage our natural resources. It is sad to hear the grossly opinionated, misunderstandings espoused by fair weather "hunters" who decry for example that coyotes and wolves are devouring "their" deer. These predators play an important and effective role in maintaining a natural balance in our ecological landscape. I cannot say the same for the starry eyed "trophy" chaser sitting on his ATV.
Please stop with all the extra deer hunts. It's pretty ridiculous what has happened to WI hunting. The 9 day gun season used to be a big deal. Everyone looked forward to it. Now with all the special hunts it lost the magic of what is WI. Look at the north. Hardly anymore deer camps. You wonder why gun sales are declining? Look at all the changes that's been made in the last 5 years. People are sick of the changes and not seeing deer. Xbows have also made many gun hunters now in the woods during bow season. The woods are way more crowded. As far as Marquette county. I see a good amount of deer. Usually at least 1 or 2 per hunt. If I see 5 or 6 then that's a great day.

Tags or authorizations should be by private land units or property units. If there are 4 people hunting on private land they don't need 4 each. If one shooter has a good couple days/week he's done and not contributing to the control. If the land users, hunters, as a total received 16 tags, you might be able to actually fill those 16 and contribute something. Last year for us 2 locations on our land were active and the others saw nothing. Had we been able to "share" tags as a family on our property we could have made an impact on the county/state numbers. If we get 20 tags as a family to contribute to the numbers, why not give us the best chance as a group to contribute.

I have hunted with a bow and gun in Maquette county since 1976. We do have as many deer as ever. With that said most are on private ground that is not accessible. There is a need for more deer taken on private property. The harvest of bucks has risen with the use of crossbows, but the doe harvest has not. It's time to issue one buck tag and maybe earn a buck with one buck tag. In my opinion we have gone backwards with all of our regulation changes in the past several years. Yes it is very handy to register a deer in the field but with that change and others like no more back tags, group hunting, no age limit etc. Wisconsin has become a poachers Paradise!

Thankyou for the opportunity to discuss this. In a world where we continually have new ways to communicate, however seem to have less meaningful relationships between individuals. We should use any and every opportunity to foster simple socialization skills. Hunting is one of those opportunities. And all of the traditions and experiences that go with it. One of those traditions is the tagging and registering of our animal at a local business. With out going on and on about how this tradition is a positive for the future of hunting. I will leave the particulars to our Leading council. Thankyou again for the chance to discuss.

The hypothesis that an Antlerless only season would finally reduce the deer herd to desired level is faulty. Reason is that there would be far less hunters taking part in Marquette county, as many would go to adjacent units or somewhere else in the State in order to have chance to harvest a buck. End result, you would end the season with even less antlerless deer harvested than in average season as of late, you would have not reduced bucks even by one, many hunters would be very upset, would affect future years harvest negatively as some hunters may like new area they chose to hunt buck in, and therefore not comeback to hunt Marquette county.

Well now you have a radio ad saying you want our input and want us to have a say in our deer herd management, what a crock! You have and never will listen to us. We are the ones spending time in the field watching our deer herd disappear before our eyes but that doesn’t matter. You have an agenda and will stick to it no matter what. That agenda is simple, to eradicate our deer herd. I’m done listening and paying for licenses that just give you the funds to destroy our herd. I will manage my property as I see fit and that means through any means I feel appropriate including hunting!

I would support extended vertical bow archery season through January 31st. I would disagree with including crossbows during an extended season when deer are more susceptible to overharvest due to being hurded up. I believe a 1 year antlerless only season or earnabuck season would be beneficial. More hunters would harvest doe implementing EAB and I recommend implementing this structure until populations are reduced to 40 deer per square mile. If the DNR lays out this plan and strategically markets the reasoning, hunters would participate to hit target populations quickly so seasons can return back to normal.
As a person who farms in Marquette county, I believe ag crop damage is an over abused term. Deer take the blame for most if not all damage to ag cropland. However the reality of working farmland and observing the growing season, reality is 2 other species of animals do far greater damage than deer. They are TURKEY & SAND HILL CRANES! Typically deer will only stay in the outer edges of fields to eat. My wish and hope is for the DNR to quit using deer as the cop-out for crop damage and look at the other sources of damage to crops and do something to reduce those species in the area.

I do not support the holiday hunt at all. I would like to see the deer season extended and then allow the bow hunters to hunt late season. I am a dairy farmer in the area and have no problem with the deer eating crops because I enjoy hunting. If you do your job as a farmer and plant your crops properly the deer will not destroy them. Plant food plots for the deer. I do not want to see any other rules and regulations on how we hunt deer. The way we have done it in the past is fine. I’m willing to lose a little bit of crops to go hunting because it is a very enjoyable. Thank you

I am concerned about the high population of deer and how it affects the spread of CWD and over browsing of valuable plant species. I would encourage you to promote the use of efficient weapons to help control the deer population. Crossbows, compound bows, and rifles and shotguns should be used as much as possible by hunters. The holiday hunt, if implemented to get the doe population down, should allow the hunter to use their weapon of choice. Good luck in achieving the goal of decreasing the deer population which will improve the habitat and the health of the deer herd.

I am greatly concerned about the use of my land and surrounding public land for activities other than deer hunting. Expanded seasons take away the safe ability to snowmobile, cross country ski and hike/snowshoe. Start the gun season early and let it run though November. You will get closer to your unrealistic harvest goals while leaving months with snow activities available for use for those activities. You also do not have the hunting base that you had 50 years ago. Younger people are not interested in shooting a deer and eating it like the “old” days. Get real.

We do not have too many deer. We have an appropriate amount of deer in general in this county. Bring back the requirement of checking deer at a check station and then reevaluate your deer kill numbers before you try and deplete our deer herd. Also DO NOT extend the gun season, it’s long enough. And limit crossbows, at least on public land, until the beginning of gun and then allow them through the rest of archery season. The regular bow hunters deserve to have first chance at the least pressured deer. Thank you for reading and considering this.

You're not going to make any progress decreasing the deer herd unless you go to Earn-a-Buck or antlerless only. I checked that the antlerless quota and four harvest authorizations were too low but actually they're rather meaningless as the harvest is always so far below the authorization. I would like to see more opportunity for gun hunting earlier in the deer season. Opening it up closer to the rut may upset the bow hunters and traditionalists but it will increase the harvest. Even if it's primarily bucks it will still make a bigger hit on the herd.

I have gun hunted from the same stand since 1988. Deer I see during season have decreased drastically through the years. I don't see the increase from my stand or my cameras. There comes a point when your freezer is full. For some that is 1 deer, for my family it is 4 or 5. That is all we are going to take. Handing out more tags may not be the answer. I'd like to think most hunters are only going to take what they can use. I will Not hunt an antlerless only season. Forced to possibly have to pass on a buck of a lifetime is not what I am looking for.

Please consider an elderly hunt, in the early part of the season, when the weather isn't as cold. There is currently a youth hunt, I would like to see an elderly hunt. The elderly need special consideration, usually help getting them to and into their blinds, it is harder for them to hunt in colder weather. Physically they are less able to hunt by themselves and require more attention and care while hunting. Normally they have hunted their whole life and are due special consideration and a season of their own, like the youth hunt is. Thank you.
abolish holiday 'poacher / violator' hunt abolish 'poacher / violator' youth hunt bring back, back tags and real
carcass tags let elderly and disabled shoot crossbows... make rest learn how to shoot archery or not hunt. in fact
I'd like to see a 'primitive weapon season' line Pennsylvania's...real bows and arrows (recurve, longbows) and
flintlocks w/ patched round balls ONLY. deer hunting in Wisconsin has become a joke and is worsening. People
don't hunt deer any more they just want to go out and shoot them. sad state of affairs

I am using this space to make note of my personal observations a to how the current crossbow season affects the
deer herd. Although I feel the herd size has maintained about the same level the last few seasons, I have noticed
fewer bucks by the gun/muzzle-loader seasons. I believe the last few seasons of harvest data will support this. I
fear the increased number of hunters switching to the crossbow, coupled with the long crossbow season has had
a negative affect on the overall quality of the Marquette county/Wisconsin deer herd.

The DNR finally got our season structure correct. All hunters now have ample opportunity to harvest animals. Any
changes made to the current structure, with regards to weapon choices, would be a step backwards. Maybe the
addition of a second rifle season after muzzleloader would help. Not just 4 days to hunt, but, 2 or 3 weeks
following muzzleloader being open with a rifle. My group likes to shoot does during late season, but the weather
doesn't always cooperate. More options late December and early January would be nice.

I am very pleased that you are recommending the holiday hunt again this year. With out other tools to reduce the
deer herd I personally believe that this season helps land owners with primarily agricultural land harvest deer
under better weather conditions, when deer are moving looking for food. I don't agree with extending the gun
season to run the length of the muzzleloader season to have as much of impact as having the holiday hunt, where
it gives the deer a rest period between the gun season and the holiday hunt.

There were far more deer in the 1970's and early 1980's in Marquette County...population of people has
skyrocketed resulting in in perhaps more collisions...it is not that there are more deer because there are far
closer...barely hear a shot at any distance after the first couple of hours of gun season...no hunters vehicles
parked in the ditches during the week and rare to see anybody out the second weekend - this is because of the
low deer numbers - nobody is seeing anything like in the 1970's and 1980's VERY SAD!

More does need to be removed from agricultural areas somehow you have reached the saturation point of giving
away doe tags i'm afraid you'll have to use to earn a buck program to force people to shoot more does. Would
not support extending deer seasons past January 1 as the bucks start losing their horns at that time. Definitely
support antlerless seasons after the gun hunt. Would like to see only one buck killed per person per year and
choose the weapon you wish to use to shoot it. Thank you.

More time in the woods trying to fill unused Buck tags would increase the chances of also taking an antlerless tag.
Personally I won't go out to just shoot a doe. But to go out with a buck tag in my pocket and the opportunity
presents itself I would fill an antlerless tag. Having a second later muzzleloader season, around the first of the year
after a break from 9 day rifle season/9 day muzzleloader season then extending the archery season until the end
of January for either sex I would support.

Hi, As a hunter (gun and bow) and a farm in the county I would like to see a longer archery season through
January 31 or a longer gun season. In the first two months of this year I observed in one 50 acre field on average
120-180 deer a night. I consider this devastating to crops and the health of the deer herd. A third option would
be to have to shoot a doe before a buck. You could register the first doe in person then receive the buck tag then
do any remaining tags on line. Thanks

I am very concerned about the NRB's proposal that would do away with the Northern Forest/Central Farmland
units in Marinette County. For as long as the CDAC system has been in force, the goal for Northern Forest has to
increase the herd and the goal in Central Farmland has been to decrease the herd. Obviously, no "one size fits all"
county-wide plan would accomplish these diametrically opposed goals simultaneously. I would strongly support
keeping the present structure intact. Thank you.
I have hunted in this DMU unit a very long time. The population and deer sightings for bow and gun hunting have been very low the last 4-6 years for me and my hunting partners. I am starting to see a rise in number of animals sightings and would like to see that trend continue for a couple more years. If that occurs I would then possibly favor a larger harvest quota. I grew up hunting and fishing in this area and to me it is a treasure! I want to pass this on to my grandkids one day as well.

No more youth hunts. early bow season ends 10 days before gun season. No more muzzle gun season. All deer hunting stops November 31st for all deer. Way to many days to hunt and kill deer there are not many deer this has to stop to maintain a future of deer hunting when it becomes necessary to hunt more deer because of population we will discuss that when it happens my opinion and raise the License for all 50 $ more for all wi residents and 300 more for none residents my opinion you asked

I and many neighbors work all year long to create exceptional habitat for all wildlife, especially whitetails. Altering the harvest seasons would significantly change how we all view the hunting seasons and how much work we put into maintaining habitat; most likely negatively which in turn will create other herd issues in the near future. If a change has to be made, I suggest altering the number of antlerless tags awarded and not altering the seasons, harvest methods or species harvest.

I would like to see the season from Jan 1st to Jan 31st a antlerless only. Also if out of state land owners could see a reduced price for their deer license. Maybe more people would come and hunt. This would bring more people and money into the state. Go back to check in stations. I feel some people are not checking in deer that are shot. Do the same people sit on the CDAC also if so maybe a person can only be on it for only 2 or 3 years. So new ideas can be introduced. Thank you

I understand how deer browse on native species is influencing regrowth because of high deer populations. I do think an antlerless only season might be extreme though. Why don't we implement earn a buck again to be a middle ground between a normal season of shooting either sex and an antlerless only season? The antlerless kill will be higher. We need to have a better way of registering deer accurately and proof of an antlered kill to earn a buck. Not sure how to combat that issue.

Do not restrict crossbow hunting. Allow bow and crossbow hunting to extend to Jan 31 regardless of any holiday hunt. If you believe the herd needs reduction to the degree that various antlerless only hunts are instituted, why also restrict bow and crossbow hunting? Allow bucks to be taken by bow and crossbow during various antlerless only hunts. Wardens are skilled enough to determine what instrument was used to take a deer. Many policies contradict the stated goal of herd reduction.

I am a snowmobiler and we had a discussion last year about the holiday hunt, about doing it every other year and this should be the year for no holiday hunt so we could open trails in December. But I guess every body on the committee for got about that this year? The few deer that were shot during the holiday hunt doesn't make that much difference in my book! If you haven't fill your tags by that time your not a very good hunter and I don't want you hunting by my property!

No additional amount of tags will increase the overall harvest. Go back to the traditional 9 day gun season with with no additional gun harvest opportunities with the exception of the youth hunt and maintain a traditional archery season. Hunters by nature are traditionalists and the constant change of the seasons as well as in person registration stations has eliminated alot of those traditions. Unless we focus more on maintaining hunter numbers the population wont change

We need to look at not letting everyone from other states come in and hunt. The out of state hunters need to be put on a drawing system. We also need to be able to let hunters If they choose to shoot both buck tags with the bow. Gun hunting has way to many out of state hunters. In marquette county the numbers are way lower over the years because of the amish killing everything off. It's sad when the amish are trying to give away deer because they killed to many.
Stop messing with plan to change the crossbow season. I'm sick and tired of having a bunch of whiney gun hunters trying to reduce MY hunting season just because they don't feel like getting out there more often and taking advantage of the archery season times. Most of the whiney gun hunters don't hunt more than two or three days throughout the entire season. Why should they get more attention than those who spend many days afield and work harder for their game?

Let's not put a 49 minute recording in a survey most people won't spend 5 minutes to finish. I don't have the time to listen to all 49 minutes...how about a 3 minute cliff note version? 4 free antlerless tags is too many. I see pockets of an area wiped out for the whole gun season because a couple people can wipe out all the "local" deer before the season even ends. I'm not against giving a couple away free, but make people pay a little bit to get more tags.

The four of us that hunt private property in Marquette County saw very few if any does and or doe fawns last year. The fawns we did see were predominantly buck fawns. If we saw deer during our sits, we saw bucks or buck fawns. In our area the buck to doe ratio seems to be much higher on the buck side. We would like to see more does. If we did see more does we would feel more comfortable about using the antler-less tags that we have been provided.

The county has a good deer herd. The last 5 years have been hit and miss on if the group will even harvest any deer. We hunt long, hard and smart. The group is meat hunters we harvest both doeS and bucks. The numbers of deer seem and harvested have dropped majorly over the last 5 years. Large swamps and thick timber allows the deer to reproduce well and hide well. The number of coyotes and wolfs in the county have done great damage to the herd.

Extending the gun season to 19 days and all these antlerless only hunts is a terrible idea and should not even be considered. We need to embrace our deer population and stop trying to find ways to lower and destroy it! You are going to lose more hunters and more revenue from licenses when people stop buying them and stop traveling to come to Wisconsin to hunt if there are bad deer numbers. Lowering the deer population is not always the answer.

Having Hunter the same property for 42 years I've seen a dramatic decrease in deer production and quality. Current management techniques are opposing and are contradictory to good health management and welfare of future hunters and promoting the continuation of existing hunting individuals. Many individuals have gone to the deer council meetings representing my individual opinions only to be shot down or yelled down by the council members.

I am opposed to any and all recommendations made by this or any CDAC. You do not live in the reality that we as hunters live in. Your suggestions are not suggestions as you DO NOT listen to our thoughts or opinions but rather just do what you want. I suppose next you'll suggest that we have a year round antlerless season because of the China Virus! Wake up and hear what we have to say!!! No more antlerless only seasons of any kind!

If the DNR (Marquette County) is going to have a Holiday Hunt, move it to the beginning of January. Have the Antlerless Gun Deer hunt January 1st thru the 10th. Allow for bowhunting/Crossbow of Antlered Deer thru December. I bow hunt and I usually have some time off between Christmas and New Year's Day. I would like those days between the (2) holidays to go back to how it use to be, being able to hunt Antlered Deer with a bow.

Best idea I heard lately, was extending the deer gun season by 7 days [one full week]. Let us enjoy and savor the experience of being out in the woods, with family, friends, fresh air, and the wildlife. And hopefully give some of us a better chance to harvest a nice deer. Thanksgiving with family and travel reduces my time in the deer stand that week. And adding that one extra week, could be the week before the regular season.
6259 I believe the crossbow season should be shortened due to the DNR information that those hunters are harvesting more buck than vertical bow hunters which is affecting the quality of the rifle hunt. Further a antlerless only season or bringing back earn a buck (which the republicans made illegal) should be used. If the population is truly out of control hunters need to work together in the short term to help th long term.

6258 You covered the info I was going to share in the survey and questions. Specifically, I don't like the Holiday Hunt or the early December gun hunt. Those are the last opptrys to bow hunt and usually it's doe only. Also, the predator kill rate has be factored into the deer kill recommendations better. I'm seeing more bears, wolves, coyotes and bobcats in the area over the last 10 years. They certainly have an impact.

6260 I do not understand how the amount of deer being seen on my property has decreased to the point of not seeing any deer during gun season for the last 3 years. I can drive 2 miles away from my land and see deer all around. I seem to be in a pocket of low deer population, I do not know how this has happened. Very hard to get excited about hunting and getting my kids and grandchildren excited when very few deer are seen.

6261 I think between the youth gun seasons and hunting seasons they are chased and shot at for about 5 months. I know the deer are there, this pressure has made them nocturnal. I sat in my stand and saw 5 deer and shined the field at night and there is 25 out there. they know wait till dark and pile out of the woods. I also think and iam one of them, the crossbow has added bow hunters and pressure to be nocturnal

6262 The number of deer that we normally see was way down this year than past years. At least on our 200 acre property & according to our neighborhood property owners. Numbers were way down. Our hunting party was able to harvest one doe off our property this year & luckily he shot it on opening day otherwise we wouldn't have gotten anything. I highly disagree with reducing the amount of deer in this management unit!!

6263 The number of deer I have observed during the last few years has decreased significantly over each year. I credit this to the number of wolves in the area and to poaching out of season. The area I hunt in and have hunted in for 62 years has adequate food supplies, water, areas of good cover, and plenty of space. The location of these four items is such that it should support a flourishing deer population.

6264 I am strongly opposed to an antlerless only hunt. It would drastically disrupt the quality of the deer hunt for most everyone I know. In a time where we need to recruit more hunters, I believe this is a counter productive measure. Just the thought of the possibility of a buck sneaking past your stand at any moment and having a chance to harvest it is very special, and what most hunters live for.

6265 I like how we used to get a buck tag and a doe tag for all management zones and if you need more then apply for another doe tag instead of having to get a doe tag for every zone you plan to hunt. I hunt several properties, some private and several public lands. I like to have a buck tag for a buck and a doe tag good for all counties instead of having to buy a doe tag for each county I hunt.

6266 I am concerned with the practice of selling different antlerless permits for public or private lands. I frequently hunt private land that borders on public ground (French's Creek) and this practice makes it difficult to be 100 percent sure of legal compliance. Just sell antlerless tags for the area. I can’t see the benefit in apportionment being rationed between private and public grounds.

6267 I strongly recommend shutting down all deer farms!! I would encourage extending bow and crossbow season. Setup more deer donation facilities to encourage more antlerless harvest and provide food pantry areas for Marquette county. Stop charging for bonus antlerless tag I hunt two different countries but all my antlerless tags must be for one county. Why?? Thanks good presentation.

6268 Most large (200+ acres) land owners do not harvest does because they feel those lead to next year’s herd of bucks. Until those land owners agree to harvest does, there will not be a significant change in the numbers harvested. I also have a concern that bucks can be harvested and registered as does under the current system where there is no visual verification of the harvest.
I just think if the antlerless seasons were imposed the total kill numbers would go down and the antlerless numbers would stay about the same. It appears you may feel the same way since you are not recommending the antlerless only seasons. Have found a few winter kills but less than a bad winter. The deer we see in our area look in great shape. Thank you for the presentation.

Based on numbers I believe the quota is unreachble in the current format. I am totally against antlerless only season. But to be so far off in numbers. Something else has to change. Or set reasonable quotas that are attainable. I have high number of deer in my area. But my neighbors and I like that. The landowners are who should decide as long as not harming environment.

I would like to see the time of sighting rifles/guns in before gun deer season stop the weekend before gun hunting on private property. After that they should go to a gun range. There are so many shooting guns that the deer start hiding before gun season even starts. We loose the element of surprise. I believe more deer would be harvested if this were to happen.

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1. Bring deer tagging/registration stations, and back tags back to bring our hunting heritage back. 2. The hunting tradition and being honest and responsible while hunting has been deteriorated. 3. Make elevated stands and box stands illegal so hunters move around which moves the deer to allow more harvest opportunities. 4. Eliminate baiting!

Many hunters will not shoot does in this unit. I noted this during conversations with other hunters, and the moderate volume of bucks I viewed as harvested at local processors. We shoot both does and bucks (quality mgmt) and donate the meat to others in need. The farmland we lease has moderate crop damage every yr so we already shoot does.

I met some hunters in the woods. They said they were from the four corners area [Hy. 21 and 49]. In that area they got hunters to agree don't shoot does or bucks with less than six points. So there hunting this area to clean out the deer. If there thinning the population in a specific area they are over populating another. Thank You

Hello, I do respect what you all are trying to do, but I believe the management zones are to big to have an accurate count for the individual counties. I assume the old deer management units were to small and took to much time to adjust herd numbers, I do not have an answer and I apologize for that. Thank you for your time

I do not support the current crossbow season being the same as regular bow season. I would like to see that go back to special circumstances only (i.e. age, medical, etc.) even though I recognize that cat was let out of the bag. I do not like my buck chances during rifle season being diminished by crossbows during the rut.

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I oppose the holiday hunt. I looked at the harvested deer during 2019 season: 269 killed That ’s 0.065% of total harvested! Such a very low number. Why even have it? Let the snowmobilers have their season! If trails are open, the economic impacts are far greater for this community compared to a gun hunt.

The environment in the area where I hunt is continuing to change to denser cover which makes the deer harvest more difficult and leads many hunters to assume that the deer population is lower. The deer are still there but we have trouble seeing them. (Or they are getting smarter, or we are getting dumbber.)

To aggressive of an approach the number of deer have gone down already over the years. This proposal is leading to the type of hunting that is experienced up north thus no deer no interest in hunting especially young hunters. There are already enough gun seasons give the deer and hunters all a fair shot.

The only request I have is in regards to extending the gun season and reducing the crossbow season. My personal preference is to leave the current structure in place for gun hunting since it is a Wisconsin tradition. Extending it takes a lot of the mystique out of it an makes it even less appealing.
The deer numbers in this country vary greatly between north and south parts of the county. Private land owners in areas where deer numbers are down will not participate in any extra hunts due to lack of deer. In some places people will stop hunting period. More needs to be done to remove predators.

I would be in favor of an every other year holiday hunt to allow for the possible use of other recreation during the holiday time period. Another favorable option would be to extend the regular season the 10 days proposed and eliminate the holiday hunt. I think this would be the better of the two.

Due to the aging population of the hunter base I think that opening up the gun harvest season 1 week earlier to extend the season to 2 weeks would be very helpful to meet your goal to reduce the population in Marquette county and elsewhere. After all how many 60+ year olds want to hunt with a bow?

My hunting partner and I are trophy buck hunters only. Neither of us will hunt if it is a totally antlerless season in Marquette County. I know of a number of other bow and gun hunters that will not hunt also. I personally will seek to get a refund for the gun license I have already purchased.

I think our deer harvest season is plenty long enough. I am against deer hunting beyond the 9 day rifle season. I live, work, hunt and own land here and I don’t see the numbers of deer that the DNR is reporting. If your goal is to decrease the numbers, make it antlerless only or earn a buck.

Early drive deer’s during the 9 day gun season on public lands to private lands. (1) drive deer’s a day before from public lands to private lands. (2) Drive deer on Public lands the first two days gun season. (3) Private lands owner’s TAMPERS on public lands days before hunting season started.

Allow crossbow hunting during entire archery season. Do not restrict crossbow hunting any further than it was during 2019 Wisconsin seasons. I find it very challenging to harvest a quality buck with a crossbow during the archery season. Anyone who thinks that is an easy sport should try it.

I believe we as hunters are the best input you as the law makers can have. Please let us decide on how we manage our resources within good reason. Leave bow season be, keep 9 day gun season as it is. Keep muzzle loader as is, and the youth hunt keep as is as well. Thank you

THERE ARE MANY ANTLERLESS TAGS LEFT OVER EVERY YEAR DOESN'T THAT TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH TAGS OUT THERE? PUBLIC LAND IS THE ONLY PLACE THEY ARE HUNTED HARD THINGS HAVE CHANGED IF YOU TRY TO FORCE PEOPLE TO DO WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO YOU WILL CONTINUE TO LOSE HUNTERS SIMPLE AS THAT.

Hunting in Marquette co.should stay as is, the numbers of deer to hunters is just fine. We have to maintain some sanity in these decisions. Extending preexisting seasons is NOT a good idea. The rules and regulations in Marquette co.are a good balance and offer a fair chase for harvesting.

In order for younger kids to get involved in hunting they need to see animals. I feel we have over-estimated the true herd number and have to relax for a few years on the amount of antlerless tags being handed out so that the herd numbers can grow to a healthy number once again.

All you guys see are numbers got to kill the deer population. Finally since earn a buck the polustion is good and the bucks and deer population is finally doing good. Stop trying to find ways to screw with my passion go out and ask hunters what they think not what you want...

North of Westfield there are no deer the Springfield swamp was awesome at one time now you can't see a deer. 4 tags are to many lower the quota reduce the tags quit this non sense half the deer are getting shot in Adams county because they have forest zone No holiday hunt

Your deer metrics system has zero logic to it, you might as well call it scientific assumption! You simply once again are looking to wipe out the deer herd with your delusional ideas and proposed seasons. I am opposed to ALL bonus tags and extra antlerless seasons!!
| 1627 | I totally disagree with the CDAC opinion of not extending the Bow season if a Holiday Hunt is held. Once the gun season starts, buck hunting with a bow is for all practical purposes over due to blaze orange requirements or doe seasons. Extend the bow season. |
| 1628 | Way too many tags are given out. With the number of tags all it takes is one or two bad landowners to wipe out an area of deer which is what is happening. We have multiple neighbors who are killing every deer that they see so there are very few deer remaining. |
| 1629 | I farm 400 acres in Marquette Co. In the town of Shields and Mecan there are so many deer in this area that they are destroying one third of my crops. It is getting worse every year. No one wants to harvest any doe. this would be a spot for doe only. Thanks |
| 1630 | Get rid of youth hunt, it disturbs the deer for regular hunters to harvest deer. Divide counties in half for the unit to get better whereabouts as where the majority of the deer are. Bring back the deer baiting to all counties with a amount restriction. |
| 1631 | I am concerned for the future of Wisconsin deer hunting. It seems that the costs are up while the quality of the experience has decreased. Sitting in the woods watching squirrels doesn't constitute a quality deer hunting experience in my opinion. |
| 1632 | I want to know when the wolf population well get taken under control! yes we have wolf in Marquette County, I don't want a reduction of the deer hurd I dont believe your number count is correct for Marquette County. I want a health hurd . |
| 1633 | I don't understand why a hunter needs to indicate that he/she will be hunting on private or public land. A deer will cross the boundary of private to public land. Does it have something to do with hunting pressure on private versus public land? |
| 1634 | Consensus talking with fellow hunters that have stopped hunting is due to lack of deer being seen. Giving away so many antlerless tags makes no sense to me when again, way more people seeing just a few deer vs the few seeing several. Thanks! |
| 1635 | Open up the grand river marsh for archery. Put the muzzle loader season before gun season. Let gun season run from November to the holiday hunt. Reaching only about 1/4 of the quota in this unit...lots of vehicle collisions. |
| 1636 | there sure are a lot of small deer in marquette county. even the mama does are barely 100lbs. having hit 5 deer in the past 3 years,i feel the number of tags should be increased,as well as the extended bow hunting season |
| 1637 | Something shifted last year and we saw fewer does, bucks, and young deer in both archery and gun seasons. First time we did not get a buck outside the ears in gun season for 4 hunters who hunted most days of gun season. |
| 1638 | how about a trophy management zone for these two counties. I will take all the doe permit you give me. Do a lottery for buck tag 4 points or more on one side but would require manual registration of harvested bucks. |
| 1639 | forest regeneration is affected by more animals than just deer such as turkeys squirrels hawk owls and so on also don't think deer # s are eqeal throughout the cty as I believe the north east part of cty has lower # |
| 1640 | You all are doing great! However with the over population in Marquette county I think extending the season and offering more antlerless with the license and more available for sale as you have been doing. Thank you! |
| 1641 | i hunt and i snowmobile and you charge me for tail passes to which i am fine with but then we cant open the trail until after new years which is bull the regular gun season should be the end of hunting for the year |
| 1642 | Reduce the crossbow season to one week prior to the gun season (concurrent with the vertical bow season) and allow crossbows during the late seasons (Antlerless only holiday hunt and extended archery and crossbow). |
| 1643 | Farmers with issues or concerns should open land to hunters. I've done plenty of door knocking and could not get one approval from at least 20 farms. So to have sympathy in the crop damage concern is not valid. |
4 tags nobody is shooting even 1 deer because it is the only deer they saw last year. To many tags, cdac needs to quit listening to the DNR and use common sense. There are no deer anymore !!! No Holiday hunt

one tag per license, you don't need four tags per. if you slaughter the herd you are going to have a problem like during earn-a-buck and the population will take such a dip and you will anger hunters.

if you really want to increase doe harvest... offer free processing for does or a discount to be applied toward next years license. Everyone passes on does, nobody wants or needs to fill 4 tags

4 additional tags with every license purchased? Really? A group of hunters can shoot anything that moves because they have an abundance of tags to fill. So much for quality deer management.

we need a hunt for hungry program. have the sportsman's clubs, rent a freezer trailer and haul them to a meat processing plant that can/will cut them up and donate them to food pantry's.

We need all the hunters we can get do not limit hunting based on weapon type. And do not have a quiet period during prime hunting time especially for hunters with limited time to hunt.

If 10k is the goal an 6k plus was result you need to have a doe before buck rule in place. And as a state we should be charging non resident 4x as much for a license as we do currently

Please ensure that the rifle season more closely coincides with the rut. The 2019 season was abysmal versus years past in regards to deer activity, because it was so far past rut.

TOO MANY TAGS There are no deer especially in the Westfield area North. Most of the public land is in northwest corner of county and deer numbers are very low. No holiday hunt

There should be a lot less does shot. 2 of our group of 5 are looking for a different area to hunt. Have seen few deer the last 2 years. I'm giving it 1 more year, maybe.

4 tags are to many go to maintain what you have left of the deer herd.

Bring back Earn-A-Buck. I feel it is the only management tool that has been successful in Marquette County. It allows normal buck hunt seasons for all weapon types.

Holiday Hunt and extended gun seasons are unnecessary. Give the deer a chance to live and let hunters who appreciate the sport have an extended bow season.

Predator control, wolf, coyote bear are out of control. We desperately need to control the wolf population weather you want to believe it or not

Make an senior citizens hunt. Same time as youth hunt. Much easier for older hunters, to get deer, when it's warm enough to sit on blind.

I would not be opposed to bringing back the "Earn a Buck" requirement of harvesting a doe first, then getting approval for a buck.

I think you should be able to party hunt deer with archery equiptment under the same rules as you can with firearm deer hunting.

I completely disagree with an anterless only season. I feel a lot of hunters would either lose interest or not hunt at all.

No deer. They are all on farm property where family members only have the opportunity to shoot select deer. Trophy hunting.

Quota to high, success rate stinks because there are nondeer. Don't have a Holiday hunt!!!Don't have a Holiday hunt !!!

I recommend continue doing what is necessary for a balance between deer herd size and hunter success. So far, so good.
southern Marquette county is not the same as northern Marquette and has TOOOOOOO much influence on the deer harvest

PLEASE bring back back tags we have no way to id interlopers or poachers or any other types of illegal activities!

I strongly oppose a antlerless only season it would reduce hunting and result in a huge increase in population.

Keep the nine day gun hunt, and allow all archery including Xbow. Maybe look at hunter success in Illinois

I think if you want to decrease the population then it would make sense to extend the bow/Cross bow season.

To many tags quota is to high maybe one tag not 4 more tags are the answer when most people don't see a deer

As per the question in the CC questions we need to reduce the crossbow season to three weeks in October.

Extended muzzleloader season only. Early muzzleloader lottery, early November. Extended youth hunt.

There are not that many deer in marquette county. The deer herd is being killed off to far here.

2 tags are too many 4 is nuts people can't fill them if the deer aren't there No holiday hunt

Please do not extend bow or rifle season. Deer numbers get hit hard enough in WI as it is.

Traditional 10 day gun season should no change and the early youth hunt should not change,

Way too many car kills, especially fawns and yearlings, big waste of a wildlife resource.

i would rather see extra doe tags with license than have a special doe, holiday hunt

Must have a anterless session or we will never be able to regenerate our forests!

If you bother having a holiday hunt, remove the antlerless only requirement

I would like to see Earn a Buck brought back as a tool for the CDAC.

The gun season should be before thanksgiving end thanksgiving weekend

Leave it the way it is except elongate archery/crossbow seasons.

There are too many types of hunts/seasons. We don't need any more.

keep killing all the does and you want have a deer harvest!!

No special firearm season prior to the usual Gun Buck season

Go back to immediately tagging deer, and back tags.

Have the crossbow season during or after gun season.

Not in favor of longer gun season. 9 day is good.

Deer population is down. Please kill the wolves

Too many agriculture damage tags are given out.

Extend the crossbow season to January 31st.

Thanks for all your work on deer management

Thank you for allowing me to participate

gun deer should end thanksgiving weekend

Leave the 2020 season the same as 2029.

I would like to see the return of EAB.

Not as many deer as in the past

More focus on cwd checking
Go back to the old ways
Milwaukee, Southern Farmland

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22 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 15
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 5
   - I hunt in this unit: 17
   - General interest in this unit: 5

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 1
   - Bow: 13
   - Crossbow: 6
   - Muzzleloader: 0

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 7.82
   - Maximum: 28

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 15
   - Mostly Private Land: 1
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 0
   - Mostly Public Land: 0
   - Exclusively Public Land: 1
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 0
   - Not too crowded: 0
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 2
   - Somewhat crowded: 0
   - Very crowded: 0
   - Not applicable: 0

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 3
   - Fewer: 5
   - Same: 11
   - More: 1
   - Many More: 1
   - Unsure: 1

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

   The Antlerless Quota is...
   - Much Too Low: 0
   - Too Low: 2
   - About Right: 14
   - Too High: 2
   - Much Too High: 3
   - Unsure: 1
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 9 Support 10 Oppose 3 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 20 VALID 2 NOT VALID 0 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 1 VALID 16 NOT VALID 5 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?  

Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment Number</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6326</td>
<td>I hunted for the first time in Franklin, Wisconsin. I’m hunting on land that borders MILWAUKEE COUNTY ROOT RIVER PARKWAY land. My first year in Franklin I counted 25 different bucks in just the small area I bow hunt. I figure there’s over 50 deer within a square mile of where I bow hunt! I KNOW a vast majority of these bucks come out of the Milwaukee County land. I know you’re trying to get Milwaukee County to open some of their isolated and uninhabited (by people) county lands open for bow hunting. I’m being allowed to bow hunt private lands in Franklin because neighbors are pissed about all the deer coming off county land to forage on their gardens, bushes and flowers. I know bow hunters could safely hunt these county lands. Just ‘limit’ the number of hunters thru a permit system. Only allow certain (picked by lottery) hunters to hunt in specific spots. There’s plenty of isolated county lands in both southern and northern Milwaukee county to allow all to hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6327</td>
<td>Unfortunately for my opinion is the fact of crossbows being used in the metro area I hunt has had a big impact on the deer herd. Not sure if the hunters on the land are harvesting deer and not registering them or the hunters shooting the deer in nonethical distances to just shoot to get the antlers. I have complained about this to the DNR and land owner. I would like the metro unit to return back to compound bow use. I find to many deer wasted just for the racks, headless with all meat in tactic. Thank you for your help. I appreciate it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6328</td>
<td>I think that Milwaukee unit should have separate from the doe tags received from regular/patron license. I also think that county owned land that is not parks should allow trappers to use this to reduce coyote to help with fawn survival rate. I am not sure if the DNR can influence any of that or not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6329</td>
<td>The Holiday hunts in the bow only area is a joke. This needs to go away. Just let hunting be open until January 31st. If a person wants to shoot a doe, they will and they can also get a buck during that time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6330</td>
<td>Let’s ban all compound bow Hunting in Wisconsin. Keep the crossbow season as is and shorten the regular archery season for guys using compound bows!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6331</td>
<td>I’ve passed on does in the past, but will do my part to bring population down in 2020. Would like to see clearer documentation on rules for Metro Units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6332</td>
<td>Reduce numbers of deer to slow down the spread of CWD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6333</td>
<td>Recommend incenting landowners to allow hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6334</td>
<td>Too many free antlerless tags are given out.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monroe, Central Farmland

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406 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 197
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 68
   - I hunt in this unit: 387
   - General interest in this unit: 50

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 370
   - Bow: 236
   - Crossbow: 147
   - Muzzleloader: 136

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.25
   - Maximum: 63

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 290
   - Mostly Private Land: 50
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 23
   - Mostly Public Land: 12
   - Exclusively Public Land: 9
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 10
   - Not too crowded: 24
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 24
   - Somewhat crowded: 15
   - Very crowded: 18
   - Not applicable: 3

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 70
   - Fewer: 110
   - Same: 164
   - More: 41
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Monroe, Central Farmland
8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

- If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
  - Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
    - Support: 135
    - Oppose: 222
    - Unsure: 49

- If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
  - EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
    - Support: 191
    - Oppose: 176
    - Unsure: 39

- If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
    - Support: 30
    - Oppose: 353
    - Unsure: 23

- If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
  - VALID
  - NOT VALID
  - Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monroe, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.

Monroe County farm land zone is in a deer over population situation. On my farm in southern Monroe County white pine browse lines are as high as the deer can reach, oak regeneration is abysmal. CWD is on our door step and we need to do everything we can best manage our herd. I believe we need to reduce our overall target population and we should be in a population reduction zone not maintain. As I listened to the Monroe County CDAC presentations and those of the surrounding counties it appears biologist agree that the deer herd is growing and we need to be aggressive in the antler-less harvest. I also understand the frustration in trying to motivate hunters to take more deer. Few counties with high populations have been able to achieve their quota. The single best deer population reduction method we have utilized to date has been Earn-a-Buck. We need to argue counties need the EAB tool but that's not a choice for 2020. If we don’t give hunters the right signals we could find ourselves in an antler-less hunt for all seasons in the not to distant future and that will be far more unpopular than no buck season at all. Coulee Country QDMA has sponsored raffles for deer donation and CWD testing which has created interest but its still not enough. One of the tools we do have is the Holiday Hunt. Its easy to compare the number of deer harvested in 2018, (153) when we had the Holiday Hunt vs (4) in the similar period in 2019 when we did not have the Holiday Hunt. I strongly encourage the adoption of the Holiday Hunt! I also recommend increasing the farmland tags from 2 per license to 3 per license. I know this historically hasn’t moved the harvest much but its a signal we need to send. The no change and herd maintain message is giving a signal that "all is well" and its not. Families are economically struggling and food pantries are seeing record demand during the Covid 19 pandemic. We have high quality protein in abundance we can share. We can anticipate that more families would appreciate the opportunity to receive or harvest for themselves venison for the coming year. The silver lining is that Covid 19 may give us the opportunity to come closer to our harvest quota if we as hunters take herd health seriously. I’ve heard suggestions of offering a "Reward" for does harvested, perhaps local sportsman clubs could offer this as a contest, for each doe harvested or for the smallest, the largest, the oldest... I encourage the county CDAC to use "virtual Meetings" as some landowners do not live within convenient driving distance from Sparta. More sportsman want to participate in your decision making process, using the Internet or some other technology such as ZOOM should increase participation. Thank You for the opportunity to provide input.
I would like for the Wisconsin DNR to strongly consider going to 1 buck tag per hunter per year rather than the current 2 buck tags that are allotted. That 1 buck tag would then be valid in Archery, Rifle, or Muzzleloader season or until the hunter tags out. If you think about trying to control deer number the 1 buck tag makes far more sense. Take myself for example. I like to try and shoot 3 deer each year for my meat supply. Now since I’m eligible for 2 buck tags its unlikely that I will shoot more than 1 doe. However, if I only have 1 buck tag I'll be shooting 2 doe and possibly a 3rd if I don't fill my buck tag. And just like that you start to control the doe numbers better so you can avoid going to a doe only season. The buck to doe ratio is way off in my opinion. This 1 buck system would help balance that. In addition to that, you will create a hunting environment that people desire to hunt in when you have a better balance. This will help our tourism and Non-Resident hunting. Non-Resident Hunting should also be changed, allow fewer Non-Resident tags and make a draw system if the allotted number of tags get sold out. Also raise the price of a Non-Resident tag. If we have a good hunting environment the people will come regardless of price or tag availability.  

Take the State of Iowa for example. Known for some of the best Whitetail hunting in the Midwest, they have a draw system and the tags for a Non-Resident cost in the neighborhood of $600. 2020 will be 4th consecutive year applying for a coveted Archery tag in Southern Ia and I am very hopeful that I will be awarded a tag. As you see, the hunting environment is so good that so many people want to hunt there that I am willing to spend $50 per year on preference points and the $600 on a tag and am also willing to wait 4 years to go because I know how exciting the hunting will be along with the higher odds of bagging a trophy deer. The same cannot be said for Wisconsin. That is why we need to change our buck to doe ratio. It doesn’t mean increase our herd, it simply means to balance the numbers. I would love to participate in a study where we conduct research on the deer numbers, license & season structures, and license costs of other states so that we can compare the data and make an educated decision to move Wisconsin forward as a desirable state to hunt in again. The declining license numbers in Wisconsin are a sure indication that we are no longer the Best in the Midwest when it comes to trophy Whitetail hunting.

Monroe County farm land zone is in a deer over population situation. On my farm in southern Monroe County white pine browse lines are as high as the deer can reach, oak regeneration is abysmal. CWD is on our door step and we need to do everything we can best manage our herd. I believe we need to reduce our overall target population and we should be in a population reduction zone not maintain. As I listened to the Monroe County CDAC presentations and those of the surrounding counties it appears biologist agree that the deer herd is growing and we need to be aggressive in the antler-less harvest. I also understand the frustration in trying to motivate hunters to take more deer. Few counties with high populations have been able to achieve their quota. The single best deer population reduction method we have utilized to date has been Earn-a-Buck. We need to argue counties need the EAB tool but thats not a choice for 2020. If we don’t give hunters the right signals we could find ourselves in an antler-less hunt for all seasons in the not to distant future and that will be far more unpopular that no buck season at all. Coulee Country QDMA has sponsored raffles for deer donation and CWD testing which has created interest but its still not enough. One of the tools we do have is the Holiday Hunt. Its easy to compare the number of deer harvested in 2018, (153) when we had the Holiday Hunt vs (4) in the similar period in 2019 when we did not have the Holiday Hunt. I strongly encourage the adoption of the Holiday Hunt! I also recommend increasing the farmland tags from 2 per license to 3 per license. I know this historically hasn’t moved the harvest much but its a signal we need to send. The no change and herd maintain message is giving a signal that "all is well" and its not. Enter Covid 19. Families are economically struggling and food pantries are seeing record demand. We have high quality protein in abundance we can share. I think we can anticipate that more families would appreciate the opportunity to receive or harvest for themselves venison for the coming year. The silver lining is that Covid 19 may give us the opportunity to come closer to our harvest quota if we as hunters take herd health seriously. Thank You for the opportunity to provide input.
At a minimum go back to 1980s - 1990s of 9 day deer gun with first 2 days either sex and the last 7 buck only. This makes the hunter decide to take an antler less deer earlier when the hunting pressure (more people in woods) is highest. The use of longer and extra seasons will not bring in enough hunting pressure to make for a stable predictable deer harvest like a shorter well run season of either sex first two days buck for the last 7 days. If there is crop damage to deal with that should be free landowner either sex tags as needed. The long term goal should be to develop a plan to get to a point where there is a single deer gun hunting season (9 days or less hunt) without tags, limits or licences. Today we effectively do not have age restriction so the closer we can get to no licences and no limits with same day on line reporting will dramatically reduce the cost of implementation and enforcement. If you compare today we already receive three tags for one licencee and by the DNR numbers are hardly ever filled full for one person in deer gun so the risk of over harvest is low even without licences or bag limits. Often times the cost of processing the meat of more than one deer is to expensive for an individual. A hunter safety certificate is all that each hunter would have to carry if they were born after 1973 or whenever that law was enacted. Focus on hunter safety, enforcement of existing trespassing laws, self reporting deer registration on line and a shorter more focused hunting season to increase success which would increase interest in non hunters or youth hunters. If this open policy was too successful you simply shorten the season to 7, 5 or X amount days as needed. With same day on line or phone deer kill reporting the DNR could simply stop the season once goals are met by management unit.

With research (Czub, et al) suggesting the possibility of CWD jumping species to primates eating small quantities of CWD contaminated venison (https://www.cdc.gov/prions/cwd/transmission.html) I would like to see a serious effort at controlling this devastating disease in Monroe County and throughout the state. I find it insulting that large game (deer) management experts have seemingly ignored the threat to not only those of us that enjoy harvesting and eating venison, but also the impact it is (and will increasingly have) on agriculture. I now have customers asking whether our beef is grazed and/or comes in contact with CWD carrying deer. What do I tell them? I can not in good faith say no, and the more I read (at first in an effort to discredit their questions) the more I now share their concerns. If prions can exist in the soil and our forages for unknown amounts of time, the economic fall-out (agriculture, deer hunting tourism, land prices) from CWD will be inevitable for Wisconsin if we do nothing. I don't want the blood of not doing everything we can to stop CWD of my hands, and I sincerely hope those in a position to make a difference will have the courage to speak out on this issue. I do not see the point of a 3 year management cycle while the destruction will be eternally catastrophic. I do, sincerely, appreciate the work being done by the DNR and supporting agencies, however can not understand why this issue is not at the forefront of our management discussions. Again, thank you.

I have been hunting deer for 30 years straight. In our area, I have undoubtedly seen the number of deer decline, but for many reasons. Predators, overkill for too many years, and migration. The deer go where there is no pressure. This aspect has also changed. There’s not the same kind of pressure these days because there's less hunters in the woods. The deer know exactly where to go and hide. This has become a major problem for the hunters in this area like myself. We simply do not see the same kinds of numbers that we used to. A final thought. Bow hunting. It's become huge. And as far as I have seen, the deer have become educated over the years because of it. I see deer looking up in to trees now. I see the major population coming out at night almost entirely once they figure out there’s hunters in the woods. That may sound odd but I believe there’s some truth to it all. I don't have a recommendation to combat this problem but deer behavior has definitely changed over the years. Last thing, I strongly support the youth hunt, but I also strongly support pushing it back in the year a little bit. The biggest aspect we teach our youth is safety. The youth hunt occurs during a time of year where you can't see hardly a thing beyond your target because there's so much vegetation left on the trees and ground. I really think the hunt should be the first part of November and the start of the regular deer hunting season should be pushed back another week. Thanks for reading.
My first year hunting was the best. It was the year 2000 and I was 12. I believe the rules and regulations were fine. Ever since then, everybody thinks this or that and rules get changed. Kids looked forward to going hunting because they couldn’t, until they were 12. There was an archery season that did not! Include crossbows unless you were disabled or a certain age. There was one single guy season with the first 2 days being shotgun only, which was cool, different, challenging. No youth should hunt till they are 12 and safety certified. There should be no youth season for anything. There should be no other gun season other than the traditional 9 day. There should be no deer farms or commercial deer anything. Go back 20 years and stop tinkering with what worked. The sport has become so catered to everybody. It has turned thousands of people away because it is not what it used to be. So go back to what it used to be! There isn't enough land or animals for everybody to be successful, but yet the DNR thinks more people need to hunt. That's nonsensical. If you haven't realized that making more seasons, weapons, younger hunters hasn’t improved license sales then take a note from the history books and go back a couple decades. Frankly, the sport is in shambles. Wisconsin conservation is terrible. It is owned by private interests and corporations. Anybody that took part in this last 20 years of changes should be very ashamed of themselves.

As a lifetime hunter and retired DNR employee I believe the agency is missing the boat in its' managing some issues associated with the deer herd management. It is quite apparent that the numbers of deer licences sold has been a long focus because of the revenue generated. It is also well known that the insurance industry has had an influence as related to the number of car killed deer each year and their supposed losses in revenue due to said accidents. If the agency wants to reduce herd populations it would seem reasonable that with the decline in hunter numbers the seasons need to be opened up to allow the current hunting population to increase the kill. By opening up I mean extending seasons where needed. For example, weather plans a critical factor each year and is so variable. The agency needs to be able to extend the seasons as the deer kill numbers come in to meet the projected target quota. I am all in favor of extending the muzzle loader season through the entire month of December (as Michigan does) since it is a more primitive weapon and many who would try hunting in this way don't because the season runs right after the deer gun season and the timing is wrong with work and family obligations. By extending the muzzle loader season more deer would be taken. I personally purchase a Conservation Patron license each year to support my outdoor activities and don't use all the privileges allowed under that permit.

I think we are getting to a point in our county where we should seriously consider ways to decrease the deer population, especially in the Central Farmland Zone. I have no issue with the current CDAC recommendation of maintaining our population. Quite frankly, with the constraints placed on them they really have no power to reduce the population anyway. We know that adding addition days to our current deer seasons, adding additional special antlerless seasons, giving out more antlerless tags, and focusing on filling every buck tag has never worked, and will never work in reducing deer numbers. The only option available to us at this time to reduce the deer population is by not issuing any buck tags. Let’s shake things up! Let’s be the first county in Wisconsin to truly commit to reducing deer numbers by focusing on increasing doe harvests this fall by not issuing any buck tags. Other options to reduce the deer population currently not available to CDACs to consider, but should be, include: Earn-a- Buck, Antler Point Restrictions and changing our deer management style from a "traditional" approach to a Quality Deer Management approach. These three options will need to go through our state legislative process for approval. About the only way to get the attention of our legislators, and let them know we are serious about reducing our deer population, is by not issuing any buck tags this fall.
Extending hunting seasons are completely absurd. The main reason for it is because of lower kill numbers. Well guess what, I bet the kill numbers are close to the normal or even slightly higher. But when the genius's in the DNR decided to first go away from back tags, now less people are buying tags because they don't have to worry about someone seeing them with no back tag. Then those same genius's decided to go away from registration stations. Not only hurting small town economy, but now less people are buying tags because they don't have to go in and register them anymore. So why even buy a tag? I live in a high amish community, they have no internet to register deer, no phones to call them in. Few years ago they would bring wagon loads of deer to the local bar to register. Now they don't have to and they are killing the same amount of deer. For some reason the dnr thought they could save money by implementing these changes but all they have done is taken more money out of there pocket by less LEGAL hunters. And in my final complaint, the deer numbers question on the online registration... worthless, if someone sees 30 deer while hunting, they put that they saw 3. Why, because they don't want a mandatory earn a buck, or a holiday season, or even an extended gun season. The old way wasent broken. Why change it.

The deer population in Monroe County is overpopulated and continues to grow. With CWD knocking on the door of the County I believe it is important not to just maintain, but to decrease the local deer population. Decreasing the population will both assist with slowing the spread and prevalence of CWD, but also decrease the impacts of overpopulation on local habitats. I've been impressed with the efforts by local groups such as QDMA to try and increase participation in both CWD testing as well as donating deer to the local food pantries, but I think Monroe County needs to do more. Anything we can do to increase the harvest of antler-less deer needs to be encouraged. I'm fully supportive of a holiday hunt and believe it provides a valuable tool for increasing the total number of antler-less deer taken and provides an opportunity to hunters who may have time and ability to get into the field during this time period. I also believe increasing the number of antler-less tags issued per license would be beneficial, especially if it is coupled with an active deer donation program within the County. Increasing tags and increasing donations to local food pantries provides an incredible opportunity to benefit both the people of Monroe county and to maintaining a healthy deer population.

C.W.D is not a problem that is why the Wisconsin D.N.R brought back the wolves, and introduced the mountain lions to the state to take care of the sick deer? I hunted from the middle of November 2019 to the first weekend in January 2020 On average every 3 days and saw nothing. The deer population is down. I drive a well known road for deer every day I have seen very little compared to other years. I have my share of deer accidents and I have had none for over a year. I am not complaining but the fact lies far less deer. If there are people complaining of too many deer, that live in these areas then maybe they should let people hunt their land. Example a farmer down the road said there is too many does I asked him to hunt and the answer was no. He said too many does he will not let me hunt do not complain. If you think that you are controlling the deer population wrong it is the land owner. The problem with the state stepping in to change this is it will cost the tax payer more money like usual. You want me to make more habitat I have 10 acres HA.HA. My solution is stop building problem solved. Do not worry the governor will take our guns away then that will end hunting in Wisconsin or the lack of land because of too many buildings.
Monroe County Farmland is over populated with deer! In the north central area of the county, you can not plant any tree species of wildlife value with out protecting them or the deer will destroy them. Oak regeneration is poor at best and some herbaceous plants have become rarer or disappeared just in my 12 years of ownership. Monroe County's goal is to Maintain the herd for this current term. We are now in a situation where we need to reduce the herd just to maintain. It is estimated that Monroe County has 49 deer per square mile of habitat. That is 2-3 times more deer than a habitat, even with ag land and food plots, can support. We have shown that the Holiday Hunt helps (153 deer in 2018 with and 4 in 2019 without). Even though additional authorizations only increase harvest 5% per tag, that is still another 150 deer per authorization. I would recommend harvest authorizations double to 4, that we have a Holiday Hunt and extend the bow season. Keep in mind, when you have a Holiday Hunt you need to increase the number of authorizations available for the general public. The hunt creates an "island of opportunity" for hunters who don't have the hunt in their county.

In my opinion the CWD has always been in the state. I have been around deer hunting in the state since 1976 and have seen deer that have been sick. Baiting deer or feeding deer is no different than if a deer eats from the same corn cob, apple, lick a licking branch or groom each other. When it was legal to bait I harvested the same amount of deer as now. The positives, allows young hunters to see more deer, helps the deer and it allows a hunter to be more selective on what they harvest. The number of deer harvested by firearms is lower now than years past because the hunting has changed. When we used to hunt we did deer drives and we also shot or used the phrase, brown is down. Most hunters now want to shoot a mature deer. That's hard when everyone keeps shooting the young bucks. Most people with private land use many trail cameras however because of the DNR's practices of years past do not trust the DNR and do not care to share there information. 99.9% of sportsman would love to share there pictures however they do not trust the DNR.

If the goal is to maintain the herd in Monroe County (central farmland zone), I question the rationale behind suggesting that the antlerless quota be increased by 35% (from 4,000 to 5,400). I watched the entire video provided for background information, and there was no statistically significant difference in the population estimate for 2019 compared to the two previous years, and the 2019 fawn:doe ratio was also not statistically different from 2017 or 2018. So if the population estimate appears to be about the same, and recruitment appears to be about the same, I do not understand why it would be recommended to increase antlerless harvest by so much. The only way this would make sense is if mortality was estimated to be very low, leaving more animals on the landscape. Additionally, hunters only harvested about 3,000 of the 4,000 antlerless quota in 2019, so if we didn't even come close to the quota and the goal is to maintain the herd, recommending more antlerless deer be harvested doesn't seem to make a lot of sense to me.

The above questions do not provide enough information. For example, the number of CKD is rising. Is the traffic or road usage also rising? Oak regeneration problems. How is this measured and what is acceptable? Deer are browsers and they feed on the leaves and twigs I’d think moreso in the winter. Lastly, the numbers themselves that are used in your metrics. Just how accurate are they? Especially the registration numbers? Are people registering as diligently as they used to? I think not. My frustration is that I see the number of antlerless/bonus permits rising each year and the number deer sightings dropping. In '19, I saw 0 deer for about 20 hours afield (opening weekend). This year in the first 2 1/2 days, I saw one deer, a buck fawn that I let walk. That would in about 25 hours of hunting. I used to be in double digits for an opening weekend when I acquired the land some 16 years ago. Land usage, farming has not changed.
I hunt on approx 200 acres of private property and hunted all of last years 9 day hunt (unfortunately I was unable to bow hunt last year) and saw 4 deer, 1 yearling and 3 mature does. This property is near the interstate and a major highway so I know the mortality from car-deer accidents is a big number (I've had more hit by my house this spring than what I saw all of last season). However, I don't think there is much that can be done about this issue. So, I would really enjoy seeing an antler restriction on bucks similar to southern, Minnesota. I know several hunters that are no longer hunting in this area and now hunt in MN for the large bucks. I would love to see a large buck but due to the car accidents and neighbors shooting everything in sight I don't think I'll ever get that opportunity here and may have to go over the river to MN (please don't make me hang out with my brother in law).

I am a passionate deer hunter with bow and gun and try to take 2 does for every buck but the last 2 years the coyotes have been an issue where we hunt. I have witnessed coyotes chasing deer like they were in a cattle drive. In 2018 A deer I harvested and had to wait 5 hours to retrieve due to a bad shot had 1 hind quarter devoured by the time I recovered the animal 150 yards from where i initially shot the deer. We harvested 7 coyotes out of the parcel I hunt in 2018/19 and 4 more this last season. Lack of Snow fall this last year has caused our local coyote hunters to not be able to drop dogs on fresh tracks unlike the 2018/early 2019 winter. This has caused a lot of deer population drop on my parcel I hunt. We found 2 dead deer this spring while walking the woods and field edges on the parcel I hunt also. No other hunters hunt this parcel but me. So I'm guessing they were predatory kills.

I would like to keep the current hunting season’s the way they were in 2019. Keep crossbow season the way it is and rifle the way it has been for years. I feel there are way to many antlerless tags available. My father has 80 acres of private land with all being forest. He see’s very few deer, the last 10 years on opening day he only see’s a couple deer opening weekend!! Terrible in my eyes!! My nephew only goes a few days out of the 9 day season. Can’t keep a relatively new hunter interested when you see nothing. My family has faithfully hunted every year, but even a dedicated hunter as myself is seeing fewer hunters and deer. Sad. Hunting is nothing compared to the 90’s. Seemed to be more deer. Way, way to many doe tags handed out like candy at a parade!! Let’s bring the number of deer back up for younger hunters to see at least some does..

I strongly feel that the deer population in the western part of Monroe county, say from city of Sparta to LaCrosse county line is too high. I live and hunt this area, my father owns land since 1972 and I am close to many other landowners and hunters for this area. Deer numbers are high. With less hunters each season and less hunters willing to shoot doe, I feel more bonus tags(free ones) should be given out so that those willing to shoot doe, can. Many will not pay to get extra tags. In light of CWD any encouragement to bring the population down some should be done. I love seeing a lot of deer when i hunt but this area has as high of deer numbers as I have ever witnessed. Many hunters enjoy seeing a lot of deer also and I feel that is why they want to "maintain" the population, but that is what is best for the deer herd or the landscape.

I oppose not having the holiday hunt. This provides an opportunity for families with members that live long distances away to hunt when they get together for the holidays. It also provides an opportunity to harvest more antlerless deer. The four day antlerless-only hunt is too short to remove antlerless deer especially considering the possibility of bad weather. This is often the only time you can get on private property to hunt as landowners restrict access other times to protect their bucks. I was sad to see in the comment section as reasoning for not allowing the hunt was that archers like to hunt this last week to fill their tag. How many more weeks do they need? The state needs to look at providing more opportunities to gun hunters if it wants the slow the decline in their numbers.
Hunters are going to take what they feel is necessary to maintain their deer herd health within legal limits. Simply giving a person more tags would not justify me taking more animals. If such a thing as an antlerless only season would come into fruition, it would only deter me from hunting. The proposed 19 day gun deer season would only benefit out of state individuals who do not care about our local area, I can take just as many animals in 9 days as I can in 19. Want to make more money? Charge out of state individuals more money for their tags so that we are inline with other states. It's time to take a step back and analyze individuals hunting habits more by implementing size restrictions on the antlered animals that they can take. By all means stop trying to mess with our traditions! I

My brothers and I own 350 acres of hunting land in northern Monroe County. We began hunting this property in the mid-80's. The first ten years we saw a lot of deer - double digits each day. That ended with the proliferation of doe harvest tags. A group next to us on private land shot over 12 does per year for several years. That is just one example. We have not harvested a buck the opening weekend of the gun deer season in the past 3 years. The next generation of hunters in our family have never seen a group of deer totaling over five animals. We have nine hunters and every year we have members of our group who do not see a single deer opening weekend of the deer gun season. This is ridiculous. We have the habitat and no deer. This is unacceptable and needs to change.

I think it would be excellent for more dnr biologists to hold these "podcasts" so we the hunters can stay connected with what the conservations/management side is doing and learning so we can use data to inform our decisions. There are too many assholes with opinions that are truly uninformed by data. I appreciate the work the DNR does, however, I feel like the gun deer season was ungodly bad this year (no I'm not a trophy hunter). To give background, I hunt fort mccoy so im not sure if that has anything to do with the low numbers I saw this year. Would love to hear back to see if there are any other resources I could access or people i could contact with my direct questions for a prompt response. Thank you for all that you do to help preserve our natural resources!

We need to review the youth season if we think that gun harvests are too low. I have not seen any numbers regarding the youth season, and how many "new" hunters it is actually providing opportunity for vs. just allowing young hunters out in the field earlier than everyone else. This definitely impacts deer movement, resulting in lower numbers of deer being seen during the remaining bow season and the regular gun season.

In Central Farmland, there are way too many deer. Farmers are loosing excessive amounts of corn and soybeans. We see deer and pasture fences and causing issues with cattle escaping. If you hit a deer, your insurance pays for it. If someone hits a cow, the farmer is responsible. Family farms are struggling to stay in business. Is a large deer population, which makes hunting less exciting, more important than keeping family farms alive? Rich hunters seem to make all the decisions. Farmers are trying to feed the world. Who should be supported?

I have been hunting this unit my entire life. The deer population is nothing compared to what it used to be. It is very sad watching my son get so discouraged hunting that he does not show much interest anymore. When I began hunting, we had to apply for an antlerless tag. I know that will never happen again, but these bonus tags are ridiculous. The land around us is getting bought or leased by new hunters for the area. They shoot everything that moves because they have almost unlimited tags. Every time I allow a small group of anterless deer go by me, they are soon shot at the moment they cross property lines. I am very concerned about the over harvest of anterless deer in the unit I hunt in.
In my opinion there are not enough hunters hunting the big farms to move deer around on the private lands. Most are shooting a couple bucks and no does. In the past 3 years my business has not allowed me to get out and hunt much, but I spend a lot of time talking to hunters. I have noticed that most does have twins and triplets, it is rare to see a single fawn with the mom for the past 3 years. The amount of predators is bad too. I have had very large packs of coyotes keeping the deer hunkered down for 3 to 4 weeks at a time. I have come across many fawns killed by predators in the past 5 years. I think the archery season should be extended to the end of January no matter what.

I have been hunting over 40 years with a bow and gun. There is no need for any more bonus tags or special hunts. I have no problem with someone shooting does with their deer tags, but one with gun and one with bow is plenty. Two deer a year for each hunter is enough. There is no reason to be greedy. There is not as many deer now as was in the 80s or 90s and if you want people to keep hunting there has to be game to hunt. If young people go out hunting and don’t see anything there not going to hunt long. Public land hard enough to hunt so it’s nice to go out and see something. You keep shooting 3 and 4 does and year hunting will get harder.

I continue to fail to understand how the DNR and NRB thinks that Antlered and Antlerless deer are two different sexes of deer. Male and Female, Buck and Doe, but Antlered and Antlerless? A good friend of mine who ran one of the largest deer registration sites in Vernon Co. told me year after year that well over 50% of the Antlerless deer they registered were in deed “Buck Fawns”. Why in the world can’t these buck fawns be entered into the statistics as male deer / bucks. Why are they still being recognized as female / does? I just do not get it. All of the data concerning sex ratios of deer harvested are worthless and meaningless.

The DNR should come and hunt with me and see how badly you doughheads are doing on managing the deer population. THERE ARE SO FEW DEER THAT IT IS ESSENTIALLY USELESS TO PAY FOR A LICENSE. I sat quietly in my ground blind for 7 days of the season last year and saw a total of 3 deer. You have just about eradicated the species and now ask dumb questions about how to manage the deer. If you were hunting in my area you would know how badly you are doing. THREE DEER IN 7 DAYS OF DAYLIGHT TO DARK IS TERRIBLE. Victor Eirschele and I own the land which cost me over $810 last year and can’t get a deer. You people tick me off.....

The number of predators in our hunting area have been on the rise. I am close to Ft. MCCOY and there are wolves established. Bobcats, coyotes, and black bear are consistently showing up on our trail cameras. This was not the case 5 yrs ago. I have been going to the woods since I was 5 yrs old. I have passed the love of this along to my children and my 15 and 13 yr olds both hunt. It is difficult when sightings are going down. I would support a one buck rule per year regardless of what weapon. Thank you for all the work you guys put in. I know it’s hard to achieve balancing science and social issues.

I have seen a good three year trend of a decrease in deer sightings on my property which includes both bow and gun seasons. One observation that particularly concerns me is the decrease in doe and fawn sightings. The trend on our property has been to sight equal or more antlered deer as we do doe/fawns. We used to have a much higher ratio of doe/fawn to buck sightings. This leads me to wonder about the health of my local herd and if their truly is an imbalance? I would like to see us reduce the harvest quota numbers for antlerless deer to one per license for the 2020 season and continue to monitor.

I believe the way things are is a very good way of managing the heard. A couple of points to consider though. 1) Do not increase the gun season. Nine days is plenty of time to harvest deer with a firearm. And do not make it earlier in the year. 2) Do not create a crossbow only season. Keep crossbow and regular bow the same times. 3) If it’s money you are looking for (which it always is), why not work with groups that promote public land hunting to draw in more tourism. Reach out to people like The Hunting Public group on YouTube. Their influence could have great effects on the sport in Wisconsin.
We have seen a three year trend of a decrease in deer sightings on my property which includes both bow and gun seasons. One observation that particularly concerns me is the decrease in doe and fawn sightings. The trend on our property has been to sight equal or more antlered deer as we do doe/fawns. We used to have a much higher ratio of doe/fawn to buck sightings. This leads me to wonder about the health of my local herd and if their truly is an imbalance? I would like to see us reduce the harvest quota numbers for antlerless deer to one per license for the 2020 season and continue to monitor.

Alot of the public areas seem to be hunted out. Also I feel that wolves and coyotes have also played a factor in this. I feel not being able to dispose of deer carcasses to the area harvested also jeopardizes deer population in those areas as wolves and coyotes then prey on the living animals. I feel the new way to register deer also does not give you an accurate kill count. Many people hunt in other countries and register them in Monroe County. Many deer just plain dont get registered either. Please review the registration system it needs changes to hold hunters accountable!

I simply form my opinion based on how many deer my 3 hunter crew sees each year during opening weekend. So, my thoughts are not thoroughly vetted because of the short hunting time. I do spend lots of time during turkey hunting in April&May, and visits during June at this camp ... so i am observing the property during Spring. The fact that we see quite a bit fewer deer in our 40 acres the past 5-7 years tells me the count is down - we see deer on neighboring properties as well, but in smaller numbers the past 5-7 years. Thanks for the work you do in preserving our hunts!

Seems like deer numbers are high and cwd is a threat. I hear talk of crossbows being band during the rut. Traditional bow hunters are known for passing on deer and seem to only care about horns. Personally I'd like to see crossbows go though the rut and the gun season last through December. Deer numbers need to go down! Stop catering to traditional bow hunters. I own private land, pay a large amount of taxes why can't I use a gun through December? If you want people to fill their tags let them hunt how they want to on there own land.

Do not change time of regular gun deer season. To many changes have already been made and in my opinion most were not good. The regular gun season is about the only tradition left so lets keep something! Hunting has been made easier and more high tech over the years, cameras, crossbows, comfy hunting blinds, etc..etc... And it seems no one is happy! All most want to do is complain about others having the advantage! Lets keep regular 9 day hunt at the same time, through thanksgiving. Lets keep some tradition!

Seeing 20-30 deer in a field can be exciting. When you think about how much foods it takes to support than many deer it is disturbing. It is our farmers and woodland owners that are feeding our deer herd. I don't think we need to increase harvest permits, but I do think we need increase opportunity. This is why I support the holiday hunt. It provides hunters an opportunity to hunt deer when they are back to a more normal feeding pattern after the pressure of the 9-day season. Thanks.

Too many antlerless tags being handed out or sold. Seeing vehicles piled full of does, doe/buck fawns and then the same people complaining of not seeing any deer. Stop giving them tags to fill and maybe deer will be able to grow. Not seeing hardly any deer compared to 15 years ago. It’s not the weather or time of year. I’ve hunted the same private land with the same family members and no one is seeing any deer like in the past. Deer numbers are not as high as what is being told to us.
6377 Keep regular 9 day deer season. Give the kids the doe tags. Don’t mess with the seasons or Wisconsin will loose many hunters. Get rid of these early doe seasons, very unfair to bow hunters. Let the insurance companies pay for car versus deer collisions, that’s why we all pay for insurance. Don’t let them sway the DNR to create more seasons and hand out more tags. Non resident licensing should cost a lot more, look at what we pay to go out of state. Thank you

6378 All the special hunts have caused the deer to go nocturnal by the 1st. of November they do not come out of it until into January. Extending the regular rifle season will not solve this. I have been hunting since 1965. Started in the southern Clark and eastern Jackson County in its hayday. I have seen many changes but none have had this same effect. Since I have started hunting the only act that has not been legalized is hunting at night.

6379 I think you should utilize the holiday hunt and extended archery season to expand opportunities to harvest deer and get the numbers down. I would much rather have that, than to see the NRB implement a 16 day deer season or other options related to the questions asked on the spring hearing questionnaire. Use all the tools in your toolbox to reduce deer numbers or the DNR/Legislature will do it without CDAC input.

6380 I think that there is an abundance of deer within the county, there is definitely a need to harvest antlerless deer. I would like to see a “holiday antlerless season” with also a January extension for bow and crossbows. The more opportunity to hunt the more chance to harvest antlerless deer. The only thing is that if there is a holiday hunt there needs to be a January extension as well!

6381 I have only one opinion at this time, that’s why I answered no opinion to most of the questions. My opinion is that the gun season should also have some of the season during the rut. It is not fair that all the rut season is during bow season. All gun and bow hunters should have a chance at seeing big old bucks during the rut rather than just bow hunters having this opportunity.

6382 Please keep the status quo. Monroe County is an amazing place to hunt, managed by reasonable people. Please keep things as close to last year as possible. I wouldn’t mind a Holiday Hunt as it offers people that might not be able to enjoy the 9 day gun deer season a chance to put some meat in their freezer. Deer numbers are steady, I hope we keep ourselves steady as well. Thank you.

6383 there are so many different habitats with in the county, crop lands, la crosse river, meadow valley. be careful with your fixes for on area type as it effects all area’s. I hunt la crosse county with in a mile of where I hunt in Monroe county and don't see any deer. Don't confuse deer management with generating revenue. I hunt for the family fellow ship passed on for generations.

6384 The 9 day gun hunt should stay exactly the same. The holiday hunt should include buck and doe rather than extending the 9 day traditional gun hunt. Land owners should be required to take a certain amount of antlerless deer per year, or risk not getting buck tags. Size of property and amount of antlerless quota should be determined by the cdac if in maintain or decrease rating.

6385 I feel there are a lot of deer harvested that are not registered. I feel we need to bring back back tags and in-person registration to better enable enforcement by wardens and have a better idea of true harvest. I also am TOTALLY OPPOSED to opening Gun Deer hunting earlier than the present structure. I also feel crossbow hunting has had a negative impact on our deer seasons.

6386 Still haven’t forgiven the miss management from the dnr and Cwd back in early 2000 with their earn a buck program that devastated the deer herd for years. Still haven’t gotten back up to years past of hunting levels since then. Harvesting one less deer each year hoping to see the population grow for future years. Stop killing all the does!
Deer license prices need to be lowered along with all licenses. It is too expensive to be a hunter nowadays and there are too many restrictions/complications. Costs for guns, bullets/shells, other equipment and meat processing has skyrocketed. It is no longer a cost savings to hunt deer for meat rather than buy hamburger in the store.

In the last three years, I have seen less deer. I think there are too many permits given in this area and not enough deer. I think there are too many seasons for deer harvesting. It's amazing that any deer survive. Predators are on a rise, more seen on trail cams. I have yet to harvest a deer since hunting this area.

Move the gun deer season to coincide with the deer rut. That is the only way to control the deer herd. The bow and arrow hunters don't kill enough deer during the prime time of the rut. Every thing changes with time and it is time to adjust with the timing of the rut for a better and more efficient deer harvest.

I think the predator population in the Fort McCoy unit needs to be studied further and addressed. The wolf population is larger than what I have read about and I believe it to be adversely affecting the deer population. While they are not the only predator in the area I believe they are causing the most harm.

I personally hunt 60 to 100 hours a year. Im seeing less and less deer i dont stricty hunt for horns i do like the meat but when you sit for 8 to 10 hours straight and see 1 to 3 deer when just a few years ago it would be 5 to 10 the deer are not there. If you keep killing does there we be less and less

Been hearing about the possibility of earn a buck again, I have no problem with this. We've all heard about the group of multiple people who all register the same doe. If this happens and they are caught and convicted they should all be fined for an illegal deer and loose hunting license for 3 years.

Bow season starts too early with warm weather and then wounded/down deer spoiling before getting processed. Recommend starting bow season at least two weeks later and because of smaller deer numbers stop extra hunts. Bow season and gun season are enough for Monroe County deer herd.

It would be interesting to see if with the way the Global climate has been changing if an earlier season would be considered as the past few years it seems that the Rutting season continues to come earlier and earlier. Leaving less deer movement during 9 day gun season

I know it's always during Thanksgiving week. When Thanksgiving lands at the end of the month, it should be earlier. Or have a set date it starts, not just aligning with Thanksgiving. The later in the year hunt is why not as many deer had been harvested this year.

I really enjoy the deer gun season. I own a little farm and have family and friends hunt. Last year the numbers harvested were les, but I believe it’s based on corn crop stil on the fields. Thank you for all you do to make this possible. Keep up the good work!

Leave the 9 day gun season alone and stop trying to cater to hunters that complain and don’t harvest something every year. IMO, there is no reason to change it. Bow and crossbow season is the same thing and should be treated as such. Plz, leave it alone.

I would prefer everyone to get one buck tag per season that can be used for Gun, Crossbow, or archery. Personally, I would shoot more doe's knowing that I can only shoot one buck per year. As I depend on 3 or 4 deer per year for my food supply.

I feel that the harvest numbers will continue to decline every year for these reasons. Hunting styles have changed drastically. Hunters don’t push the deer like years past, more trophy hunters that aren’t interested in shooting antlerless deer.

Deer sightings and overall deer counts have dropped substantially in my area over the past 8 years. I would prefer a buck only hunt, with a minimum point count of 4 on one side, for the next three years to attempt to raise the deer population.
I do not agree with any notion of moving gun season a week earlier if to extend it it should go later. October 25 thru November 20 is our prime bow hunting and gun season earlier would ruin our rut hunting with archery equipment.

Bring back back tags!!! We’ve had trespassers on our property ever sense you’ve gotten rid of the tags. There is no good, solid way to report trespassers if you can’t give them their real name or number to the authorities.

Not specifically this unit, but I’d like to see the gun season start a week earlier and be a 16 day season instead of the 9 day season. This would help with the effects of weather & holidays, etc on the season.

The Amish are destroying what is left for good deer hunting by me. Put a limit on how many kids they can have this may help bring back the herd in these areas. 4 points a side should be standard for buck harvest.

There does not need to be longer gun season with more tags. People just need to shoot more does with the tags they already have. Adding tags will not help because people aren’t using the ones they already have.

I recommend adding a purchase option for additional antlered tags for archery season. To increase revenue for WDNR, increase hunting experience and to eliminate non-desirable gene’s from the herd. Thank you.

If you push gun hunting into the rut, you will kill half of next year’s fawns. Please don’t. Archery is open then. Archers are far fewer in number, and in general more selective, and definitely quieter.

I would like to see an early muzzleloader season, either through a earn a point draw or coincide with the bow season. Not interested in inline muzzle loader but a true muzzle loader with open sights.

Please STOP the December doe hunts/holiday hunts. Too many shed bucks and buck fawns are being killed. Bring back traditional late season bowhunting. We want hunting like it was 20 years ago.

You are turning Wisconsin into the wild Wild West, there’s is more pouching going on then ever before there is no accountability and your letting violators teach their kid that there is no rules. 😞

Thank you for all your time and effort in keeping a reasonable deer population in our state despite the many problems like CWD, wolves, bear etc. I really appreciate all you do!!!

The public/private tags are incredibly inconvenient. The antlerless only season is frustrating and leads to lower hunting numbers. CWD has been an excuse for some bad laws.

My answers are from what I see on my land. I do understand that 10 miles away people see 25 deer on opening day but I may not see any the whole season here. Thank you.

I personally believe DNR estimates of deer numbers are inflated and wrong. I also think a lot of the decisions made for the season are based on selling licenses.

I’m satisfied with the present quota system as in it’s present form. My present thoughts are that the dnr should not increase the doe harvest numbers.

I believe the back tags need to be brought back... it is far too easy now for people to hunt without tags and for people to not even register deer.

Everyone wanting to hunt with crossbow has left fewer bucks for gun season. Maybe you could add 22cal and shoot all of the bucks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6420</td>
<td>No amount of antlerless tags will kill more deer on private land. You cannot get landowners to shoot more deer than they can use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6421</td>
<td>Suggest following suggestions of professional DNR staff, and not special interests groups who are against crossbow hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6422</td>
<td>Not in favor of the current crossbow season. Should not coexist with archery season. Keep gun hunting season 9 day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6423</td>
<td>As a compromise to the Holiday Hunt, I recommend expanding the days and offer different dates for a youth hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6424</td>
<td>Open some baiting, but limit the amount or weight to hand throw only and/or natural mineral only such as licks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6425</td>
<td>I personally feel when it comes to deer management the Wisconsin DNR has not a clue of what they’re doing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6426</td>
<td>I would like to see a holiday hunt to help meet the antlerless goals. Thanks and keep up the good work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6427</td>
<td>Do not change anything. I happy with everything. I have seen plenty of deer and some nice bucks too!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6428</td>
<td>I think the gun deer season should be extended to another week prior to when it starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6429</td>
<td>Having a longer gun season would be nice for hunters who work weekends. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6430</td>
<td>Get rid of all antlerless hunts and dramatically reduce the amount of tags issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6431</td>
<td>I would like to see the muzzleloader season kept even if gun season is extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6432</td>
<td>For, crossbow only season in October, only. Bring back registration stations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6433</td>
<td>Cut fees by 50% in support of all hunters affected by the covid 19 crisis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6434</td>
<td>Seems like there’s too many deer eating garden, browse and crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6435</td>
<td>shoot them all and then we will not have to worry about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6436</td>
<td>I would like to see the 9 day gun season extended to 16 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6437</td>
<td>do not allow deer food plots were ag permits are given out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6438</td>
<td>Overall I think you have done a very good job. Thks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6439</td>
<td>more places to get deer tested for CWD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6440</td>
<td>Would like to see more youth hunts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6441</td>
<td>More healthy deer would be nice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6442</td>
<td>Don’t See ALOT Of Deer Anymore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6443</td>
<td>Fewer Deer This Year WHY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6444</td>
<td>CWD is uncontrollable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6445</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

104 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 39
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 22
   - I hunt in this unit: 92
   - General interest in this unit: 15

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 85
   - Bow: 45
   - Crossbow: 25
   - Muzzleloader: 29

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.71
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 49
   - Mostly Private Land: 6
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 8
   - Mostly Public Land: 5
   - Exclusively Public Land: 22
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 6
   - Not too crowded: 7
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 6
   - Somewhat crowded: 12
   - Very crowded: 8
   - Not applicable: 2

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 25
   - Fewer: 20
   - Same: 36
   - More: 14
   - Many More: 6
   - Unsure: 3

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Rating</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
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<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
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<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6446 There are some proposed changes that I do not see listed above, but I would like to express my opinion on. 1. limiting crossbow hunting to October. Archery hunting should be open to all. I have a hard time telling a person that does not possess the physical capacity to draw a bow that can ethically kill a deer, but could archery hunt with a crossbow, that they can't hunt. It isn't right. That being said, I don't love that a number of folks have switched to crossbows for increased range. The ethical kill range of a cross bow isn't really that different from compound bows, so better education about ethical use of crossbows is my recommendation. 2. No bow tags filled during rifle season. Hunting with a bow during gun season doesn't negatively impact rifle only hunters in any way. If your neighbor is limited to half the range to effectively harvest an animal compared to you with a rifle, isn't that advantage rifle hunter. This sounds like upset and jealous rifle only hunters. 3. Extending rifle season an additional 10 days on the front end of rifle season. Honestly, I think this would be an absolute travesty. If the rationale is that not enough deer were killed in the 2019 rifle season, look at the timing and weather conditions. Terrible weather for the majority of the state on opening weekend, the only 2 days the majority of rifle hunters hunt, hampered deer harvest. It was also November 23rd for opening day as opposed to November 16th the year prior. November 23rd is absolutely out of the rut and when the deer normally hunker down to recuperate following the activity of the rut regardless of hunter pressure. November 16th is at the tail end of the rut, making daylight deer activity higher. The massive hunter pressure that pushed deer to mostly nocturnal activity following opening weekend of rifle season occurring during the rut would negatively impact breeding in way that can't be predicted. I would hate to see the deer herd decimated and reduced tags sold to build the deer herd again. These changes seem to be pushed by rifle only hunters who feel that bow hunters having a longer season gives them an unfair advantage. I would encourage those folks to pick up a bow and join us rather than trying to take hunting time away from bowhunters. Learn to be a better hunter and a better deer conservationist rather than blaming the neighbor for getting the buck you wanted 1-2 weeks before rifle season. These changes listed above seem ridiculous and I am disappointed to see that there is even debate around them.

6447 There are several reasons that see fewer deer. Too many does have been harvested over the pass 15 or more years and the wolves have moved back into the area. I can recall seeing a herd of 12 doe running together. Now if we see 2 deer all day its a good day. I have seen more predators in the pass few years then deer. Last year I was lucky to get a buck, but I was the only one out of 14 hunters in our area to see a deer. We have several new hunters in our area including my 14 year old grandson. He is getting discouraged not even seeing a deer. When we return to the hotel and see empty racks we start to wonder if this is worth the cost of a hotel, meals, license and gas. I know it will take time to rebuild the herd, but it must start with resolving the problems. Some of my fondest memories were hunting with my dad and hunting with my daughter. Now they are all getting discouraged. I hope management can resolve the problems so our kids can enjoy creating those same lasting memories with their kids for years to come. Our group is on our 4th generation of hunters in this area, the oldest even passed in the woods while hunting. Please let's continue to the 5th generation.

6448 Within the last 5-8 years the deer population has risen greatly with little to no antlerless permits. I have personally seen a rise in the deer population in those years... however I think the deer population should/could be more with more strict regulations on antlerless harvests... it would be nice to have public land where you see multiple deer even though you wouldn't be able to harvest all of them... I believe many hunters would value this higher than being able to shoot what they see until the population is to where to land inhibits max population, without causing damages to over wildlife and vegetation.
I am also worried about the clear cutting happening. Where it was clear cut a few years ago on EW between Mather and Warrens it looks like the forest floor is covered in a white pine carpet. You have ruined this forest. It used to have a big oak ridge, now there are no oaks coming up only pine. I have hunted this area for 40 years and I have watched it decline over the last 20. I have not seen a deer in this area in 4 years. And now there are barely any hunters either. What does that tell you about the deer population? There aren't hardly any deer left in state land, there are plenty of deer on private land.

The single largest threat to growing the deer population to ideal capacity is the ever growing, ever expanding, unregulated and grossly underestimated wolf population. Until you have a tool to effectively control their numbers, further growth of the deer herd to desired carrying capacity-on both private and public land-will not be achieved. While I praise the efforts of the CDAC, I strongly believe your hard work and planning will be all for naught. Please continue to demand state oversight of the wolf population from our state and national legislators.

Personal opinion: I would prefer a buck only season or an antlerless quota of no more then 5% of the total county harvest. Hunters and landowners mistakenly believe that less deer on their property is beneficial to the herd rather than a threat to the social stability of the deer groups that their property supports. And for a conservative hunter it's troubling to observe or hear of other hunters harvest antlerless deer at high numbers with no regard for population density variables.

I think the amount of antlerless tags available on public lands should be cut in half along with reducing the quota. Between the bears, wolves, coyotes and bobcats there are a lot of mouths to feed, esp in the north eastern part of the county. From my own experience bear baiting in the summer, I see few deer, while the deer I do see seem to be good quality deer, mostly does, I see very few fawns, even in the fall while hunting, again very few fawns.

Farms as far as the eyes can see and beyond yet our part of Monroe County is considered “forest zone” Somehow the magical boundary of the 90/94 Interstate four miles to the south allows those residents/hunters to obtain ample antlerless tags while we have not been able to purchase additional tag for 4 years now. Three nights ago FOURTEEN does/offspring walked across the field at 6 pm. How many more do we need before we have “enough” to harvest?

Restrict and limit deer farms, my concern is the spread of CWD that has occurred. At the very least enforcement of substantial testing and secure containment. I believe the removal of the bag tag requirement has increased the potential for game violations and absolutely trespass violations. Your staff at the DNR has been very helpful and professional when I have called for advise or assistance. Thank You

I don't like that back tags were taken away. To me those were for our own protection n served as information incase something happened to them and also proved the hunter had a license. I also don't agree on online registration. took alot of business away for the local community. People like to gather and show their harvest and it also created revenue for them.

I have owned land in this unit for 42 years and seen the deer population go up and down. Last deer season and this soring I have seen many deer. I have a small food plot in the woods and have a picture of 13 deer in that plot that measures about 40 x 60 yards. I think a few more antlerless tags on both private and public land in this unit would be advisable.

I feel that since the 2000s kill every deer in the county, that the numbers have not really changed. I still see low numbers of deer in my area since then. I believe we need to cut back on the does being shot so this can happen. I also hunt in 2 different locations in the forest zone and see close to the same numbers in each location.

Reccomend going back to a draw for antlerless permits. Not everyone can be at a computer or Point of sale when permits go on sale. This would give everyone an equal chance to get a permit. Also, remove the public private land from youth antlerless permits. Let them shoot a doe wherever they choose.
The DNR totally messed up the deer population in this area with years of unlimited $2.00 bonus tags. It became rare to see a deer. Then the wolves moved in. The deer population is finally coming back. Let's keep it going in that direction by limiting antlerless tags. Thank you.

The proposal to extend the gun season would further decimate the public deer and would have little effect on private. Private ground will get better and public will get worse, making hunting too challenging for young hunters that are forced to hunt public.

We have hunted private land exclusively for 40 years in this county. The deer population is not anything like it was. We have deer cans that show very little wildlife activity and each year less and less. Harvest rates are way low!

There shouldn't be any late-season antlerless hunts allowed on public areas in the central forest zone. As long as the antlerless tags are LIMITED there should be no antlerless season allowed.

There are plenty of doe now in northeast Monroe County. However, ZERO doe tags available for the public land hunter. Please change this.

Stop cutting down all the trees on public land throughout the state. I've now lost two good hunting areas because of this.

The number of antlerless tags is acceptable for this unit but I would like to see a few more. Thanks.

Happy to see the increase from 350 to 550 for the Central Forest Zone for private land.

Please allow crossbow usage for everyone for the entire duration of the archery season.

See very few deer anymore in my area, about ready to give up on hunting.

We continue to see wolves every year - 8 years in a row now.

Tough job to make everyone happy, keep trying! Thank you.

Please do not change the 2020 deer season.

Stay with traditional 9-day deer gun hunt!
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 249
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 118
   - I hunt in this unit: 531
   - General interest in this unit: 92

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 498
   - Bow: 283
   - Crossbow: 268
   - Muzzleloader: 203

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.04
   - Maximum: 66

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 339
   - Mostly Private Land: 87
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 37
   - Mostly Public Land: 24
   - Exclusively Public Land: 42
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 19
   - Not too crowded: 63
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 44
   - Somewhat crowded: 20
   - Very crowded: 33
   - Not applicable: 11

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 103
   - Fewer: 159
   - Same: 216
   - More: 50
   - Many More: 17
   - Unsure: 12

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>237</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16</td>
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</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>44</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Too Low</th>
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<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<td></td>
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10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 224 Support, 266 Oppose, 67 Unsure
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 337 Support, 171 Oppose, 48 Unsure
- If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 70 Support, 457 Oppose, 30 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- Should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID, NOT VALID, Unsure
- Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
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<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
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<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
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<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
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<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
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</table>
Comments for  Oconto, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
I read, listen too the earlier discussions on season structure. I am strongly opposed to any change in the Gun Deer season structure or the Archery/Crossbow structure. My opinion here is this. The DNR isn't worried about deer numbers, lets face it, no matter what the data shows, deer numbers are way down from 20 or even 10 years ago, when QDM was pushed, telling hunters to kill as many does as possible in order to see bigger bucks. What this has done is not necessarily increased the opportunity to see bigger bucks, it has decreased the opportunity to see any deer in general. I am hunting properties that 20 or even 10 years ago, I could sit opening weekend of rifle season and see deer all day. Now, I have to sit all week and will maybe see the same group of 4 or 5 does/fawns a couple times that week. Does that really sound like fun for a new hunter? The DNR is concerned with revenue (which it should be) and revenue comes from Tag sales. The only way to get new hunters interested is if they can go out and see animals. Young hunters have so many other things they can do, sitting looking at the same tree and not seeing deer is not something they will do. Continuous decimation of the doe population creates less deer for hunters to see. Fact! Now for me its fine. I have hunted for 25 years and I will sit for 2 weeks straight all day bow hunting just to see a nicer buck. But that is not how newer hunters (new revenue) will want to do it. Having an antlerless only season. Where for a whole year or two no bucks can be harvested, would also not increase Tag sales (revenue) and will most likely turn hunters away. You might get more does killed, but you also will probably lose revenue. Most hunters that want to shoot a doe are already doing it. About the proposed changes to the Gun season structure: I am strongly opposed to any change. Moving the Gun season into the RUT, not even giving the animals a chance is the wrong answer to more Tag sales. Making Crossbow hunters not hunt the RUT is not going to increase Tag sales. Making Bow hunters stay out of the woods the week before Gun season is not going to increase Tag sales. Rather than dividing the hunting population, you should be merging it. The DNR made a concession to allow anyone to crossbow hunt during archery season. I was opposed but now I am not. Crossbow is a great way to get a new or young hunter into the sport when they can hunt when its nicer out and when deer are moving and have opportunities at harvesting an animal. My daughter wont be able to pull a bow back with enough weight and accuracy until she is maybe 16 or more because she is small and petite. But if she can get behind a crossbow at 10 or 12 (when I feel she is ready) she may get into the sport. But if she has to wait until 16 or more, that timeframe when she may have taken up the sport might be passed as more things are there for her to do. You should be promoting Crossbow hunting to Gun only hunters as a way for them to hunt without the need for all the practice a bow hunter (should) need. A way for them to hunt the prime time of archery season while still giving the animals a chance. A crossbow hunter must still get game in range (although slightly farther than bow) compared to sitting in a field and blasting love sick bucks. That is how you get more Tags sold. By getting those that only purchase one gun tag now, to purchase a crossbow tag also. If you look at other states season structures, then always allow a lesser method of take to happen during the rut. Colorado Elk season for Archery is 1 month. During the times when elk are herded and starting to break off and get ready to mate. They don't allow rifle hunting during this time, that would be foolish. The rifle seasons are 1 week. It just makes sense. Don't divide our hunting population, which is always under fire from anti gun/anti hunter, Vegan/vegetarian, PETA, animal rights groups as it is. Hunters need to be united and ensure a season and animals are always there. My last thoughts are ways to get the younger generation into hunting, especially archery. The DNR should be promoting NASP and other archery in schools programs religiously. They should also be pushing to get gun/firearm safety into the schools. Schools are mostly left leaning entities that if you ask the general majority of educators, are antigun/antihunting. The DNR and government (which I feel should stay out of the schools, but that will never happen. So if they are going to mandate things then they should do something positive) should be educating kids on the good things that hunters do for the community. Most don't understand that the reason a park or DNR rec area is open and running and clean is from the money hunters pay to hunt. The wildlife refuge and park areas are not funded by the couple dollars a family pays to park their car. Hunters pay for it. Just like those without kids pay for others' kids to go to public schools. But this is never taught to kids or to the public in general. Animal rights activists don't fund state parks and refuge areas. Hunters do. Why is it so wrong to get this said to the masses. Get kids interested and the states hunting legacy might stay alive and not go by the wayside. I don't know if this whole email will get read, or by whom, but I would hope it does and I hope I...
I propose an antler restriction for adult hunters. An antlered deer must possess at least three points on one side before you can shoot it. Youth hunters (a hunter that possesses a junior license) is exempt from the rule. I have hunted this unit for the past 5 seasons. The first 3 I didn't spend a ton of time in the unit just some early season scouting and about 5-7 hunts throughout each season. The last 2 however I've spent countless hours in the tree and driving around glassing fields and clear cuts. Also running trail cameras throughout the season. I feel as if I have gained a pretty good understanding of the deer herd in the area. I would agree that the deer population is strong and abundant however I have not filled my buck tag in 4 years now. The deer population though strong seems to be a very young deer heard that is not maturing. In my findings bucks rarely making it past the year and a half mark. In all my hours in the woods the last 2 seasons I've counted only 4 2.5 year old bucks, and 1 3.5+ year old buck from the stand and dozens of 1.5 year olds. I don't consider myself a trophy hunter I'm not looking for a monster buck that I hang on my wall and brag about, but I do love to hunt and I love to spend time in the woods so I challenge myself to only take a buck 2.5 or older. But spending countless hours in the woods for one or two 30 second glimpses of deer of that age each season can really get a guy down. So yes my point restriction proposal wouldn't totally fix this issue because yes some younger bucks can have bigger racks then others and yes it makes it sound as if we're trying for trophy animals. But I do believe this is the best way to mature the herd. keeping the restrictions off for youth hunters as to help grow this proud Wisconsin heritage.

The more amount of car deer accidents isn't higher because the deer population is higher. The car deer accidents are higher because of more automobiles on the road. I know loggers that spend everyday in the woods they don't see deer. Everything is about money and is turning political. Statistics are awesome and helpful if and only if they are gathered honestly and truthfully. Majority of the people I've talked to don't see the deer they used to which contradict your statistics. The WDNR and CDAC I are handling this like Democrats, wrong people in high places lying and cheating about facts. FYI it has to be embarassing knowing that you had to put a warning to people commenting that personal attacks or offensive language will not be considered. That right there means you are liars and cheats and you know your wrong before you even sent this out. If you were actually for the deer herd people wouldn't have to be swearing at you. As a mechanic fixing the wrong thing doesn't solve the problem. Entering the predators in the woods to lower the deer population isn't the answer to solve the car deer crashes when the problem is more automobiles are on the road. Your statistics and strategy are wrong, I'll dangle a money situation in front of you, hunters are going to quit buying hunting licenses if they don't see deer. How will the WDNR like less money coming in?? When you watch hunting shows very few hunts come to Wisconsin, ask yourself Why is that???? I think deep down we all know that answer. Just think if hunting was better think of the out of state people coming for hunts and the money you can charge for out of state licenses. Lets take the horse blinders off and stop being greedy.
I believe in giving constructive, meaningful feedback. If that is not your thing, stop reading this now. The reduced buck harvest seen in this unit is directly related to changing values shared by hunters and landowners. Where it was once very acceptable and common to harvest 1 1/2 year old bucks, this practice is now being looked down upon by many hunters, hunter groups, and landowners. Many hunters will simply not harvest young bucks, reserving this right for first time hunter (basically kids) who have never harvested a buck before. I believe these changing hunter’s values are not being considered nor accurately represented in your calculations. I believe the DNR would have a much easier time meeting quotas within this unit if they put an antler size restriction on bucks. Look at moose hunting in Alaska as an example, obviously done for different reasons, but definitely effective. Promoting quality deer management by discouraging the harvesting of immature bucks will undoubtedly restore hunter’s faith in the DNR. There is also an unintended result of placing an antler size restriction. With a restored faith in the DNR, hunters will soon open up to the idea of harvesting more antlerless deer without the need to issue 3 or more antlerless tags to each and every hunter. Hunters will begin to feel part of the management team and begin to take ownership. The DNR seems to be very good at collecting data and entering it into spreadsheets and creating charts and graphs. Your weakness appears to be understanding human nature and the current mindset of today’s deer hunter.

Please DO NOT change the archery, gun and muzzle loader seasons. Keep those seasons the SAME. Get rid of all antlerless, holiday and youth hunt seasons. They are useless. DO NOT EXTEND GUN SEASON. That’s one of the dumbest ideas the DNR has had since earn a buck. Keep the gun season during Thanksgiving week like it has always been. So what if more bucks are shot during archery season. More people are hunting archery now since crossbows were legal for everyone. DO NOT restrict crossbow hunting to those without a handicap or not 65 and older like you are talking about doing. Bring back hunters choice. One tag for archery and one for gun and one for muzzle loader (all separate). You can shot either one doe OR one buck with that tag. DO EVEN THINK ABOUT BRINGING BACK EARN-A-BUCK!!! EVER!!! Stop giving away free doe tags. This goes with hunters choice. If you want extra doe tags, you buy them. Have size limits on bucks. 3x4 or 4x4. Get rid of the 3"x3" rule. If it has nubs or bigger, it must be registered as a buck. Allow baiting up to 2 gal. The baiting ban is useless and unnecessary. Listen to the hunters for once. THERE IS NOT THE AMOUNT OF DEER IN THIS STATE THAT YOU (WI DNR) THINK THERE IS. Not even close. Learn how to manage deer the RIGHT WAY (QDM). You people have no clue what you are doing. And you wonder why the number of hunters in this state goes down every year. CWD is NOT a problem in this state. Its been around for 100+ years. Worry about more lethal viruses like EHD.

Would like to see the boundary line of farmland zone and northern zone of Oconto county to be shifted to county road M instead of AA and 64. The amount of deer south of that line is much higher. There is also a lot more public land between county rd M and the current boundary line. These public lands get over hunted and harvested due to the current regulations. I believe changing this line will give a better opportunity for hunters in the area and keep hunters from crowding the public ground with the lesser restrictions. The predator prey ratio is also in a better balance in this area being closer to larger and undeveloped areas. I have hunted this area for a long time and have not harvested a doe in over 15 years. the deer herd has never been over populated. I would also like to see the cancellation of the holiday hunt and just turn it back to regular bow season. There are many hunters with bow tags left over and would like to use them late season but the holiday hunt and late antlerless season force them to only hunt does. Where as if more hunters are in the field targeting bucks. I feel the doe harvest numbers will go up as well just out of opportunity. Extending the bow season even later into the season will help harvest numbers increase with the lack of pressure and making the deer easier to pattern.
I am very disappointed with the public hunting. When I started hunting in the late 90's in the central farmland zone, we used to see herds of deer in the fields and many nice bucks every year. Every time you went out hunting for the day, you’d see a few deer and could actually let certain ones go. Now days you can’t let anything go because odds are you won’t see another single deer for the whole season. The motto in that area is brown its down. I personally don’t hunt that way. I’d like to see nicer bucks and a lot more doe. But people know they have to shoot what they see because it might be the only deer they say. I’d like to see some much better deer management, because I know that area has potential to produce quality deer! Its just frustrating to watch the deer population and quality go WAY down every year for the last 19 years. And I have access to hunt other county’s throughout Wi but I choose to hunt in Oconto because that’s where my family cabin is and that’s where my grandfather, my father, and family has hunted there whole lives, and its just tradition to me. But I would really enjoy the way it used to be...

I herd something about not allowing cross bows in the month of Nov because archers take to many bucks. You already took away baiting so it’s harder to see deer with the limited time a lot of hunters have.I know that I hunt more in November because of the rut and cool temps and see more deer at that time of year. I have good success too. If you want to stop hunting with crossbow in November you will have a lot less hunters and deer taken. I would consider not even buying a license if that’s the case! I have been buying the patrons license for 20 years or more and don’t even use most of the opportunities to hunt anything but deer and turkey. The only thing I don’t like about hunting does in late Jan is they are caring there young and it bothers me knowing that when dressing them out. I took 2 does last year and deal with that issue but wanted to do my part to help get deer numbers down. I also gave 1 deer to a disabled friend that can’t hunt anymore. Then I gave a lot of the venison to other family members after I processed it. Thanks for your time

Considering the speaker noted a substantial increase in the number of calls from farmers and other land owners about damage caused by deer, it would make sense to make it easier for responsible hunters to be allowed access to private lands in order to both reduce damage from deer as well as offer hunters better hunting options. Regarding the holiday hunt, I am and always have been firmly against it. The 9-day rifle hunt provides plenty of opportunity for taking a deer with a firearm. Just about the time deer are starting to switch out of the nocturnal only mode from the 9-day season, the holiday hunt reverts them right back to nocturnal which makes the late-season bow hunting impossible for law-abiding bow hunters who limit hunting to legal shooting hours. And it seems most holiday hunting activity occurs on public land which is already stressed too much. I believe many of the registrations listed as private are actually taken on public lands during the holiday hunt. This is very frustrating for a bow hunter who is primarily limited to hunting public land.

I fully support the proposal to use all the tools that are currently available to the council to try to meet the objective of decreasing the population. I have 40 acres on Fireside road where I have been weighting the deer I shoot for 20 years. The dressed weight on an average doe use to be 120-135lbs. Over the last 5-7 years I am seeing average doe weight slip to 103-110lbs. It is obvious these deer are not getting the nutrition due to over population. I am fully in support the council to introduce support to the state legislators to bring back the earn-a-buck or some similar form of this very effective tool to increase antlerless harvest. Unfortunately very few hunters prioritize their hunt to manage doe populations. I do not have all the answers, but in my opinion there need to be an incentive for the individual hunter to harvest more antlerless deer. Whether it’s a monetary gain or to win (earn) a free tag or something. Maybe shoot X number of antlerless and earn a lottery ticket in a drawing for a free bear or elk tag next year.
First off, I’m totally against limiting crossbow seasons. Keep it the way it is. If we are trying to increase hunting/hunters numbers, hunting with a crossbow is a great way to get new people into the sport. Deer sighting and weather are usually better during the current season. My proposal would be mandate 1 buck for bow/crossbow or gun/muzzleloader and have that buck be required to have a 4 point minimum on one side. This would encourage hunters to be more selective on which buck they choose to harvest, and maybe harvest more does. Hunters in this DMU for years have been shooting young bucks instead of harvesting antlerless deer. It’s a matter of changing the mindset of hunters. It’s not about just shooting a buck every year. It’s about controlling the buck/doe ratio and allowing bucks to mature. With so many does, bucks don’t have to seek during the rut, so buck sightings and harvest opportunities are lower. These changes would improve hunting in the DMU far more than eliminating crossbow hunting during the rut.

I’ve hunted for 26 years in oconto between the city of oconto and the county line with marinette. Both east and west of hwy 41. With the influx of tags being bought for any aged person in the house and all these doe permits your numbers are drastically off. I used to see ten different bucks a day. Countless does. And now like this year I only seen 2 deer all 9 days of gun. And 11 all of bow season. With the introduction of wolves on the county lands I have seen numerous wolf sightings while in the stand. Please please re set the traditional hunting age. You've got guys and gals stating their kids are shooting these bucks, and does and we all know that's not always true. We are over hunting does during the times they are pregnant with fawns. This declines our chances of the gene pools of large bucks succeeding. Lot of us out here dont own land sowed have to relying on rentals/lease lands and county or state forests. Your deer pops in those areas are so far down due to over hunting and predators.

A landowner that supports and spends money on wildlife and habitat has the same whitetail harvest quota as a citizen who harvests only (potentially on public land). Is this really fair? For example, if John owns 200 acres and manages this for wildlife spending $100k per year on trees, crops, and property improvements, he has the same whitetail deer harvest potential as Wesley who hunts public land and does nothing but take from the land. Has WI ever considered a method to earn harvest quotas? Both for landowners and non landowners who can contribute money or sweat equity to natural resources? I personally own 150+ acres and manage it essentially exclusively for wildlife. My efforts might double the carrying capacity of the property for whitetails. More specifically, I observe at least a dozen fawns that are born and raised on my property. My efforts and taxed property bring/support 12+ new deer per year. WI allows me to harvest one buck per weapon. Thanks.

Are hunting party is very angry about all of the rule changes. We have a major wolf problem by us. The couple deer we do see are running around scared for there life’s. We no longer have any bucks older than 1 an half years old. This is the worst are property has ever been. My dad has hunted it for over 40 years. We have lost a quarter of are hunting party because of the lack of deer. I am not going to lie. If this keeps up. I bet we will be down to 2 people ( used to be 12). We have 240 acres. Have managed it well for years. Always shot nice bucks and does. Not a lot of deer but it was fun. Now it is a joke out there. You guys want longer seasons for what. There nothing out there. Making the season longer and adding tags is not the answer. You really need to change your thinking. This might be my last year if you don’t try to fix the real problem!!!!!!!!!

In the past 3 years I have noted a steady increase. I saw more deer in 2017 than in 2016 I then again so I'm more deer in 2018 and 2017 and in 2019 I saw more deer while hunting in the gun deer season then I have seen for over 15 years in a row. There are so many deer and so many of them are dogs. We have too many deer in that zone in my opinion. We need to bring back the wearing of back tags. The lack of back tags on hunters in the field make it impossible for landowners to understand who is trespassing on their land. All we are doing is letting people violate with ease. Since we no longer need to go to any place to register our dear and we can do it over our phones you have no way of seeing where those trucks that are trespassing on land that you pay taxes on are going. They just disappear down the country road. We need to bring the wearing of back tags back.
The deer kill numbers were down in our area. Hunters from around the state and Upper Michigan that I talked to experience the same thing. I support bringing the deer number up quickly, no matter what that takes. Extending the gun deer season is something I FULLY SUPPORT. I'm an avid bow hunter and I prefer hunting during bow season much more than I do gun season. If people don't want to hunt beyond the typical gun season that is their choice. I've been advocating this for a long time. Most people own thousands of dollars worth of firearms and firearm equipment, only to be able to use them for 9 days out of the year. It seems ridiculous that we can't enjoy this this time a little bit more in Wisconsin. Thank you for taking time to listen to the people who take part in this sport and also support it financially.

I live in the southern portion of Oconto (Sobieski) and I hunt in central Oconto (around Suring/Breed), so I observe deer in both portions of this management unit. In my observation, there is a vast difference in the deer population between the south and north, with the southern end being over populated and northern end of the unit being much less populated. Most of the public land in this unit is located at the far north end, and the deer population seems to track closer to the numbers in the northern Oconto unit. I would propose that the division line between Northern and Southern Oconto is located in the wrong position. If we moved the dividing line south, perhaps to county road M, I believe the management goals in each unit would align closer to the actual deer population in each unit.

I've hunted for 35 years. We used to have more deer in the 80s. The deer didn't over eat the forest. Car crashes the same. I think we have enough extra hunting seasons. They dilute the tradition of the 9 day gun Season which lowers interest in hunting. The archers have too much advantage. Every other year bow hunters should have to hunt after the 9 day gun season. It is bad for the Deer to be under pressure for so many days with all the bow hunting seasons. Gun deer hunting used to be better before bow hunters took over. Hunting deer in 60 degree weather is not healthy for eating deer. Bow hunting starts too early. A few weeks of rut Hunting is enough for bow hunters. The deer should not see hunters in the woods September to Jan. Yes we have small game but that's not Deer hunting. Thank you Todd.

I am against the antlerless Holiday Hunt and antlerless hunts. I have seen a definite increase in road hunters and indiscriminate shooting. It can be scary just walking to the mailbox. I had to put-down two wounded does this past year that wandered on to my land after being shot by reckless antlerless hunters. Most of these unethical hunters are not hunting for meat They just want to shoot something for fun. My son was a good hunter, but he quit after seeing what happens during the antlerless seasons. The DNR has youth hunts to attract young hunters, but when young hunters see slob hunters road hunting and wounding deer for fun, the young hunter quits. My wife hates what goes on during the antlerless seasons too. Absolutely disgusting. No wonder why anti-hunters work so hard to end hunting.

Has there been any interest or talk about possibly changing license structure. Michigan has a combo-tag type license that i feel would be worth looking into. The combo license allows a person to still only harvest 2 bucks per year, however you may harvest both with a gun or bow or 1 with each. I believe this would be beneficial. There have been several years where i passed on harvesting animals because i wanted to continue to hunt. This type of structure would allow a person to harvest an animal and then still continue to hunt. They also require a certain number of "points" to use this tag. I believe the first deer has to have 3 points on one side and the second deer requires 4 points on one side. The normal license is still available if you dont want to purchase a combo tag.

while I understand that overall populations within oconto county central farmland afreas are high I also see that in the public forest lands within this region populations appear to be much lower than desireable. I believe the way the unit is viewed is apples to oranges. Deer herds tend to congrigate near farmland. Id really like to see public lands especially in the forests be managed differently. I remember the days of seeing many deer throughout the bow and gun season. Nowadays Im lucky to see 2-3 deer all season! I feel as if over hunting, wolf populations and now recently the straight line wind damage to the areas has completely destroyed the herd in the national and state forests in this area. Id love to see a few years of buck only to help being the population back.
I strongly believe that extending the firearm season is a bad idea. The vast majority of gun hunters only hunt opening day in the first place, so extending the season will NOT have the desired impact of increasing hunter interest. If anything, it will cause additional stress on the deer population, resulting in more nocturnal activity that will not only hinder hunters but also lead to more traffic related incidents. It may also widen the gap between gun and archery hunters, which seems more distinct every year, causing unwanted debates between hunters which will only reflect poorly on overall public perception. Times have changed, more hunters like the solitude and relative quiet they experience with archery as opposed to all the hoopla associated with gun season.

Deer are severely browsing tree seedlings I am trying to grow. Some areas they have completely destroyed all the young trees on several aspen clearcuts. I just purchased fencing to build some deer exclusion fencing to protect some areas of my property and try to get trees to re-forest them. While turkey hunting I am already seeing large numbers of deer this spring. I completely support the CDAC’s efforts, BUT they are not enough (not your fault). CDAC needs additional tools to offer additional opportunities to harvest antlerless deer. My wife and girls used to really enjoy the early T zone hunt. Weather was nicer and a more relaxed hunt. Some other tools are needed. I would even support an earn a buck system.

I’ve lived and hunted here all my life. 57 years. And I know the deer population is way to high, and a reduction in the numbers needs to be addressed. Our neighborhood, is nothing but buck hunters. If they harvest a doe, they think they are doing a great thing. I tell who I can, all the time, we need to harvest more doe. But many people are just to set in their ways, and think by doing this, they’ll kill all the deer, and there won’t be any left... Back when there was the earn a buck, SO many around us complained, but myself, and the hunters on our property knew, it was going to benefit the land, as well as the deer population as a whole. I’d be all for earn a buck, or a antler less season...

my opinion on the deer heard is, that your antler less harvest is way too high. if you talk to most of these hunters they are not even seeing deer. Myself and family included. if your goal is to wipe out the deer herd,its working. every year deer lose their habitat to more housing, sub divisions, new roads, industrial developments. Yes road kills are probably stable because they have to cross roads to get to their food and water source.now that roads divide their habitat on 3 sides. Most of the people i talked to are fed up with the false numbers on the actual deer herd in Wisconsin, and actually going elsewhere which is why Wyoming had to switch to a lottery a few years ago.

I would be 100% against any Deer Season framework now or in the future that would LIMIT the use of Crossbows for ANY part of the Deer Season. I would love to be able to use a compound bow BUT I Have had 4 shoulder surgeries and the last time I pulled back a compound bow I torn part of my shoulder again. It's not worth the risk for me anymore. I believe that the people who don't want the use of crossbows for part of the season are 100% selfish individuals and would never be allowed to hunt on my land anyway. I think that the state needs to promote more people getting into hunting and not deter people from getting into or staying hunting. Thanks

Opposed to all antler-less hunts with the exception of the youth hunt (although I'd like to see the age limit stay in the 10-12 years range. I agree with getting young potential hunters out there and gaining the knowledge and experience it takes to having a successful hunt.) Our camp, though, has seen a decrease in deer sightings every year for about the last 10 years. Area used to be great but with the addition of all the extra hunts as well as the antlerless permits that are given with each license and the option to purchase even more we do not see many does around therefore the bucks will not be around either during the rut of the season.

Probably my biggest suggestion because of the fact there’s so much extra room when you print out a license on the paper give a friendly reminder to everyone that just because they are getting three tags doesn’t mean it’s responsible for them to use them. DNR can only generalize regulations but that each one of us are responsible for knowing how many deer should come off the land. If you were only seen three deer every day you probably shouldn’t shoot all three of those if you want a future of hunting on your property. However on the other hand I hunt in a couple hotspots where 15 deer could be shot and not affect a thing hardly.
Deer distribution in this central zone does not show the actual low deer numbers in the western part of unit near the Menominee County. Many years ago this area, in Oconto County, was designated as another unit to reflect substantially low deer numbers. Deer per square in Menominee County is extremely lower than in Central Oconto County. Therefore, this area has very few deer from overharvesting with 3 antlerless permits per deer license. This very low deer density problem needs to be addressed by forming a management unit by itself to restrict overharvest due to the multiple permits to kill deer in the other part of the unit.

I mostly bow hunt the Machickanee. There is a lot of pressure from GB hunters and the deer are smart. Gun season pressure is high, but bow season opportunity is a high quality experience. The population is adequate and better balanced than most private land. Browse is not excessive most places and I have seen a lot of deer this spring in good body condition with little evidence of winterkill. I like the tag structure for public land in this DMU. I also like the extended seasons. They help spread pressure out over a longer time frame and provide for increased recreational opportunity. Keep up the good work.

I do not agree with your assessment of deer population. I live in the woods year round and drive the side roads in my local area watching for deer, I have hunted the same land my whole life and there just isn't the numbers that you claim. (no need for reduction) It is very hard to keep kids and grand kids interested in hunting when they don't see deer like when I was a kid getting started. I'm hooked but you are not hooking the next generation. Handing out more tags does not mean there are enough deer to fill them, but handing out these tags gives some people the need to fill them.

I agree totally with the proposed antlerless objective to be higher. We hunt private land and had enough tags available for the does we harvested which was nice and we just need more private land hunters to harvest more does. Unfortunately I don't feel the extended season really does that much more to increase the harvest as I think most people are just done hunting by then. Harvesting does is a lot of work, for us it's not fun, it's more like a job, but if you are managing your property it is a necessity and the best thing may be to tell the public bluntly.

Weather this gets read or not I would like to add a few comments about Oconto county. The county has two very different deer population zones in my opinion. If you where to watch a field south of Suring/Gillett you will see multiple deer. If you where to go north of Suring/Gillett the population has dropped tremendously in the past 20 years. It's not easy controlling the population in a county when the deer are plentiful on the south end and scarce on the north but what would nice to see is zones broken down a little more if all of these tags are given out.

I would ask the CDAC to please recommend eliminating the extended bow/crossbow hunt through January 31st. This extended season is creating a substantial amount of violating of bucks with people hunting over bait. If as a CDAC member you don't feel this is occurring you are out of touch with what is going on in the area. Yes violators will likely violate no matter what but this extended season is only helping these individuals. Please end all seasons in early January like they had been or at a minimum make the extended season doe only.

The CDAC wants to reduce the number of deer in the area I hunt yet I am lucky to see more than one deer per season. If there are as many deer as believed, even if I did not see any deer, I would expect to hear more gun shots than I do. I heard less than 5 shots opening day. When I first started hunting in 1978, I hunt within 2 miles of where I do know and I would hear 5 shots per hour and there was a lot less deer back then. I just can not believe there are the number of deer in my hunting area. I seen more predators than actual deer.

Move the muzzle loader hunt to a latter date in December. Most of the deer are spooked and if a hunter in not successful in the first 9 days of the gun hunt the days right after are usually not that much better except in the best unpressured ground. Make the muzzleloader hunt its own tag, which would increase funds, but use the earn a buck system in units where you want to decease deer numbers. Earn a buck was not well liked but I think it would work for muzzleloader giving hunters a second buck tag if they choose.
hello there, i know what i have to say will go on deaf ears. so let me say i have been hunting for the last 50 years. thru all the years ,you guys have been trying so hard to get rid of the deer population. having this hunt and another hunt. you guys need to go back to your regular gun season and bow season. then we will have more deer and maybe more hunters. right now the deer population sucks, because of all the different hunts you have. maybe you should make different hunts for ducks too!!!! thank you, mike

The holiday hunt can be a valuable tool to harvest does. You are missing a population of hunters that want the chance to shoot a buck with the bow during this time. Keep the Holiday Hunt, allow bow hunters to shoot a buck or a doe if they choose. I want to shoot my does early in the year and hunt mature bucks after that. Earn a buck would also force people to shoot does and possibly sell more licenses with the crossbow opportunities that are now available. More licenses = more money

Had a cool idea. EAB is banned and despised. Other states do a velvet hunt. What if we had a very limited number of velvet tags available thru a lottery for private land only and to get points for the lottery you would have to shoot a doe. Or maybe 2 does earn you a point. Points expire regularly so people have to keep shooting does. Season would be in late August for velvet bucks. Very restricted season, very limited number of tags. I'll let you experts figure out the rest of the details.

Harvesting deer is done by hunters who enjoying hunting and also gathering venison for food fare. Limiting baiting is one way to decrease harvesting those extra deer. Whitetail deer have been yarding up for centuries too survive with latest hunting limitation look in central farm near cedar plantations you can see browse lines throughout regions in Oconto county. Need to impress on hunters to do their part and make regulations that are conducive reaching your goal of harvesting possible.

AS LONG AS THE HUNTERS CONTINUE TO SIT ON THERE BUTS AND WAIT FOR A DEER TO MAKE A ERROR IN GETTING UP TO EARLY OR GOING TO SLEEP TO LATE YOU COULD EXTEND THE SEASION TO 365 DAYS IN MY OPIOION AND YOU STILL WOULD NOT LOWER THE DEER POPULATION. IT IS SAD TO SAY THE DEER HAVE BECOME SMARTER THAN THE HUNTER. WHEN YOU ARE HUNTING A NOCTERNAL FEEDER AND YOU ALLOW THEM TO SLEEP ALL DAY, AND YOU DO NOT WALK AROUND AND WAKE THEM UP AND MOVE THEM NOWONDER WE HAVE AN OVERPOPULATION.

I watch Deer everyday, I don’t believe there too many. I think the seasons are too long and too many. Should be one period for bow and one for gun, not all these youth hunts , special doe hunts, management hunts, etc. The deer are constantly harassed for too long of a period. Its no wonder during that time of year there are more deer car crashes. AS far as CWD, if you would get rid of the deer farms you would not have had this problem because 100 % of came from those farms.

After hunting this same area for 40 years, the last 10 years has been gradually getting worse. When we go out in the woods to hunt and you seen more wolf tracks than deer tracks, that tells you something. We have 4 camps that hunt in the same area,18 guys and a 3 year carry over on the buck pool. We are talking about not buying deer license's anymore, but we would like to get the young people involved. After sitting all day with no deer, they lose interest too.

With the amount of row crops and alfalfa grown in this central farmland as with the amount of county and private forests, it definitely gives adequate cover for the deer herd and this year I seen only one adult doe on day one of rifle season! Not another adult doe, only yearlings. This spring when they broke out of swamps and in the corn/bean residue I was amazed at the numbers of adult does and yearlings!! My hay fields will be over grazed again!! 😞

I would like the DNR to consider moving the northern Oconto County Farmland line south from highway 64 to county highway M. The portion of Oconto County is much more heavily forested and has more predators which have a larger effect of the deer population then you see in the southern have of the county. Also, the larger deer population exists south of the county M line. If you have any questions please feel to reach out.
I believe the estimated number of deer in this DMU is higher than the actual number. I think the DNR should encourage the harvest of does and allow bucks to reach a mature age class but it should be left to the land owner to decide the number of legal deer taken on their property. Some areas may have high deer numbers, some may have lower deer numbers but we should not come up with a blanket quota for the entire DMU that is as high as it is.

I am not sure where the people who are hunting, are seeing all the deer? Not in the area which I hunt! I saw the same two adult does with their fawns, all season. Kill them off and you have nothing remaining. We need less doe kill permits, one per buck tag is enough. Deer numbers a WAY down in this area. Less does harvested and LESS government intervention. If you want a problem, just get the government involved with the solution.

I consider the job being done to manage the whitetail in Wisconsin is very good and many things factor into the management plan. Consider the fact that many of the same people complaining about whitetail deer population in Wisconsin are the same people who complain about the new coach for the Green Bay packers and think he should be fired - even though he took the Packers to NFC championship game his 1st year - keep up the good work

It is my opinion that extending the nine-day gun deer hunt will not help you reach your goals. By the end of the nine days, most people are tired, and need to get back to work. I also know that the worst thing you could possibly do is re-implement earn a buck. The single greatest thing you could do to drive people out of the sport of deer hunting is implement earn-a-buck. That is not just my opinion, but every single hunter I know.

Keep crossbow and change the definition of archery to include both bow and crossbow. They are the same thing (technological advancements). Crossbow is the best way to get more youth involved in the sport. Not many people have the time to dedicate to master a compound but with a crossbow it’s more natural for gun hunters to enjoy. I have stopped gun hunting because I love archery so much. Keep crossbow and let our sport thrive.

I think what the CDAC does is jist like the sports teams of this state do in the drafts. I believe you say you will adress the specific needs of oconto county but instead you go out and choose the least needed things. We dont need to decrease deer populations in this county. I have not seen more then 5 deer in a sitting for 3 years now. Time to draft a position that this oconto team actualy needs. Increase, increase, increase!!!

You are proposing 3 antlerless tags, what percentage of hunters utilize all the antlerless tags now? Your antlerless quota is 7000 which is the same as last year. Only 3580 antlerless deer were registered. During gun hunting I saw a total of 3 deer. I did see a wolf during bow season. How many wolves are there in Oconto county? And is the same people who are counting the deer? Maybe we can switch counters.

If it wasn't for the overpopulation on private land there would definitely be less deer on public land. I have not heard of a positive cwd test result in oconto county that isn’t on a game farm, so relax the baiting rules unless you eradicate the deer on that deer farm. I think earn a buck is the only answer but now with registration the way it is how would that work, oh that's right everyone is going to be honest.

I would like to see either a 1 buck per year implemented, weapon of choice. Or a antler restriction implemented, 4 points on at least one side. I only hunt here for family reasons, I do all of my serious hunting out of state because of over harvesting in the area that I hunt. You are lucky to see a mature buck in the area, you might see a 2 year old but that's about it, due to the high amount of hunting pressure.

You need to let deer herd maintain at minimum it's levels now...it has started to get back where there's some deer in the woods again... years ago when my boys were young and I was introducing them to hunting and that was during those dumb earn a buck seasons it decimated the deer herd by me and they saw no deer and now don’t really like to hunt...they have started to gun hunt again cause they now see a few deer.
Some people don’t shoot does others that do don’t see deer numbers like they were years ago when you hunt in Oconto county in a farm field and only see two deer on 40 acre in 6 full days of hunting numbers are low not to mention when you give someone 6 doe tags some people can’t help themselves and make pigs of the hunting image make it a hunt again not 4 months of killing everything you see

Holiday hunts have gotten in the way from late season bow hunting which is my favorite time to go. That has limited my ability to hunt and harvest a buck. The registration of online needs to be changed back to at a registration station to bring back to the local economy and the tradition that deer hunters love. It’s time to stop changing everything and letting a tradition be a tradition

If there is an antlerless only deer hunt in Oconto county, I would not buy a tag for that year. Knowing that this is a way to control the herd, I feel it is not a productive way and takes too many deer out of the population too quickly. A few of these were held in my area and we are just starting to see a recovery of deer in our area where hunting is fun and exciting again.

I hunt about 50 hours with crossbow, and fifty hours with rifle. I hunt only in the upper part of the Town of Breed. I have only seen two deer in the last three years. I have three cameras out in the fall, and I am luck to get one picture of a buck. Opening morning 6:30 to 9:00 a.m., I heard twelve shots, and last year I heard eight. I hunt mostly public Oconto County forest.

I feel the Dnr gives me plenty of opportunities to harvest a deer without having to many special hunts. I agree totally with as many youth hunting opportunities as possible! I like to harvest one or most two deer per year so to hand me six tags just doesn’t seem right. Keep it simple one antlerless with your bow and one with your gun I feel is very generous and fair.

I believe extending the season overall is to broad of a population management. Management needs to be more localized to where larger herds are causing problems, while not hurting smaller population herds. I understand it would be difficult for a state angancy to be able to manage something like this. Maybe only give bonus tags to landowners or something like that.

I think the deer population is about the same as it has been for the last four years. I think the numbers are down because of lack of registration, and extremely wet year, and a late rut. But as far as the deer population I think it’s about the same as every year. People get tied up in the social media end of things, rather than focusing on being hunters.

I would like to see crossbow season restrictions. I do not feel it should run the same time frame as regular bow season. I think there should be a smaller time frame. It isn’t the same and shouldn’t be considered so. It takes the sportsmanship out of bow season. There is a place for it, but it should not be considered the same as a compound or recurve.

This last deer season I saw far fewer deer and I hunted all 9 days of the hunt. I saw two deer during the nine day hunt and the year before I saw 28 different deer. And again I hunted all nine days of the hunt. This spring i am seeing far fewer deer than i saw last spring so i am not in favor if the increased quota for the central farm zone. Thank you.

I feel there are higher concentrated black bear numbers where I hunt which could keep deer away and prey on fawns in the spring. There are also a large amount of coyotes that i believe push deer and kill fawns. I believe the wolves north of my area destroyed the deer herds on public land which hurts our revenues from non resident hunters (FIBs)

I like to use muzzleloader/ holiday hunt to see the health of the herd (wounded-sick) to take out , it is hard to get close enough with bow to take out possible cull animals. Usually will see more deer when less hunters are out and deer herd up and feeding patterns change to get better idea of inventory, also see more predators at this time.
My only concern for the extended archery season is the potential loss of excess does and the loss of those offspring. I'm unfamiliar with the growth rate of unborn fawns and the size they would be when these seasons are going on. The later these seasons are extended, the more that I feel we will be losing those future generations of deer.

I own property in southern Oconto County, about 3 - 40's from the Bay of GB. Deer numbers continue to plummet due to the high number of antlerless deer being harvested and the high water table. Less agriculture crops are being grown along the Bay. There is no need to be harvesting the high number of antlerless deer in lower Oconto County.

I am concerned with the number of Wolves i have seen on my cameras. I am concerned that these animals along with the increase number of permits given out and the DNR's Kill All the DEER mentality, there is going to be a lot fewer deer around in the coming years. I don't see an over population of deer at least in our area. Thanks

I feel there are too many antlerless permits being issued in Oconto Cty. Most Neighboring hunters seem to be responsible hunters. However, we did have one group next to use who were shooting at anything that moved. This is concerning to me from a safety and future buck standpoint. I think one antlerless permit per hunter is fair.

The number of deer by me is a lot less than a number of years ago. I used to see 20 or more deer the fields in the evening now I might see 2 or 3 deer. The woods by me have lot of vegetation and saplings years ago the ground was pretty much bare. I really think the amount of deer is pretty much where it needs to be.

I like the way Michigan does there buck tags. 2 tags to be used with any weapon and a point restriction on one of the tags. This may help increase the harvest #s also during gun season with a lot of hunters not wanting to shoot does. Also if you harvest a buck during archery you can still continue to hunt archery.

I live on the border of private and public land. Public lands are becoming void of deer while private lands have the deer but are impossible to find hunting opportunities. We need to stop over harvesting public lands and find ways to expand the private land options. Crop damage permits would be one way.

I realize this isn’t the proper quorum, but I’d like to see a governed wolf hunt in this area. I nearly saw as many wolves this year as I did deer. Plus the damage from the June storm destroyed a lot of deer habitat, that allowed some to escape the wolf predation. Thank for this post!!

Wolves are moving into this unit and they will surely decrease the population on there own I have seen more and more wolf kills, also when you give so many tags away people just shoot them and take the backstraps out as was seen in the dumpsters in the carcass collection areas. What a waste.

Saw few deer and only 4 different does and 2 had fawns. No baiting is hurting hunters. Those around me still bait which makes our families hunt difficult. Thinking of not renewing my lease next year due to deer numbers falling and people baiting around me. The U.P. of MI allows baiting.

When there is snow on the ground the deer don't move until after hunting hours are closed, even during the holiday hunt. Earlier in the season when there is no snow we often see them in the last 5 minutes. The baiting ban made me give up bow hunting and really hurt my gun harvest.

See several deer during bow season. Have noticed very few does compared to bucks. I have over 3 months of different cameras in our property and very little doe activity. Then gun season comes and people from down south come up and kill everything they see and then leave. Not right.

Why have we moved to a system requiring so much input from the uneducated (in terms of deer biology) public vs the dnr biologists making scientific based decisions? I feel these proposed policy changes are not what’s best for deer hunting whether the hunters agree or not.
See way less deer, poor management in my opinion. Don’t know where they get the deer population from, but it’s not on our land or anywhere near by. Seriously thinking about not hunting Wisconsin anymore and go to a state that wants to reasonably manage the deer population.

There are too many wolves in the Northern woods. The DNR has managed to decrease the deer population to such an extent that many hunters did not even see a deer in the last season. Too many antlerless tags and special hunting seasons has decimated the deer population.

Major issue I see in my area, are private lands that allow no hunting, and large numbers of deer congregate with no pressure. probably not much can be done about this issue but was or is there a tax break option for land owners to have an incentive to allow hunting?

When will baiting ban be looked at Cwd happened on game farm over three years ago I believe if people abide by regulations for baiting there is more saliva contact in a corn field than a 2 gallon bait pile that can be eaten by two or three deer.

I would support a tine minimum in Oconto county. I was very disappointed by the low number of Doe and immature bucks I was seeing in both northern and southern Oconto county. I do not believe we should continue to try and lower herd numbers.

I see deer in the Oconto county more in small area like on midway rd Lena. And valley line rd by county b in oconto falls there north by the county line On 141 by Oconto county and Marinette by bob white that is some of the hot spot.

1. The eradication of game farms from oconto county is imperative to the prevention of CWD. 2. Not enough information on predation specifically wolf impact on herds. I am curious to know those impacts and what the future will hold.

We have too many special hunts and youth hunts especially are being exploited by adults. Please keep firearm hunting out of the woods after the gun hunt. The deer go so nocturnal it’s a real problem for archery hunting. Thank you.

This extended gun season talk is making me not want to gun hunt at all. I’d rather leave my land undisturbed if deer are going to have 16 or 19 days of being shot at by rifle hunters. 9 days has always been enough and it still is.

The deer numbers are down despite what you believe. The amount of does being shot is too much. We need to thin out bucks. Properly manage and don’t allow out if state doe tags. They come to our area and kill everything and leave.

Bows are a more efficient weapon now than they were when archery seasons were first established. The archery season is too long. We should start the season on October 1st and end it on December 15th. We don’t need a holiday hunt.

I would like to see baiting come back for the youth hunters in a way that the bait would be scattered in an area for them to make a clean kill. This would keep our heritage going if the youth can get some early life success.

Deer gun season should be changed to be the same as Michigan. November 15 and for 2 weeks. Following thanksgiving around the calendar is old practice and really makes hitting the rut almost impossible, like 2019 season.

Wolves should not be protected. When there is damage by wolves to farm animals and/or pets, the property owner and those surrounding that farm for a 25 mile radius should be able to shoot wolves without penalty.

Antlered Rack has to be have at least 6 scoreable Or score a min of rack to help promote more 2 year old antlered deer, and possibly creating sanctuaries within public land where no hunting pressure is possible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6567</td>
<td>On public land from Mountain east to Coleman the deer population is pathetic. Not even worth hunting. I've hunted this area for 30 years. Never has there been such a low population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6568</td>
<td>Very concerned about overabundance of deer on the landscape and the ability for forests to regenerate. Also have connections to farmers and the amount of crop damage is a concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6569</td>
<td>I believe that if land owners are upset about the deer damage then adopt a similar approach that Montana has as in BLM land that is available to hunting for resident hunting only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6570</td>
<td>I feel crossbow/archery seasons should be extended. If the goal is to reduce the deer population in this area, what is the difference what method is used to harvest the animal?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6571</td>
<td>Need to cancel the paperless tag and registration system. I feel alot of deer are being illegally harvested. Need to go back to having back tags and registration stations!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6572</td>
<td>July 2019 storm-downed trees made seeing deer difficult at best, with some areas impassable. This negatively affected gun hunting, and I’m sure bow/x-bow hunting as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6573</td>
<td>I feel we have an over abundance of wolves in area Seeing pictures of 7 wolves in a pack and neighbors telling us a pack was in their front yard.they need to be reduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6574</td>
<td>My biggest concern is changing of the 9 day gun season. It’s family tradition for these times and if the dates would change myself and my family wouldn’t hunt!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6575</td>
<td>Way to many doe are being allowed to be taken. Not really concerned with doe kills by archers but want to see far fewer doe kill tags during gun hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6576</td>
<td>Better information needs to be published regarding farmers that are using destruction permits and allowing hunters to hunt their property during season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6577</td>
<td>Please don’t restrict crossbow regulation and season dates. You will see fewer license sales which will hurt the overall goal of decreasing deer numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6578</td>
<td>As i hunt in a bow only zone the reduction of the season will not favor mine, or any otehr people in the same situations chance of harvesting a deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6579</td>
<td>If you want to get deer numbed down or even eliminate them , put a $10.00 bounty on them an you will achieve your special interest groups wishes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6580</td>
<td>Last year I hunted 9 days including both archery and gun. I saw 3 deer total..... and 0 bucks. I say let the population increase by 20%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6581</td>
<td>I want an earlier rifle season start. I want it to start same time frame as Michigan on the second Saturday of November. November 14, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6582</td>
<td>I did not see an questions about extending the rifle season. If that is still in the works I would like to say that I am against that .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6583</td>
<td>We need an earlier opening day like Michigan!!! This has gone on long enough, please listen to us hunters so we can see more deer! (Rut)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6584</td>
<td>I believe way too many antlerless permits given with the license. Why not try a 6 point or bigger rule unless first time hunter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6585</td>
<td>I would support a 2-week regular gun season in November and elimination of the antlerless-only and Holiday hunts in December.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6586</td>
<td>I strongly oppose the 19 day gun hunt do to the over abundance of out of town hunters and the lack of safety and experience.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
People like to walk their dogs on the land during the season. A big sign maybe would prevent people from doing so.

For the youth hunt it should be Antlerless only for the respect of the hunter that went out for years no buck

Crossbow season October only. To many quality bucks taken by crossbow during rut. Give it back to bow hunters.

I would like to see a longer gun season similar to Michigan. That allows the the gun hunter to hunt the rut.

If crossbow and archery season dates are changed from what they are, I will not be buying licenses this year

I've hunted for over 50 years in this unit.. I see about 1/4 the deer in this unit as I did 25 years ago...

Heard rumors of the deer season expanding!! I strongly oppose extending the deer hunting seasons. thanks

We had people who leased property next to us from Illinois and they shot every Doe they saw not good

I own 107 acres, mostly plantation pine. This past winter the deer damage increased dramatically.

Would strongly support antler point restrictions, would also support earn a buck used previously.

I'm seeing less 3 and 4 year old deer. I hunted 8 weekends and only seen 10 small bucks and does.

only allow harvesting a buck alternately every other year. i.e. gun 1st year, archery 2nd year.

With the mild winter we are seeing many deer this spring. We are seeing more than last year.

Lots of does around very few bucks. One buck tag a year would increase doe harvest numbers

The holiday hunt should still be open to the harvest of antlered deer by archery hunting.

The deer population in our area seems to be increasing, making for some upset farmers

I hope we keep the deer season the same length as before--longer will not help.

We are finally seeing some deer. And you want to take more does = less deer.

There is very little old bucks. Most harvested deer are 2 years and less

To many deer getting hit by vehicles crazy amount in ditches from winter

Need to see more deer. Only see small bucks very little does seen.

the public land should be managed differently from private land

Have an earn-a-buck season to help lower the high doe population.

holiday hunts discourage bow hunters - to much activity in woods

Stay the course on this DMU as existed in the past several years

I would like to see baiting back for at least the youth hunters.

Youth Hunt should be one and done! No extended archery season!!

Wolf population explosion. Cisible in sign and sightings.

Keep seasons the way they are. Less antlerless tags please.

Please do away with the extended hunt until January 31st.

Just does not seem like there are a lot of deer anymore

The season should open November 7 and run to November 30

I would like to see limited baiting brought back.

Too many coyotes populations in oconto county.

Start gun hunting on nov 15 no matter what.
I have no trust in the DNR whatsoever.
Thank you for asking hunters input.
Thanks for allowing opinion
Bring back bating
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 81
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 121
   - I hunt in this unit: 320
   - General interest in this unit: 63

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 301
   - Bow: 162
   - Crossbow: 133
   - Muzzleloader: 78

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.42
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 37
   - Mostly Private Land: 24
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 63
   - Mostly Public Land: 56
   - Exclusively Public Land: 137
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 19
   - Not too crowded: 67
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 54
   - Somewhat crowded: 61
   - Very crowded: 75
   - Not applicable: 4

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 99
   - Fewer: 104
   - Same: 97
   - More: 35
   - Many More: 6
   - Unsure: 5

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Oconto, Northern Forest


**Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations**

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU
If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU
If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Not applicable in this DMU
If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020 Oconto, Northern Forest
I have hunted for over years in the Town of Riverview southwest of Lakewood in the general areas around Maiden and Little Maiden Lakes. While I don't recall seeing large numbers of deer running before me now as I did on a few occasions in the late 70's and early 80's, we have always had a healthy deer herd and consistently see and harvest deer year in and year out. While I can't prove it, I believe that hunting pressure in our area was greater in the 1970's through the late 1980's. I also maintain that the replacement with fawns and in some cases observed twins has kept up with predators and hunting so I don't agree that our herd is suffering or declining. We have trail cameras out year round on our property and are out year round particularly in the spring when we tap maple trees. We frequently see deer on and around our property almost every time we come up and this trend was consistent from 2019 up to the present time (April 2020). During the 2019 deer season, every member of our deer hunting party (about 10-12 people) saw deer (does and bucks) on more than one occasion. Our hypothesis has been and continues to be that lack of hunting pressure in our heavily glaciated area makes it easy for deer to bed down or simply limit movement during daytime hunting hours. If we or other hunters don't move, the deer don't move. Trail camera time stamps from both 2019 and 2019 showed multiple bucks and does materializing on and around our property at and after dusk and then being out of sight during daylight. Following the 2019 deer season, we continued to see deer tracks in the snow until they yarded up in January. By March, we frequently saw deer tracks and sighted deer during daylight and at dusk around our property and in the surrounding National Forest. During the recent maple sap season, a trail camera on my property consistently showed groups of between two and four deer and sometimes as many as five frequenting our property. Therefore, I have difficulty supporting the assertion that the deer are not out there. We also have browse damage that we see on our woodlot that further confirm the presence of deer and our consulting forester has made the same observation on more than one visit. I prefer to see that the 2020 Northern Oconto County private and public antlerless tags kept closer to 2019 levels. I also would like to see the DNR dispense with the private versus public tags. It simply adds more paperwork or red tape to deal with in a time of smaller staffs and smaller natural resource management budgets. One other reason why I would like to see harvest levels maintained is to limit deer density as I know CWD is only a scant 25 to 30 miles distant as it has been documented at the game farm in the Cecil area.
A fundamental outside activity of WI residents is whitetail deer hunting. The number of WI hunters is sadly waning annually due to increasing costs, lack or outdoor enthusiasm, family tradition breakdown, etc. My family and I enjoy both bow/crossbow and rifle seasons year in and year out. I am not in favor of restricting the crossbow season to anything less than regular bow season (Sep-Nov and post gun season is great). I have gone plenty of years without bagging a deer during archery season so I don't believe the deer herd is too low. The current/traditional coinciding bow/crossbow seasons allows for all 3 living generations to enjoy the hunting season and WI outdoors the way it was intended to be as an annual family event. Older hunters need to use crossbows and spend time with their children and grandchildren appreciating these outdoor traditions together. Once the family event is gone this sport will die! As is tradition, bow/crossbow seasons need to remain from September through the late November whitetail rut. If you restrict whitetail hunting during the rut you will cut hunters out of the most enjoyable and rewarding time of the season. The thrill is in the chase and observing the whitetail in its natural setting performing their natural breeding rituals. This is awesome to watch! Bagging a deer is just icing on the cake! Please don't deprive hunters of this special WI annual experience. For those lucky enough to own private land, these proposed changes would drop the value of their land in my opinion. I am not a proud land owner yet but, I intend to be in the future me and my family. Just please leave a good thing alone! Additionally for this unit...reintroduction of wolves into the North woods is was fine HOWEVER the lack of check on the growth explosion of wolves is rediculous! We all know including the WDNR staff knows that this is decimating the whitetail population herd of the North woods. Ridiculous. I currently hunt up North to spend quality time with 3 generations of my family with very little anticipation of actually bagging one. What has been allowed to happen to with the wolf pack and its adverse affect on its whitetail population is shameful and the only group I can blame is the WDNR for letting is happen. Shame on the few for making decision affecting the masses like this.

In this DMU I have noticed people using farmland zone tags for this unit. In addition there is a large amount of poaching and unlawful hunting in this DMU. Some people hunt this land at night driving up and down logging roads and shoot any deer they see. This has not been enforced by the DNR which needs to be changed! I personally call the game wardens on this matter and they say there is nothing we can do. I know of some groups of shooting 300+ deer last year alone before our gun season. There is no limit to how many they shoot. And if you are wondering where they are keeping them all they are selling them. This DMU is in the ceded territory for our Native American Tribes there should be more enforcement on this as I know of unsportsmanlike activities abroad all year long. We are running out of deer I started hunting seeing tons of deer and now I can walk miles without bumping one. Your deer number kills are down for a reason, not the decrease of hunters it is the low numbers of deer! We need to stop the hunt of does in this DMU and other areas in this state. I live for hunting and fishing in this area of Wisconsin I spend more time on the public land here than I do anywhere else. I'm not in it for the killing of animals. If we do not change something we will run out of deer and hunters and eventually the land I grew up on and spend all my time on will be sold off. These numbers that are produced for are deer populations are far from true. The people responsible I don't think have been in the area enough to realize that. Just think of this "If I shot your mom would you be here, if I shot your grandma would you be here, the answer is no. Bucks don't grow fawns change the way we hunt now or don't hunt at all." Only you can change that.
Deer baiting needs to be legalized. I find it completely ridiculous that you can plant any size food plot you desire which i purely am SOLELY planted to attract and hold deer for harvest, but you cannot lay a bait site. You can plant an apple tree, but cannot lay a bucket of apples to hunt over? Absurd. This uneducated nonsense needs to stop. Ot is VERY clear and obvious that there is an outright attack on those that choose to hunt over bait. Deer are incredibly social and communal animals that smell, touch and personally interact with each other on a day to day basis as part of their life. There's nothing you can do to prevent that. And attacking the population that chooses to hunt over bait is absolute nonsense. If your going to ban baiting, then you MUST ban food plots. They are solely planted to attract and hold deer. Period. I'm not asking to attack farming, which is the first thing everyone presumes. "Well then we must ban farming because the deer eat the corn, the beans, the hay, the wheat". No, farmers plant those crops to make a living and earn a paycheck. Nobody plants a food plot to harvest the crops from it. Purely to attract and hold deer. So i ask we lift the baiting ban, because it is VERY obvious there is an outright attack on those that choose to hunt over bait when you DO NOT address food plots being legal. Stop the nonsense and quit shaming and batting down those that choose a tactic effective for harvest.

I appreciate the efforts of this group on maintaining, and hopefully increasing the deer population in our area. That being said, I think that it goes without saying among sportsman (in the truest sense) that our numbers are not where they should be, or we would like them to be. With a combination of the increase in predation, too many hunting seasons, and some hard winters, our population in the northern forest is not good at all. After spending more time than most with boots on the ground, one should expect a reasonable return if the deer population is stable-our’s is not. What happened to harvesting your deer and being satisfied that it’s been a successful season. It seems of late that more and more tags are being issued, more and more seasons are being held, and yet, there is more disappointment than ever? If we limited the seasons and take, addressed some of the predation problems, and educated the next generation on the importance of quality over excess, we might just be able to recreate an experience in the woods that will keep people coming back, and in turn understanding the value of protecting our wild places and their inhabitants. We are losing that at an alarming rate, and without people caring about a quality experience in a public space, who will keep that space public and it’s residents safe? Thank you.

I have two comments one is general and one is specific. My general hunting area is near mountain. I have LOVED the considerable drop in antlerless tags. I like going in the woods and now seeing deer and it’s great for bringing my kids into the sport. I am currently very concerned with the population near their cabin just north of Mountain. In my opinion anywhere that the July storm hit took a HUGE toll on the population and it needs a rebound. Where there is no storm effect the population lets say a 5 mile square parcel 5 miles out of the damage the number seem to still be ok. I just want to state the point that, the massive storm of last year in that area took its toll. We hardly see a deer... really none in hard hit areas like right next to my parents cabin just north of highway 64 or bear for that matter. Its like a ghost town. But at the same token the numbers are ok where the acreage wasn’t completely wiped out. I know this isn’t the forum for this but i am against removing the crossbow season especially for youths. First off i will not like it, but it is GREATLY going to discourage my wife and younger children from hunting if there is just a limited amount of time they can hunt they would not hunt with a bow. Thank you for listening.
The hunting public in Northern Oconto County have been stating through this forum in an overwhelming way that they are not satisfied with the amount of deer that they have been seeing the past two years. It is stated that the DNR wants the feedback from the hunters and hunters have been doing just that. It is time for some members on the CDAC committee to listen to the people. Dropping the quota to 150 is just a bandage for last year's low harvest and won't address the problem of low deer numbers on public land. This zone needs a zero antlerless quota until the harvest metrics over a few years indicate that the herd is indeed increasing. The zero antlerless quota doesn't take opportunity away from kids, handicapped or vets, because those numbers don't count against a zero quota. A zero quota doesn't mean a true zero. During the preliminary meeting a member on the CDAC is on record stating "We are splitting hairs dropping the quota to 150 from 250". With a preliminary quota of 150 he is right, more needs to be done and a zero quota needs to happen. Northern Oconto County zone is more similar to Forest County and maybe it would be more appropriate that Forest County leadership takes over this area. DON'T SPLIT HAIRS, INCREASE THE POPULATION!!

I've been hunting in this unit since I was 12 years old. I harvested my first deer during the October youth hunt in 2007. Then I went sometimes five years without even seeing, let alone harvesting, another. The second deer I harvested was not until I was 24 in 2018, then I finally saw and shot my first buck in 2019. This is why you're losing hunters; it shouldn't take 13 seasons for a young person to even see a buck, let alone harvest one. Your approach to increasing the herd in Northern Oconto County has been much too lax and slow. I would STRONGLY advise that the DNR NOT limit youth antlerless harvests, especially during the October youth hunt and as their first deer. If a kid has to go several years sitting in their stand, in the cold and sometimes wet, and they don't get to see that it's worth it, you'll lose their interest in hunting forever. I believe that there's more to hunting, especially in beautiful Northern Wisconsin, than just harvesting something, but, really, that is the end goal. If I wanted to just spend some time in nature I'd buy just a state parks pass rather than private land, a rifle, all of my hunting gear, a deer license, and all of the other accouterments that go with it.

I own property -- 25 acres -- adjacent to the National Forest in the Town of Lakewood. For the last few years I have seen a healthy deer population. I am not just talking about Fall. I am up there frequently year round, and except for winter I see a good amount of deer. Further, I was just there for two + days and observed a healthy number of deer after what I might have thought to be a tough winter. I bow hunted most of of last November and observed plenty of deer. What I did see was that as the gun season approached the sightings were shut down. The deer were there, just not moving. Further, I have observed that hunter perseverance has declined. By Sunday noon many hunters are done for the season. I have to say that as an older hunter I am enjoying deer hunting much more as a bow hunter/crossbow hunter prior to gun season as there are fewer people in the woods, the deer are acting more naturally, and the weather can be (but not always) more pleasant. My impression is that deer management is becoming more focused on a particular weekend or week (gun) and driving decisions to enhance that hunt as opposed to the overall deer hunting experience available.

I've hunted Oconto County since my dad brought me out at 10 years old I'm 43 now. There were plenty of deer up there when I grew up. Hunting was fun up there every year. The last 5 years are a joke up there. You never see the deer like years ago. We used to go out shining when I was a kid an you would see 50 deer a night. Now your lucky to see 6-7. I don't agree with all the wolves doing damage on the deer herd and the wolves not being in check with a wolf season. It's a shame how all the predators get a free pass and continue to flourish while the deer herd which makes the tourism money goes down. I gave up hunting up there and now hunt western Wisconsin where the deer herds are more populated and have a better chance of shooting a mature buck and doe. I think back when I was a kid and think what happened and how did this happen. Poor management and too many predators. Thanks a lot you clowns. You guys ruin everything you guys touch.
As in the past the antlerless permits are wildly skewed in the wrong direction. The deer range is 74% public and 26% private yet the permits are given out in the reverse. The North American model of Conservation dictates that wildlife belongs to the people not to the landowners but that is clearly not the case in our deer management unit. Private tracts are generally small in size and deer freely move between both public and private lands, by making the permits available as in the plan and as in the past the CDAC is perpetuating the interests of the landowners over the general public. The whole public vs private is irrelevant and should really be dropped all together but that is beyond the CDAC authority. It's sad the direction deer management has gone since the "deer czar" from Texas was listened to by the government, let the DNR biologists set the parameters based on science.

I have hunted the north woods for over 55 years. The largest change in deer movement that has totally screwed up the playing field for all hunters is the elimination of deer feeding. 90% of all deer we see now are close to private land, and private homes or cottages. The deer have deep paths to these locations. So your feeding ban has failed terribly. If you go to the national forest to hunt you will be lucky to see one deer on a deer stand in a five day hunt. The deer sign is terrible, and I scout from early September, and continue through the hunting season. I have been unable to put my grandson on a deer in the past 4 years. That has really soured him on deer hunting. This is destroying a family tradition of feeding our family's, and hunting in an ethical way. Respecting the forest and the animals we hunt for food. (Please get rid of the sale of bagged corn to the public.)

The wind storm in July of 2019 caused considerable damage in the area of the Nicolet National forest that I hunt. The storm made huge areas of forest impossible to access. Not just for myself, but many hunters. Opening day of 2019 gun season was a mass of hunters congested in areas not as difficult to access. I believe as a result, there was not as much pressure as in years past when hunters were more spread out. Sunday of opening weekend almost no other hunters were seen. I have no idea what effect the July storm had on the deer because of the extensive damage to their habitat. If they moved away, or adjusted to massive numbers of downed trees. The damage that was not cleared away certainly affected the hunters ability to get into the forest to hunt. The numerous downed trees sadly provide unneeded fuel in the event of a forest fire.

I believe 150 public land antlerless tags is too little along with only 300 private tags. Last year less deer were registered because of bad weather, a late gun hunt, high water, etc. Look at the population trends. We were on a wave of increasing for the last few years and last year's harvest was down because of those other factors. Hunters are reporting more deer being seen. Last year less deer were harvested, so common sense tells you that the population is growing. It's hard enough to buy a doe tag for public or private for Northern Forest. At the very least you should offer 500 private antlerless tags and 250 public like last year and the population will still continue to grow. That was a very informative presentation by the biologist and I appreciate all the time he put into it!

We have a problem with the natives talking way too many deer the wolf's and other predators are a huge factor we should NOT give out any doe permits for up there and only able to shoot a buck that's a 4 points or bigger we have no deer left up there our group number have gone drastically down over the years, almost to the point where we should stop hunting for a few years to let the deer population come back also numbering the amount of tags the natives should get, they are pouching them and if they run off they will not look for them this has been a huge problem for the deer herds up where we hunt I know this will go any where but this is my input I've been hunting up there my whole life it's becoming sicking to not even see any deer whole 9 day deer hunt

I do not think there is enough research on how the last summers wind storm affected the hunt. I believe a lot of deer where able to hide in the blow downs and were safe from hunters. I think the wind damage also provided some additional thermal cover and browse for deer to help them through the winter. I have seen more deer this spring in Townsend, WI then I can ever remember seeing and I expect to see a lot of deer this fall. I hope that doe tags will be available so I can mitigate the amount of deer browse to my oaks and maples on my property. Finally, the acorn crop in my area last year was incredible. I think that helped the deer put on the weight they needed going into winter and also coming into early spring. I suspect a lot of does will be bearing twins.
I am against harvesting antler-less deer on public lands. The reason is a great number of landowners will harvest antler-less deer on public lands and only harvest bucks on their own property. The results is a over harvest on public lands to a point where I don’t waist my time of money hunting deer. The public lands in all of Oconto County are nothing but dead forest lands that once ran abundant with deer. My Son is 29 years old, he started deer hunting just as T-Zone, Earn a buck got started and now anything goes hunting. My son is so disappointed not seeing deer, he won’t bother to hunt deer. My dream to hunt deer with my son is gone. The DNR has failed me. I know it’s hard to judge the behaviors of others but to fail to correct the mistake is unforgivable.

I scout a lot during late winter early spring. 100+ miles boots on the ground predominately off of roads including logging roads. Increasing predators (wolves, glad they’re around but we need management) - ease of access and human disturbance is a real issue throughout most areas (Please consider closing some logging roads) - Logging is helping habitat but the deer are in high abundance in some areas and devoid in others even of similar habitat types. - there is less private land than public throughout this dmu... So why more private antlerless tags than public. (Political pressure from locals should not outweigh scientific data and research). - I believe this area could definitely use some more enforcement by game wardens. Year round!

I think surveys should go out to all hunters to accurately gauge what they are seeing for numbers in the woods. I’ve been hunting Oconto northern forest for 19 years during gun season and put in a great deal of time to try and get on deer and through all those years I have only shot one doe. I can count my fingers and toes and that would be more than the number of deer I have seen in all those years. Numbers are NOT accurate. Not sure if you just drive around houses and private land and put together your numbers that way? Have you ever spent a bunch of time in the Jones Springs area? And now with all this storm damage there, who knows if things will ever be the same but I can assure you that you need to take another look at numbers.

I live on 12 wooded acres adjacent to National Forest property. I have not seen very many deer around this Spring, and I didn’t see any during the 2019 deer gun season. I think that the hard winter we experienced took its toll on the 2010 deer population. Yesterday I had a female deer in my yard foraging for anything to eat. I could see her ribs. Also I see fewer deer this year than in past years. Either starvation or predators are taking many of our deer. I propose a minimal harvest until the DNR can figure out what is taking our once abundant deer supply. I would also like to propose a limit on out of state hunters, and much higher license fees for them.

To whom it may concern, I have been bow hunting and rifle hunting since I was 12 years old, I would say over the last 10 years deer hunting has become boring for our youth. This is very disappointing to me it’s just very hard to compete with today’s video games and computers, I think there should be no does shot in the northern counties until the population comes back and let only the youth shoot ago and hopes to get them hooked on deer hunting for life. Where we hunt in the northern counties my older son hunted for almost 6 years but was only able to shoot one doe so he gave up hunting because we just didn’t see much activity in the woods.

Sat 6 days last year gun and black powder seen 3 does. I paid 12.00 for a doe tag but could not pull the trigger with so little deer sign. Unit should be buck only for years to get the numbers up. Sad to see the Wolf kill of a deer on the property last year. Please tell me why we have wolves in the area. My parents bought the land for our family to enjoy. Hunting the land is a gift from them to my family to enjoy for generations to come. Hard to get kids excited about hunting when there lucky to see a deer let alone a buck. I will hunt no matter what happens. Love to be in the woods.

I spend a lot of time in the woods in WI and in the area in Northern Oconto county has some deer but the number of deer I see on a regular basis has been far less than I saw 15-20 years ago. Now with the no registration stations I feel that many more deer are just being harvested and not reported. Go back to the party tag - 4 tags to be allowed to shoot one doe. You will have more hunters hunting (no hunting tags for anyone that has not passed hunter safety class) because of the party tag and back to registration stations so that accurate counts can be maintained! Thank you.
A lot of violating and poaching is observed and heard about due to no in person registration. The lack of registration of deer and people who continue to hunt after harvesting a deer will continue to lower our numbers. We live in a ceded territory in the northern zone. A lot of night hunting is going on that needs to be addressed and talked about. This drastically reduces our numbers of the deer population. If we want to increase the deer population we need to put a haul on antlerless deer hunting and observe the hunting rules and enforcement needs to be increased.

Please get rid of the December Antlerless Hunt in the Northern Forest. Last year there were only 4 deer taken during this time. This season is not productive or well attended and it prevents the Snowmobile Trails from opening earlier, as we witnessed last year. Please do NOT put the entire County in one group for Doe Tags in the future, as keeping the northern forest separate is important as the deer population in the northern forest is alot different. I can't even imagine who would come up with the idea to put them together, as this makes no sense to me.

Over the years I have seen more and less deer in the area. I don't believe there are enough in the herd to justify any additional antlerless permits/hunts(other than youth hunters). If you want some does killed I would prefer to see either sex archery and or firearm tags or a limited number of hunters choice tags, one tag per person per season. I feel crop damage populations should be handled on that particular property. In my own personal opinion the public or private antlerless tags are probably not being used as such. Thank You for Your Time.

2019 was hands down, the worst year in my 38 years of gun hunting this area. My family has hunted this area since 1922 and those still alive all agree something needs to change for the hunters and the deer. It's been on a sharp decline since 2007 when it was overharvested with ridiculous amounts of antlerless permits. My wish is for my kids and grandkids being able to experience the same fun and excitement I was able to when the deer numbers were good, the wolves were dead, and a group of hunters coveted that single party permit!

I believe the storm and damage in July of this past year spread the deer out more. and deer did not return to their natural feeding grounds after the rut or even after the gun hunt? Are those deer alive or have been killed somewhere else? Im making my comments on me and brothers private lands in northern Oconto co.I think setting the doe harvest down til you get a better hold on what the population really is and err on the safe side as you are projecting to do, but divide the numbers evenly between private and public lands.

I feel the gun deer season needs to be extended by atheist a week. This week should be infront off the current season not after Thanksgiving. The biggest issue I have is when the bonus tags g I on-sale, my job doesn't allow me to stop working,, and purchase these tags. Honestly I stopped trying to get them simply because the u would sell out that fast. What if the bonus tags were sold for a certain time period during the season. That would work great if the season was more then 9 days.

Since I am elderly, my main concern this year is access to public hunting land. The Forest Service has blocked access to many areas using boulders and berms. I believe that UTV's and -or ATV's should be allowed for use to retrieve a downed deer, and to go to and from your stand. I have tried the "Disabled Hunter Program" and found that is very limited in scope! I could write a book on disabled hunting opportunities, since I've been struggling with being a disabled hunter for over 35 years!

IN the last year I have seen more antlerless deer than ever before. I was hoping to turn the to similar tags as last year with a longer hunt time to make up for this past two years that have been on the decline for hunters registering. We do not have the passion of hunting staying alive in the generations coming up and I for one am hoping to bring that back. By decreasing the harvest numbers its only going to make that more difficult to do. I hope that all things are considered.
I am a land owner in Oconto North-land region and was disappointed this year in the lack of deer sightings. Given the population, one would think that you would see more deer this past year. I agree that the later season and the Oconto County summer store damage may have contributed to see less deer than previous years. We are looking forward with the decrease kill from last year and a mild-winter that deer sightings will be up for next years hunting season.

Crossbows should only be allowed to be used during firearm season. Also if you don’t live in the area and support the area economy with taxes then you deer tags should be for archery only. To many people come from the cities and shoot spike bucks or yearling deer just because they wanna say they got a deer. Not knowing that they are a direct tribute to why the deer populations are down. Also QDM with 4 on one side should be implemented.

I hunt in the Michkanee area/Oconto county forest so I am not sure if that is public farmland or northern forest (I suspect the prior). However there are very few deer in that area and large number of hunters. I do support the young kids shooting does (but otherwise bucks only). There will likely be a portion of people that shoot does 'off' their kids’ tags. I wish funding for enforcement was better, but thank you for all you do.

Close the season for two years and watch the Deer population come back in record numbers. At this rate my kids won’t have anything to hunt people shoot small Deer all the time and it makes me sick. Also group hunting just to fill your tags is wrong what happened to waiting and watching and enjoying the wild instead we shoot anything thing that move now. Limit one Deer per hunter and let’s make the woods a better place for everyone.

Deer numbers are deceiving in this unit. One year to another is not enough to set quotas. Set them same as last year and see what happens. This constant tinkering is a big turn off (especially if I was a new hunter) Let quotas be for at least 2 or 3 years. Don’t remotely compare northern Oconto County to Southern Oconto County where there is way too many anterless deer. This area is different and should be managed that way.

Try to avoid tweaking numbers every single year. This constant up and down tweaking of numbers on an annual basis doesn’t do much. Try a 2 or 3 year average. Try not to be reactive to every email you get. Sometimes folks just have a bad season. I have hunted here since 1986. Sometimes we see a lot of deer, sometimes we don’t. This constant playing with numbers of anterless deer quotas (which is important to us) gets old.

I do not appreciate the fact that the Indians from the tribes of the area are able to drive all the back roads and National Forest roads at night and shoot deer from their vehicles with a spotlight. The deer population was definitely coming back. I was told by a local person from the area that the Indians killed 167 deer in the National Forest off Smyth, peek, and chickadee roads. I would like to know why that is allowed.

When turkey hunting this spring i have seen many more deer then i have in the last forty years in Oconto County Northern zone and this is before birthing is about to begin. No one has talked about the ability of the hunters to get into the woods for the 2019 hunt do to the massive straight winds that made it very difficult to get deep into the woods their for not many deer were taken last gun deer season in Oconto County.

Please stop baiting statewide! Please go back to in person deer and turkey registration. There is too much poaching going on in the northern woods. The system we have today maybe most cost effective for the state to operate, but our deer and turkey populations are being poached too quickly. People can not be trusted to to the right thing all the time. Current system promotes poaching! Thank you

Dnr, well with all the trees that are done where we hunt you could hardly get in the woods. Did see one deer except on private land seen more . But with these trees getting harvested this should make a healthy forest and good food supply for the deers . But must keep baiting out of hunting and turn in people that are feeding illegally. We do need deer numbers up to 20 to 25 per square mile.
I am not in favor of limiting or putting any additional restrictions on the use of crossbows for deer hunting. Let's all encourage the humane harvest of deer and not show prejudice of weapon choice. Logging is starting to take place on the National Forest which will improve deer numbers and habitat. I would like to see baiting brought back in limited amounts of one gallon per site.

excessive amount of bears in this unit. why does it take so long to get a bear tag with this many predators? Only in it for the money? keep people buying tags with out a chance of getting a tag? get rid of the bears. They are not afraid of people any more. they walk into your yard at noon looking for food. Kids are in danger. I have a cabin there. I fear for my grand kids in the yard.

I haven't hunted in over 8 years and would like to start again as I'm retired. I stopped hunting mainly because the baiting of deer. This stopped them from moving in their normal patterns. I saw less and less deer and therefore stopped hunting all together. I would like to see a total ban on baiting so we get deer to move in their normal patterns and stop or curtail the spread of CWD.

I am very concerned about the CWD risk in Northern Oconto County. People are not obeying the baiting rules. Also, a lot of people along the lakes and in back of their houses bait deer with corn. When you try to tell them that this is unhealthy to deer, they laugh and tell me they are just feeding squirrels. I think there should be more memos and warnings on feeding and baiting deer.

Due to the damage to the forest last year by the wind and tornadoes and the on going clean up, I feel is going to greatly affect the deer herd. Loss of habitat, food sources and the increase of predators on the fawn population is going to continue the decrease in the deer herd. I feel that doe tags should be reduced and a restriction on smaller bucks (antler size) be established.

I would prefer expansion from a county DMUs to a larger dmu that includes surrounding county forest areas. I expect this year's herd to be moderately better than last year, but that's just a hunch based on last years poor showing. I do not favor private landowner rights over public land hunters. The herd is a public resource, not a private herd, favor public over private.

I went from seeing 10-15 deer a day 15-20 yrs ago and then earn a buck took care of the herd along with the predators. People aren't going to be hunting along with our youth if you don't get the deer numbers up. I am very discouraged in our dnr in this matter. I urge you make more of an effort to restore our deer in the north before people quite hunting altogether!!!

People are hunting on Public land using there private deer tags.I see the hunters with there own land not shooting antlerless deer on there land, but driving deer on public land and shooting them.

The western third of Oconto county is public and very few deer for lots of years very experienced hunter with 42 years in the same general area been poor for long time predators for hunts earnabuck and the reservation all have had a large affect on the herd the public areas get slaughtered every year not much left this is a fact not a gripe true story!!

I believe the deer herd is considerably lower than ever before. I would like to see the youth hunting Be restricted to antlerless only. Also stop many of the other “special hunts”, the deer are being overharvested grossly in my opinion. To ad days to our fun season is funny, because more days in the woods can’t create deer that are not there

Three years ago there was a lot of logging in your area. At that time 2 Native American loggers were bragging they had shot over 50 deer. A friend of mine saw a Native American logger get out of his machine and shoot a deer while still standing on the running machinery. That season there were very few deer taken or even seen.
I’ve seen more deer this year then in the past 10 years. Less Bear sign and coyote. I am a disabled vet and was lucky to get a doe perm in the first 5 minutes before they were gone. I did not harvest. There is a lot of potching of deer in this area by private land owners. I've seen it happen from my deer stand more than once.

I hunt near Lakewood and the deer population among our group has been adequate. In my opinion hunters have been getting lazier and thus report seeing less deer. Also, I’ve been hunting with a cross bow in recent years and love it. There has been talk about restricting cross bow hunting. THIS IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

I know that there are those that believe we should only harvest bucks. Over the last number of years I have not seen a buck to take a shot at, yet I have seen an increase in the number of antlerless deer. I know it only takes one buck to service a number of doe but it seems to me the ratio is out of line.

Myself and my two hunting partners were the only three hunters NOT baiting in the approximate 1 square mile we call "our" hunting area. Where the heck are the wardens? I have been enjoying Oconto Co, forests for 40 years and would like to thank all the CDAC members for their dedication and work.

I would prefer the gun deer season to start a week earlier than normal, and that the season last for a total of sixteen days. That would allow the gun hunter to see more deer during the rut, and would most likely allow for a better overall hunting experience because of seeing more deer. Thank you.

I have not seen any amount of change in the last 3 yrs in terms of deer population. I do not think there are enough deer for the large amounts of National Forest and open acreage to warrant any antler-less permits for the 2020 season. Perhaps 2021 or 2022 would show an improved deer population.

I have seen an increase in deer sightings throughout the year or years and I would like to continue to deer in the future, so I think we're on the right track by limiting the number of antlerless deer being harvested, also, I would like to see a permanent baiting ban for the future as well.

I would like to see the youth hunts enfed if you think the deer population is too low I see enough deer that I think there should be more antlerless tags for public In the 90's we had lots of deer and had hunter choice tags I would like to see an either or tag vs a bonus antlerless tag

I think you should have a minimum of acreage of at least 20 acres to obtain the antlerless land owner permit because people really can’t hunt on a acre of land but they are still getting the permit and they are still hunting in the national forest using this permit

I think you should allow the youth either sex. We have in the past and stayed within the numbers you wanted harvested. It is a great opportunity for their first deer and we need that to keep them interested in our sport. This could be the only unit they can hunt in.

I find it very frustrating that a 19 day gun deer season is being considered when there was a 25% decrease in harvest reports last year. So many rules are being change that allow hunters to do what ever they want and it's taking a toll on my local population.
There are a lot of doe/fawns in the Mountain area. I struggle to grow a garden. Neighbors say the same thing. I see does and fawns all the time but I haven’t seen any bucks. Maybe shooting a few more antlerless deer would allow some bucks to survive.

The July windstorm affected many areas hunters in my area hunt. Deer sighting’s were way down in these areas of public land. Is there an official count of deer mortality from the storm. Will the forest service be contracting for logging in these areas.

I remember ~15 years ago I could go out and at least see a few deer ever since CWD mess. I see none we killed off the deer heard and added the wolves, now I some times wonder why I buy a hunting license when I could just go sit in the woods for free.

On public land not enough deer on private land where only a couple of people can hunt to many deer if a farmer applies for crop damage it should be open for public hunting. You should look into let people hunt with air rifles .357 cal our higher.

I couldn’t hunt in this unit in 2019 because of a pre season injury, but for the last few years I have seen very few deer where I hunt on public land. More logging to create areas of younger growth more suitable as deer browse would help.

After the storm damage clean up is finished, there will be more open area and potentially easier access to some area. This is likely to increase hunter success rates in years to come and should be considered when setting tag numbers.

From our group’s (10 - 12 hunters) observations over the last 5-6 years, it does appear that the deer may be making a slight comeback. However, I believe that care should be taken to how quickly the antlerless harvest is increased.

The wolf population there is out of control. There are hardly any deer left. My family has been hunting there for the last 40 years and the last 4 years we can’t get any deer and cannot provide enough meat for our family!

you can’t have antler less season in northern oconto but you can SELL bonus tags shows what this management program is about money. Ten minutes after the online sale is open the tags are gone this is a poor system.

I have kept a daily log of my hunting since I was 12 and I hunt over a large area in the northern part of the county. The deer population dropped dramatically in the early 2000's and has really not recovered.

East of highway 55 should not have a doe permit. South to reservation and and north to highly 64. Extend this to highway 32. This area is hunted hard by hunters who are looking for a place to hunt deer.

The Northern Forest of Oconto county is a joke. Seeing a deer is as likely as seeing a unicorn, stop cross bow hunting and hand out wolf permits. It’s getting to the point to being depressing to hunt here

Of seven hunters this season, two of us saw only one doe... all gun season long. We used to limit out on bucks every year and for the last 10 years the available animals has dropped to nearly nothing.

I have heard comments about changing the length of the gun deer season. Why not make it the same as Michigan? Opening on the 15th of November each year and ending at the end of the month statewide.

If you talk to Ever and Dr. face Palm, please tell them to leave the citizens alone to make up our own decisions about when and how to reopen the state economy. We are all adults, leave us alone.

Please continue with the clean up following last summer’s storm and continue with the planned logging in the National Forest (Section 2107 and others nearby). Thanks for your consideration.
There are multiple packs of wolves in the area and each year are getting larger. I had 3 wolves walk under me in 2019, that is the first time I've ever seen a wolf in person in the area.

I believe the bear, wolf and coyote problems are unchecked. Turkeys also have exploded. You should not have to wait ten years to get a bear tag and turkeys should be under small game.

It is sad when the last five to six years of gun and bow hunting seasons I have not seen a deer for the days and hours of sitting in the woods. I will not hunt in Wisconsin anymore.

I would like to see restriction on harvesting Bucks to include requiring at least a 3-point antler on one side. In my opinion, too many young bucks are being harvested.

I believe the logging in this area was long overdue!! The deer should have a great food source with all the new growth. Continue with no baiting to help combat CWD.

Deer population is at all time low in my lifetime of hunting. Extended seasons are foolish, in my opinion because more time to hunt can’t produce deer that don’t exist.

Numbers in our area have been steady. With the new growth that will be generated from severe storm damage in July 2019 the population should flourish in the future.

Hopefully the logging that was done in this area last year will help improve the deer herd. There are too many Bears, bobcats and coyotes in this area.

My family (3 hunters 2 under 16) would like to see deer. We spend a lot of time hunting and don’t see many deer. Hard to keep young hunters interested.

The predator population in Oconto county is too high where I hunt. I have a hard time bringing my grandchildren to hunt because there are no deer to see.

There needs to be a more accurate system to address the deer populations/predator loss in individual DMU, I believe they are grossly inaccurate!

Crossbow hunting should be limited to elderly and those with a doctor verified medical condition that prevents the individual from drawing a bow.

Leave the 9 day gun season the same. Give the bow hunters the month of October to hunt, then open season for bow hunting after 9 day gun season.

Until we have control of the wolf population in this area these efforts to increase the deer population in this area are all a waste of time.

I walk every other day in the woods. Different locations - some private - mostly public. I have seen very low fawn survival rates.

There is definitely a wolf/coyote problem that is getting worse year after year. Have seen packs of both in 2 different areas.

We need to bring in sight baiting back unless your in an open area there’s no reason for a deer to stop (we need a safe shot).

People hunting public land buying bounts antlerless permit’s for private land because public land permit’s were sold out.

Storm damage has greatly reduced our hunting areas on National Forest. This can crowd undamaged areas with hunters.

Predators play a huge effect on deer population in this unit. The wolf population is what needs to be regulated.

I would like to see the antlerless authorization tag be valid for both public and private, not one or the other.

Wolf sightings have been up lately. Bear sightings have been up as well. Deer sightings are down.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6731</td>
<td>If you want hunters back up North hunting get the deer numbers back up. Do not give out doe tags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6732</td>
<td>CWD in northern Oconto county now! Way to go DNR, you mess up most thing you touch!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6733</td>
<td>Feeding and baiting of deer in Oconto, Northern Forest region should be allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6734</td>
<td>Please DO NOT change to a 19 day gun deer hun. Please keep it the way it is!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6735</td>
<td>Predator numbers are high! Not only wolves, bears are in abundance also.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6736</td>
<td>Saw more does than bucks the last few years. Doe quota is too low.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6737</td>
<td>Saw more does than bucks the last few years. Doe quota is too low.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6738</td>
<td>The deer numbers have been down for years where I hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6739</td>
<td>I would like to have restricted crossbow season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6740</td>
<td>Close down antlerless to all except youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6741</td>
<td>Close the season for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6742</td>
<td>Please allow baiting again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6743</td>
<td>Get rid of the wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6744</td>
<td>Point restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6745</td>
<td>Allow baiting back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6746</td>
<td>Remove the wolves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

737 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 361
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 215
   - I hunt in this unit: 668
   - General interest in this unit: 131

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 635
   - Bow: 304
   - Crossbow: 266
   - Muzzleloader: 217

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 27.19
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 188
   - Mostly Private Land: 100
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 116
   - Mostly Public Land: 98
   - Exclusively Public Land: 155
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 11

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 15
   - Not too crowded: 89
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 81
   - Somewhat crowded: 120
   - Very crowded: 153
   - Not applicable: 11

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 186
   - Fewer: 191
   - Same: 224
   - More: 101
   - Many More: 25
   - Unsure: 10

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...  
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...  
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...  
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 91 580 66

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...  
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? 336 335 66

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First of all I'd like to start out saying, I scout whitetails 8 months out of the year, I run a good amount of trail cams throughout the county and I hunt about 3 months out of the year very hard. Its hard to have success here if you are looking for a decent buck. But being out there all the time I am able to see what's going on. I hunt all public land, county, state and federal. Historically this area has been one of the worst areas in the state to harvest a mature buck sporting some decent head gear. This is due to lack of nutrition, severe winters, predation and just overall stress. I think we should be the first county in this state to set the bar and pass a 3 pt on one side antler restriction. Not to grow trophy bucks but to protect spikes and forks so they have a chance to go through the cycles of life and maybe they will have a chance to mature more. Seems like non resident hunters and hunters from southern WI come here and harvest the spikes and forks way to often. We do not have a quality herd because of this. People like seeing a nice buck, it brings business to the area, and when one is harvested the business continues onto the taxidermists, maybe the butcher shops. If muskie fisherman can get a 50" size limit why can't we get something to help deer in the whitetail capitol of the world? We should try it, what's it going to hurt? People will have more success and they will be happy. This should be an option and many of us would like to see this. Otherwise we would like to see one buck per hunter a year. We are losing hunters not because they aren't seeing deer, because they aren't seeing any decent bucks. I also would like to mention that my trail cameras do show the wolf population increasing every year. I also pay attention to the winter severity and this winter we are at a severe number already for stations in Oneida county. So there should be no antler less tags issued for public land after any severe winters. I believe it should be lowered for private land as well after severe winters but there are areas near cities and towns where the doe numbers could be maintained. The extended rifle season will hurt our fragile deer herd, and the continuation of crossbows for anyone all archery season is really having an impact on the buck population, I do not agree with either. We need to have a crossbow season and stay with the traditional rifle and muzzleloader season. If people are in the woods with rifles at the tail end of the rut it will be devastating to our buck population, they are like sitting ducks. One way we could make things a lot easier is change the way the seasons begin. This is a suggestion for the whole state. There are years we hear how the season started to late like 2019 so that lowers the harvest of bucks. There is a simple fix, make rifle season open on the same date every year like MI. This is my idea on season structure and I believe it would improve our state and simplify everything; Archery Season - Sep. 15th-Jan. 15th statewide continues Crossbow Season - Nov. 15th-Dec. 15th statewide continues Rifle Season - Nov. 20th-Nov. 30th statewide, weapon of choice Muzzleloader Season - Dec. 1st-Dec. 10th statewide No extended archery hunts, no holiday hunts, no youth hunts, no baiting statewide, no more CWD tags, bring back registration stations and let the counties control their herds as needed. Lets make this the greatest state to hunt whitetails because right now we are falling off the map, losing business and losing hunters.
It seems that increased deer numbers over the past few years don't accurately represent what many hunters see. My experience in talking with many hunters is that private land owners with large tracts of land with agriculture, food plots, etc have vastly increased deer herd size at the expense of smaller landowners or public land hunters. Because more wealthy land owners with large tracts of land can afford to put in large food sources, and because many residences continue to provide food sources for deer illegally and without penalty, there is no reason for a deer to be on public land or on a small private tract where there is no food. The lack of ability to bait deer has hampered people on public land/small land owners who are the majority of hunters from seeing deer. Large land owners with food plots provide a food source, and people feed deer in their back yards, but the hunters on small tracts/public land face stiff penalties if they do - so they don't see deer. It seems unjust that the penalty for feeding deer in your backyard is less than feeding them in the woods for hunting purposes - and that it is rarely if ever enforced. You can drive down any rural road or around any lake in northern Wisconsin and see into the back yards of people who have feeders blatantly sitting in their back yards full of corn. If the purpose of the ban is to stop the spread of CWD it should not matter where the feeding is happening - it is equally harmful to the deer herd and should be punished equally. If more people were scared of a substantial fine for feeding in their yards it would cut down greatly on the practice - thus deer would have to roam and browse to feed, thus putting them in front of hunters. The deer herd may be a healthy size, but it is not distributed well. When many antlerless/bonus tags are provided, the deer herd in these areas shrinks even further because the hunters don't have many deer to chose from and will harvest any deer they have a chance to harvest. The only people seeing a lot of deer are the large landowners and people with means/food plots.

In my humble opinion, the deer estimates for Oneida county are way off. There are not near the numbers of deer that are estimated, and I believe the goal for this county should be to increase the deer population. I base this on the number of deer I see during the season, the "deer sign" in the forest, and discussions with other hunters from different groups. Our group has been hunting the same public land for decades and our success rates have dwindled to the point of not even seeing deer. Half the people in our group do not hunt the north woods anymore because they are convinced there are no deer. I would like to see the bonus antlerless tags go away for at least one season, to include all weapons and all persons (youths). Then gradually bring the antlerless tags back slowly. Our group shoots one doe as our camp meat for the season, we are buck hunters. I would like to see the "party tag" used as a CDAC tool in future management as well. That was always a great program that defined a lot of group/family hunting traditions. If the idea in the overall management process is to get more hunters to the northwoods, there needs to be a better opportunity for a person to see and shoot a deer. With that in mind, having 2000 antlerless permits for private lands and 1000 antlerless permits for public lands is counterproductive. It will discourage people from coming up that do not own land. There is a disproportionate number of permits considering the land is split 53% private and 46% public. Thanks for letting the public speak.

This DMU has a large amount of illegal baiting ongoing. In the area of the Oneida/Langlage Cty line (W of Pelican Lk, Hwy Q, Hwy G) it is very prevalent by SOME landowners and others hunting public land - while I continue to follow the rules and not see any deer. I own land near this and seeing deer is a rare occurrence while neighbors are frequently tagging deer. It is something that needs further attention. Either police/enforce it better or remove the baiting ban. A lot of hunters have simply given up and the young would be hunters have no interest. For the health of the sport into the future (and the licensing revenue, and economic impact to areas in the northwoods) it needs to be addressed. Additionally, while I realize that a wolf hunt is currently a federal issue, MUCH more pressure needs to come from these advisory surveys, to the DNR, to DNR Administration and to legislators to continue to push legislation or file lawsuits to put this ban on wolf hunts to bed. I don't even feel comfortable walking through my forest with my hunting dog without carrying an AR-15 with 3 30 round clips to protect him. They also frequent very close to my cabin and I have been surrounded by them walking out of the woods at night in the dark after bow hunts. They have a place in the ecosystem but they also need to be kept in check just like it was 1000 years ago when humans killed the wolves to protect themselves as well as balance out the competition the wolves created for their foodsource.
The deer population in Oneida county, specifically the Willow Flowage region, has been and continues to be decimated by the wolf population. I own 80 acres surrounded by public land in this region and each year I find more deer killed by wolves than I see during bow season and gun season combined. It is easy to distinguish this with wolf tracks in the snow surrounding deer carcasses. Additionally, it is common to see more wolf tracks than deer tracks in this region just driving down logging roads as well as in the woods while hunting. We are close friends with our landowning neighbors as well as groups that annually gun hunt this region. Last year we did not hear of a single deer harvest within hundreds of acres with the total deer sightings less than 10. THIS SHOULD RAISE ALARM FOR THE DNR!!!!!! It is time that something needs is done about this issue. A decade ago, this region was absolutely filled with deer and now it is considered a good day if I see a deer. This region needs to be managed differently than the rest of the state due to the localized and the mostly permanent presence of wolves. The question of opening an antlerless season in this region is somewhat of a joke. With the amount of deer in the region, killing does would certainly not help the dismal population. Please do the right thing and understand that outside the townships and cities, the deer population is pathetic. PLEASE DO SOMETHING

1. Deer numbers need to first be addressed by killing from predators. Wolves kill “just because” and have witnessed, studied and heard the killings of deer in this unit that hunters no longer have choices to pass up a small buck due to predator killing. Fawns are far and few between and now a proposal of more antlerless deer kill? I can go all day without seeing a deer where we “use” to hunt, land that is still wild, but only for the strong that survive, “wolves”. Witnessing kills deer are an easy victim for wolves, wolves kill elk, moose, bear, which is a much more aggressive kill, whitetail do not have a chance. I am 57 years old and my hunting days are limited? My land is still - large predator tracks. I am sad to say if we do not fix the first problem that was introduced, our children will have no whitetail to hunt. Is there a bigger picture that is not being shared - such as elk/moose that are now being introduced? Moose and whitetail can not survive with each other. Announce the plan that the DNR has for our lands that I can make a better opinion. More tags means more money for the DNR. What plan does the DNR have for the children hunting Whitetail - when they will be no longer? I hope to have feedback on my opinion. I have been hunting the woods for many years. Redirection is needed for our future and I pray that you feel the same. We can make it right. :) Respectfully, Penny

The statistics showed that deer harvest during archery season greatly increased after crossbows became legal for every hunter to use. This points towards a much higher efficiency of crossbows over vertical bows. This should be taken into consideration within regulations and season because the number of opportunities vertical bow hunters have for antlerless tags or to encounter more bucks may be diminished while crossbows are legal to use for the same period of time and leading to more deer being harvested than normally would be in a vertical bow only season. I do not agree with the public/private mandatory choice for antlerless permits. In Oneida County in particular, private and public holdings border one another a lot. The deer using the private land in many cases are the same deer using adjacent public lands. For example, my family owns 30 acres of land and just across the road there are many acres of public land. If I choose a private land tag, I only have 30 acres to harvest a doe. But if I choose public, I may be hunting 50 yards from our property but not be able to harvest a doe on that property. It doesn't make much management sense in the Upper Midwest to separate public and private land antlerless harvest because the private holdings generally are small and have the same exact deer using that land as the public land next door.
I believe the Wolf kill mortality rate is much greater than is realized. If a hunter goes into the forests where wolves range, they will not likely find many deer in that area. Something has to be done about the wolf situation in regards to deer management. The higher deer numbers reside in highly populated communities where hunting is not available. They are hard to find in the forests. Although I do currently use a crossbow along with my compound, I fear that the use of crossbows may jeopardize the liberal archery season that we have had for a long time. I would support limiting or shortening the crossbow season but not the archery season. Crossbows are not a good promotion tool for getting young people involved in archery. They simply are two different weapons and have very little in common. I believe that the due to our harsher winters of late, it would be beneficial to allow the feeding of deer after the gun season. CWD doesn't seem to be a problem here in the Northern half of the state. Many of the deer in subdivisions and near populated areas are struggling to find food and over-browsing the woods and neighborhoods. Supplemental feeding would help make this population of deer healthier and make the people happier by watching them. It is also a cash industry for struggling farmers in Wisconsin. A win-win situation for all.

I live in the woods of an Ida County. I have seen so many dear here however the deer are all small. I feel that this is because so many Taurus feed them yet there is not enough for them to eat over the winter months. They are highly destructive 2 mi backyard plants and I routinely see carcasses are fresh deer hit on Highway 51. If we were able to harvest more deer in Oneida County I feel the road to become safer and we would have less deer starve in the winter. I also think that having less deer in Oneida County in the long run will cut down on predators that I see such as wolves. I have seen wolves in evidence of wolves with my own eyes and I do not like them around. I believe we should bring back the wearing of back pigs while deer hunting. As I see more and more people driving four-wheelers in blaze orange while carrying firearms I can no longer see their back pigs. I Wonder has all these people trample around our great state in the county which I live in if I were to ever even remotely want to figure out who they are I would have no means by which to do so. They're on four wheelers that do not display a plate or the plate is obscured by mud. If they had a backpack with a number, I could see that number and if necessary report trespassers and violators. Without having any back tags I am absolutely unable to do so.

In Oneida co there is a lot of public land. There should be more tags available for public land hunting. In recent years the number of hunters trailing to the area to hunt has gone done do to the fact there aren’t antlerless tags available for hunters. The number of predators (bear, wolf, coyotes, bobcats) is reducing the deer populations. There needs to be an effort to make more tags for predators available to limit the predation of the deer by these predators. The number of healthy deer has gone done over the years sense no baiting has been set in place. With hard winters and high numbers of predators around the number of fawns seen during summer months and fall hunting has gone done. The deer need nutrients to be able produce and support fawns, get them through winters, and allow the bucks to regain weight/health before winter. This unit isn’t in southern farm land where deer have the ability to go to farm fields to get nutritional food to stay healthy and recover after rut. Either increase bear permits and allow for wolf hunting in forested United or allow baiting or feeding so the deer stand a fighting chance to produce healthy fawn, healthy deer in spring summer, and allow the bucks after rut to get the nutrients they need to survive not only the hard winters but be healthy enough to survive predators.
I hunt primarily public land, being a reoccurring visitor to the county vs. a resident/landowner. I started crossbow hunting about 3 years ago with having semi-retired, along with hunting the 9 day gun/deer season annually for the last 35 yrs, the last 20 in Oneida county. I have seen exactly the same number of deer during the 9 day gun season each of the last 2 years - one each, on opening morning. I have hunted opening weekend, including the Monday. During bow season, I have hunted several long weekends (3-4 days) across October and November each of the last 3 years. While seeing a few more deer, I still feel the deer numbers are lower than what is being estimated by the CDAC/DNR. This is compared to what I saw, hunting the same areas, when I first started hunting in Oneida county. The first 2 years I hunted I saw 15 and 11 deer, respectively, across opening weekend (early 2000's). A second comment is the antlerless permits should be divided between private/public lands based on percentage of acreage, not whatever tool is used to determine the ratio now. My understanding is the ratio of private/public acreage in Oneida is ~ 55/45. With the 2020 proposed antlerless permits at 2000 private/1000 public for Oneida (which in total is too high), that is a 67/33 ratio. Doesn't make sense to me.

I own private land that is managed and have also hunted public for many years and I spend many hours in the woods on both. I believe lack of logging and predators has resulted in a decline of deer on public lands but conversely on my managed private land as well as private land around me the deer herd has increased and this spring I have seen over browsing and would estimate 75% of available browse is gone. I have done a lot of walking. This tells me there are too many deer in my area. Because of differences I see in private vs. public here's management becomes difficult. The biggest issue see is the impact of predators. I don't have a good feel for this. As a result of what I see I think you need to increase private antlerless tags and keep or reduce slightly the public tags. Please note I am concerned about reducing opportunities for non land owners on public. I try to do my part by allowing some people the opportunity to hunt on my land. We need to encourage hunting. As a side note it is ridiculous to consider reducing the crossbow season in an era where less people are hunting. I am fine with increasing the length of the rifle season but if people really want to see more deer with a rifle they should spend more time in the woods to scout and find them. The deer are there.

I hate to say after 45 years of hunting the northern woods of Wisconsin, our deer camp has decided to move to Indiana going forward. Since the late 90s we have seen a decline in the number of deer. We used to see 10 - 20 deer a day while sitting on stand from sun up to sun down. Now you are lucky if you see 1 or 2. This past year hunting the McNaughton Lake ski trail area three of us did not see a single deer in 4 days of hunting. We did see an abundance of wolf tracks. In going out to the supper clubs, we were hearing the same experience from many with comments of "likely will be our last year in this area". It is truly sad. I was born and raised in Southeast Wisconsin and besides the fall and watching the Packers - the one thing since I was 12 that I always looked forward to was going up north for deer camp. Our group which has gotten smaller over the years will be moving to a friends farm in Indiana. One comment I would make for your consideration, would be that out of state hunters that have limited time (3-4 days) to hunt that if possible to increase the number of doe tags for sale. It has been a really hard decision to move deer camp, but in the past 5 years we have only harvested 3 deer out of 4 of us.

I hunt in a section of county owned forest land that has seen a lot of logging. This has negatively impacted our deer numbers greatly. The clear cutting of our section of public hunting has devastated the habitat for deer in our area. We hunt right on the county line between Oneida and Lincoln Counties yet have no where near the deer population as those in Crescent Corners or near Hat Rapids. To treat everyone that hunts in the near CWD area the same is nuts. We do not have any farm land within miles of where we hunt. Have had to deal with logging and a very active ATV/UTV trail which has made seeing deer throughout the year a challenge. The idea that their is a one size fits all for the county hurts our hunting. Where we hunt, no antlerless tags should be issues. We need to be growing the herd in our area plain and simple. I've gone 2 years without seeing a single deer while hunting regularly for both bow and gun seasons. I'm not the only 1 in our hunting party of 5-7 who are in the same boat. Our hunting party used to be 12-15 guys, that is now down to a core of 5. There just are not enough deer in our area to entice guys to hunt our spot in the the southeast corner of Oneida County.
I would like to see a point based system for doe/small buck tags on private and public land. The fee for this $5.00 if pulled in a lottery system then the fee for the doe/small buck tag owed in 72 hours of drawing or goes to over the counter. At 5 points get a tag if not pulled for that county, once pulled points start over. Also would like to see point restrictions on bucks to encourage more selective deer management. With one buck on this first then can tag a smaller buck or doe for a total of 2 deer per hunter, a reverse of earn a buck system. This system would help the herd to regrow with a 19 day rifle/muzzle loader season if only gun hunting, combined season with bow/crossbow/rifle/muzzle loader be almost 3 months of time available. I would also like to see youth hunt ended after 1 deer harvested for youths up to 14, I know of too many hunters that use their kids to fill the freezer. This also takes a lot of good deer out of the gene pool for growing the population. After 1 deer or 14 years hunt with your mentor or parent on the normal season, the best way to learn the real hunt is about being in the outdoors enjoying nature not the harvest of a trophy.

My above answers are reflective of Hunter experience over my lifetime. Recently, seeing far fewer deer overall, and way free antlered bucks. Especially any over 2-3 years old. I have however noticed way more predators in the areas where I hunt. Not only canine, but felines also. I am picking these up on trail cams on runs throughout the property. I am an advocate of non bait hunting. But am frustrated knowing neighboring landowners are still using some type of bait or attractant to migrate deer towards their land. As the natural runs on the land I hunt, lead that way. I feel, not only for the reason of stopping CWD, but to reset the deer population that baiting/feeding has to be stopped. Every gas station, grocery store, and bait store, sells corn in bulk. Even though baiting is banned. You, DNR, need to do more towards stopping retailers from selling corn, in order to stop private baiting and feeding. And I don't know how you can do that, since retailers have the right to sell it? So, on the other side, let's try to get a better idea of handle on the predator population, to give deer a better chance of growth, and possibly living longer to grow more bucks?

When scouting in the area of Bass Lake and Shingle Mill Road each year there is less sign. There is also a lot less hunter activity. I think there are three reasons for this. Reason one is the deer herd there do to all the public land to the south in unit 42 and that area of 38 was over harvested. Too many antlerless tags we’re given out in prior years. In 2007 the woods opening day had people all over in them. There’s hardly anyone on opening day. Reason two you can’t compete with landowners that bait near by. I only know of on that’s been busted. I can give you 4 off hand for sure and there’s more I question. One buys 6000lb in the spring and 6000 in the fall of corn. I have also come across two on county land one that had a gut pile on it in 2018. Reason three and I know there’s nothing that can be done now but in my winter trips into the Bass Lake Road area I have found lots of wolf sign and the remains of deer. This spring they got one on Bass Lake Road just pass the landing. I personally believe the deer management units need to be changed.

Due to baiting bans, the deer populations have migrated to areas where agriculture is present. If you do not have any agriculture, or private food plots, you are not seeing the deer in any numbers to justify your time spent hunting. When you take away a small tract land owner’s ability to draw in deer, you are making it very hard, in some cases for landowners to see deer on their property for more than just a deer passing through to another area. If you are concerned that deer are more at risk from a landowners’ small bait pile than you are in an open field of corn or soybeans, you aren’t paying attention because the deer in these farm fields are always in close proximity to one another and still lick one another on a frequent basis. If this isn’t a problem for an area with baiting bans, then why deprive a landowner of small volumes of food that benefit many more types of animals than just deer. If there is agriculture in an area, then I fail to see the logic of baiting bans because the deer are congregating somewhere for food and you cannot stop that.
Over the years the deer population has plummeted. My cameras see bears and bobcats, wolves and now lately, Mountain Lions. We have seen the bears grow to heavier weights over the years. When does leave their fawns by the fence post to hide while they eat, the bears and bobcats have learned to check each post for a fawn. We see very few fawns yearly. I put my cameras out in April and leave them until gun season is over and last year was the worst year yet. We saw 4 deer for gun and were all to small to shoot. I saw 2 bucks for the whole bow season. Spikes. Our group puts out 9 cameras over 80 acres and we have not seen a mature buck in 3 years. My opinion is to have no doe tags for 2 years and only be allowed to shoot a buck over 6 points or higher for 2 years. Increase the bear and bobcat tags by 20 percent. Bring the wolf population down to or below what said when the wolf was re-introduced. These are my opinions and thoughts. I have been in the woods for 50 years. I am 58 years old. Thank you.

I believe that the goal of deer management is to provide a quality hunt, control the population and stop the spread of disease. This can be accomplished by thinning the herd. To do that you need hunters hunting and to do that they need they have a chance to harvest a deer. I feel that it is the wrong move to completely ban baiting. Hunters who bait are more successful and can balance work, family and hunting better. I the answer lay is somewhere in the middle. Allow small amounts of bait in and around CWD effected areas. I also feel that the fall youth hunt disrupts the rest of the season it should be ended. It could be added to the holiday hunt. I recommend extending the muzzle loader season from 2 weeks to the end of the year. Allow Bow and muzzle loader hunters to use small amounts of bait. Consider requiring Bow hunters to shoot a doe to earn a bow buck tag. However if they do shoot a buck before shooting a doe than they must shoot a doe before they can get a buck tag for the next season.

the western part of onieda co is total ruined/ dead/ there is no reason for that area to be so demolished from predators and doe tags, i hunt in old unit 31 which was awesome years ago, its a crying shame to whats happening in the north woods today, i have personally had so many bobcats feeding on a deer by my stand it ruined the season, 5 cats at one time on a deer carcass, not to mention a over population of bear and wolf. whats really sad is this state should be elite when it comes to game animals, but because of stupidity its the worst i have ever seen it in my lifetime. no woods wise common sense, the old conservation dept had real outdoorsmen working in it. now its educated dummies who dont know nothing except what some other dummy put in a book that they teach in schools, and bs politics, and wasteful spending of money. i personally could do a 10 times better job managing the wildlife than is being done now by applying good old fashion common sense.

We have over 15 trail cameras on our land and 13 hunters who hunt from Sept. Through end of season annually plus there often off season. We use to get hundreds if feet pictures. See alot deer shining. Now the past several years we get alot of pictures of wolves (some with collars), bears, a couple Bobcats...and deer a extremely slim. We know going into gun season that we are not going to see anything because we know there aren't many deer. We hunt 300 acres and board thousands of public land. There aren't deer. We walk the land, ride atvs and see wolves. We all have had to buy pistols for self protection and we dont allow our kids to roam the land like we were allowed to when we were kids in fear of the wolves. Peoe want to sell their hunting land up north but due to this issue other hunters are not interested in buying. I now rather spend my time and money the week of gun season hunting out of state and I know many hunters who feel the same.
Thank you for the presentations online from the CDAC representative. It was informative and interesting. I see vast swings in deer population as I travel through the county where some areas seem to have ample population while others do not. Some of these are within a few miles of one another. I am glad that we have broken the deer management areas up into smaller areas for unique management recommendations. I do still have concerns that averaging data collection may not represent any one area within the county and the ability to collect appropriate data quantity to make recommendations. I have personally seen changes an immediate deer population as predators have moved through areas local to my home and hunting areas. This change typically has a negative impact on hunting experiences and at times safety of family and pets. I would like to see more accurate information on predator kills by species in hopes to better manage those species as well.

The management area should be split along Highway 51. There is vast forest differences (lack of Oak) and the amount of public land, including timber management lands open to the public. The objective in this area should be to grow the herd. The deer populations tend to be in or around residential or developed areas and hang around the houses increasing the amount of ornamental damage and increasing the odds of car collisions. There are very few deer in remote areas. I have visited winter timber sales there were few if any deer in the sales in the western portion of the county. There is also a lack of Mature bucks on the landscape. I doubt you will be able to influence the deer herd without addressing the wolf predation and the population of these predators in these areas. These areas are vastly different and should be treated as such. Also the ability to objectively determine if the deer are taken on public verses private is questionable.

The deer herd since the slaughter of unlimited antlerless tags was given about 12 years or so ago, has not rebounded to warrant as many antlerless tags as you give out.. the past winters I have found aborted fetuses by deer from lack of food because of snow conditions... more deer hit because travel on roads was easier than in woods... if anything, they should of been included in your deer harvest numbers and that many less tags given... you need to go back to the season framework about 30 years ago, no special season for kids, let em learn like everyone else did, no special tags for them, shorten the bow season back up, no guns used to fill bow tags, muzzle loader season is a joke, twist barrels, sights, in line firing pins.. not what the season was intended for... all you people want is to make money.. so called cwd control is a joke and waste of money, it will never go away... ever!! Quit managing for money and manage for the sake of the deer...

Oneida is a no baiting county. I hunt public land adjacent to private property. Over the past 2 seasons 90% of the shooting I heard came from the area of private property. This past year the only sign I saw in the snow were tracks heading directly toward the private area. If the restriction of baiting isn't strictly enforced all of these questions about deer density and range are mute. Enforce the laws so everyone can have a more enjoyable hunt!!!!!!! After the season I contacted the Rhinelander DNR office and informed them of the situation and told them exactly where I was hunting. We’ll see next year what is done to enforce the rules. I’m sure it is also happening in other areas of the county. I don’t understand why the sale of corn and other forms of bait are readily available at many gas stations and spot shops in a no baiting county. It doesn’t make sense. Raise the fines and enforce the rules NOW!!!!!

The crossbow season should be shortened to be like gun or muzzle loader season. It’s a slap in the face to traditional bow hunters who spend hours practicing and honing their skills to get the deer in close. Compared to someone who takes a bow out of the box outfitted with a scope and can shoot 100 yards. That's not how bow hunting was suppose to be. The way it was for physically handicapped or disabled was great. After all it’s just like shooting a rifle, my dad had one after a knee replacement so I know. With the new compound bows with the let off they have there is no reason to let everyone use a cross bow, or shorten the season to 9 days like gun season. This is one of the biggest mistakes the DNR ever made. Hunting is suppose to be a sport about skill, there is none in cross bow hunting for a healthy person. To me and many old time hunters this was just a way to sell more licenses.

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020
6774 The deer #'s (in the actual woods) are beyond below what they should be with the greater numbers being around towns & farming. It seems like people talking about how high deer populations are not people that hunt very far from those areas or drive through those areas more then wooded forest roads. My husband & I are consistently in the woods, spend many hours, and walk many many miles during ALL SEASONS and have seen a DRAMATIC DECLINE in deer numbers vs predators within our entire unit (mainly coyote & wolves....NOT BEARS - bear numbers seem to be down too - just throwing that out there) Anterless deer tags should be cut on public lands for all hunters. Give the deer a chance to re-coop. Leave the seasons alone. Stop talking about all the CWD nonsense. Get the coyotes in check. In a couple years all will be good again & y'all can start making money again & earn a little respect back.

6775 I disagree with the CWD tags for landowners near the Three Lakes Whitetails hunting preserve. While some landowners do not shoot any, sadly I know a few have abused the tags. There is no way to know where the deer were harvested from and I believe strongly at no fault of the DNR people are harvesting deer no where close to the CWD zone and registering them on the property listed for the tags. I also am sick of beating this CWD thing to death. I spend a lot of time in the woods hunting and trapping and to me the deer population has only increased in numbers, at least in Oneida County. I have never seen a “sick” deer that I thought was affected by CWD. I’m no biologist, just a avid outdoorsman. I have seen multiple wolf kills and even bobcat kills while out hunting and trapping but never a sick, skinny deer. Best of luck with figuring out the season and thank you to all DNR staff.

6776 Living in the woods i see many deer with lost limbs. due to lack of marksmanship with gun and bow..and Trailing the hurt animals..The doe population is climbing back to where it was. I enjoy the old ways Bonus doe permit, I feel if we allow a bow hunter to take Buck and a doe during Bow season... This would keep the deer herd up I wouldn’t mind paying 7.00 buck for a doe tag.. and then a drawing for that doe Tag.. But we have to keep in mind There are many deer tags handed out in different deer zones. where they hunt Bucks only.. Corn belt middle Wisconsin.. I trapped for many years.. lots of corn damage is cause by raccoons and they pull corn plants to the ground to eat ..where Deer nibble on the corncobs..I trapped lots a coons in corn fields.. Gang set 10 traps 10 coons.. They come running to see the Ruckus.. you guys have been doing a great job.. Thank you ....

6777 Deer are abundant in Oneida County, but are more concentrated around prime habitat than they were when baiting and feeding were common. Two of my favorite hunting spots have abundant cover and were reliable places for deer movement before baiting and feeding were banned. These areas don't even have rubs and scrapes in the fall now. Deer are more concentrated around agricultural areas that are off-limits to many hunters. Areas with productive oaks or plenty of young browse also still attract deer, but forests are managed differently than they were in the past and are aging. Baiting also made it easier to recruit new hunters and helped people who are limited in mobility - or limited in time, for that matter - to use a simple tool to help make up for the inability to scout thoroughly. Allow feeding/baiting, or at least manage forests for more young growth.

6778 I would support a reduced number antlerless harvest and NO BUCK harvest for one year, every 5 years to level out the buck:doe ratio and increase average buck maturity in the long run. I also support age restrictions on bucks to 3yr old bucks and older. I also support heavier predator control. More money should go to predator study than whitetail study. Whitetails population response will likely respond better to predator management (including the human predator) than whitetail numbers management. I do most of my hunting out of state on family owned private lands due to the shortage of opportunities for mature deer in my unit. Leased lands out of state is much better hunting than all the public access lands in WI. There's very little pride in ownership on public access lands. My opinion is that privatization and leases increase herd health.
It was my understanding when I purchased my gun deer license for 2019 that my choice to me in Oneida county was between hunting private OR public land. Since I hunt 90+ percent on my own private land, I chose private. Other people I hunt with did the same. However, when making deer drives, we do cross public land to complete the drive. If a deer had been shot on that public land, I can assure you, that deer would have been registered as being harvested on private land to avoid confusion and possible legal issues. If my assumption is not correct, then a better explanation process should be given to inform the Public. If my assumption is correct then there should be no choice given for public or private land. The license should just be an open hunting license for both public and private land. Thank You

As a land owner in Minocqua Township for 25 years I can truly say I have been over run by does in the past 2 years, particularly during the winter months. They have never been so plentiful in 25 years. DNR has cut back on harvesting antler-less deer over the past several years and it has greatly increased the antler-less deer heard. I now see groups of 6 to 9 or so in my yard every day eating and destroying all the pine. New upcoming pines never have a chance anymore. Of course there in no way to have flowers or a garden in the summer. The does are basically living in our yards during the winter and destroying everything. I truly believe your proposed quota in way to low. For years we never had a restricted season and things were fine. WE ARE GETTING TOTALLY OVER RUN -REDUCE THE HERD SIZE OF ANTLER-LESS DEAR!

I scout 40 acres or private and 300-400 acres of public every year. Although I do not solely blame predators for the drop in deer population, the past three years I have seen more coyote, bear and wolf scat then ever before. I think more research on predator populations would be helpful. I have also seen a slight increase in the visible herd the past 5-6 years and think that has a lot to do with lowering the antlerless tags available. I here from a lot of locals the frustration about it, but I personally saw a stronger herd shortly after the years of no antlerless tags. The downside is that is also when I saw the predators ramping up as well. My opinion is less antlerless tags, more predator research and educating hunters on how their actions hunting decisions effect the quality of the deer herd.

deer numbers in our area about 18 miles west of Rhinelander has a fair deer population, wolf depredation has increased significantly, we have cams year around and can say for sure this is true, worry greatly about our hunting dogs, neighbors horses and farm animals, the wolves are getting more used to human presence, have a picture from 3/16 of two wolves taking a healthy adult deer a day after we were working the land, a neighbor has horses and multiple year around cottages, this is no place to have a large number of wolves, actually seeing a occasional wolf in person when we walk, it bothers me that activists can have such a impact on this, while every biologist, game managers, property owners, I have talked to are for regulating the population, what can we do to correct this, thanks,

I believe that property owners in the county should be able to be on cdac. You shouldn't have to be a resident. I've owned a cabin and property in the county for 40 plus years. I have an associates degree in natural resources and wildlife management. And feel that i could contribute to the committee. I've probably killed over 40 deer in my life time hunting in Oneida County. My sons have killed almost as many deer hunting in the county as well. We know how to hunt. We went from having 21 hunters in our deer camp for gun hunting, we now only have 9. Part of the issue with loss of hunters has come from the new managed forest laws. I believe more land has been shut of 2 hunters because of it.I think there giving the land owners that put there property in the closed, to much of a break.
During the nine day gun hunt in Eastern Oneida county I saw no deer while in the forest. What the CDAC needs to realize and account for is Eastern Oneida’s deer population numbers are more in line with Forest county. Forest county’s deer harvest is much lower than Oneida as a whole. I find it troubling that to many antlerless permits are being made available. Since LEGAL baiting has ended in Oneida it is nearly impossible to see deer during the Archery/Crossbow season unless you invest in a food plot. Eastern Oneida used to have a good number of public land hunters 15-20 years ago. Public land hunters have moved to more productive areas as the Eastern Oneida county deer population has dwindled. CDAC needs to push for managing areas of the county based on population differences.

I have hunted in unit 31 just north of the Willow Flowage for 61 years. Starting around 2013-2014 we started experiencing a decrease in deer sightings and thus a decrease in deer harvested. In fact in 2015 & 2016 we did not even see a deer during the the first 4 days of the gun season & thats six hunters in the woods. We believe the decline was a combination of the wolf population in the area, two many doe's being shot in previous years & a few bad winters. A couple of seasons of no doe hunting I think helped as we started seeing a few more deer in 2018. However deer numbers in the area where we hunt are very low. I’m just glad I don't have to a young son or daugther starting out as it would be very hard to keep their interest in deer hunting when they see very few deer.

Please open up a season on wolves. Never had them before and they seem to be abundant. Definitely were scaring away the deer last year. I can't risk my dogs life every time I let her out because someone thinks a wolf is necessary. They are not. All they do is take away from hunters and families. They are invading new land and you know they are territorial. If I am going to come up to Oneida county and spend money, my pets have to be reasonably safe. Otherwise I will be forced to avoid Oneida county all together, I am sure I am not alone. It doesn't take much on social media to create a panic. If I have to deal with wolves like I did last year, I promise you, I will all over social media. Also yes, they are wolves and not coyotes, I have more than a few on camera.

My main concern is that being a disabled hunter it is almost impossible to find a place off road to drive in and hunt! Most of the logging rides have berms and or signs from the state of WI forbidding entry or use. I have hunted this area for sixty five years. We have driven back on traveled off road trails to setup stands and to organize drive for those that have what I don’t, legs that still work. The most disappointing part of hunting is that I cannot take my grandchildren’s back to places I can only talk about do to everything entrance being blocked, leaving me to have to shoot from the car. I appreciate that at least I can still hunt, but being disabled and not being able to drive off road on land open to the public gives me a 90 percent less chance to fill my tag.

I hunt primarily private lands in the more remote/rural areas of western Oneida County and have for 38 years. I live nearer to town. I hunt the equivalent of 10-20 full days a year, bow, gun and muzzleloader. I have watched a steady decline in deer sightings and apparent population on and around my lands for several years. At the same time, I have watched the herd be stable or increase near town and homes. It appears to me that the antler-less quotas and "maintain" determination are driven off observations from in town vs. the entire county. I do not believe the county as a whole merits antler-less quotas and "maintain" status. Perhaps the quotas need to be bifurcated within the county areas and isolated to those hot spots. The broad brush approach is not working.

I think the early youth hunt should not exist ( In my opinion that's what mentoring during the regular seasons is for ) and I would like to see an extended firearm season where gun and black powder could be used for a 2 week period at any time at the same time,during that period starting on the 15th of November ie. If you filled your gun deer tag early you could continue to hunt with a black powder tag right away until the firearm season ended. I would also like to see an either or, harvest for each deer hunting season were you can choose to harvest either 1 antlered deer or antlerless deer but then you would not be able to hunt with a weapon once you have harvested a deer. You could still make drives or be in the woods but no weapon. No bonus antlerless tags!
You should poll hunters on the amount of time they spend hunting and scouting for deer hunting. A lot of data gathered from people who spend an hour a day in the woods before going to the bar is skewing your numbers. I spend a lot of time in the woods and could kill 3-4 times as many deer than our group of 5 does every year. My only other comment is that the biggest problem for our deer herd is predators. I have seen more wolves in the last few years than I have seen in my entire life. I have seen 3-4 wolves every year the last 4 years. That is only during the gun season. I get a lot more on camera. The bear population is very strong as well and the DNR needs to consider making bear tags more easily available to help limit the deer they kill.

I generally agree with the cdac recommendation and providing some opportunity for antlerless harvest. However, my hunting experience through the archery and rifle seasons of 2019 showed a significant decline in deer numbers from the previous year. Deer numbers are not spread evenly, if farmers are having issues with deer, they should let people hunt on their land, or get damage permits. Wolf numbers are too high and have a great impact on deer numbers. The State needs to regain management of wolves and have an unlimited season for a couple years to get the numbers down to the target levels. If you want to grow more trees, cutting needs to be more aggressive to get enough sunlight to the ground. The CDAC recommendation is too high.

I still believe with the baiting ban, baiting is still heavily occurring, as well as food plots not distributing deer across the landscape. For years our property has seen good numbers all spring and summer and as bow hunting ramps up in October deer sightings go down all the way through gun season. This is based on cameras in the same location over years, left out all year and cards swapped out about every 2 months in summer, monthly during fall and left out all winter. Bears with cubs has been steady all years and 2 years having a sow with 5 cubs and 4 cubs. Cats and wolves are constant year to year, coyotes have increased in the last two years. We do not bow hunt, occasionally bear hunt, grouse and duck hunt as well as gun deer.

Replace 3” antler restrictions with 4pt antler restriction. (all the western states adopted this for a reason) IT WORKS! Stop all the unnecessary killing of all of the does in the down units. We own a restaurant and we hear from all of our customers, local and tourists. The consensus over the past 3 or 4 years has been the same, their just not seeing the deer. And we’ve seen a drastic decline at our restaurant from deer hunters over the years because their not coming up to hunt anymore because of the low numbers. FYI, I’ve taken my grandkids hunting with me for 3 years now and we have not seen one deer while sitting on the stand, both kids have told me that there not interested in going anymore, good job Wisconsin dnr!

1.) why drop only public land permits. Comparing to previous season permits. 2.) Oneida county is 56% private land 46% public land would expect permit ratio closer to 60/40 rather then the recommended 70/30. 3.) Quotes are put in place to manage herd, not to get more hunters in the woods or promote tourism. CDAC should look to other means if these are valid concerns. 4.) biologist sited early snow, harsh winter, and potentially lower fawn count seems like valid reasons to reduce quotas by 40-50%. Given these assertions seems a 20% drop in quotas is light. 5.) Have noticed the size of adult deer are getting smaller and smaller over the past 5 years. Lack of food? To many deer per sq mile? Should be investigated.

In 1970 we could count about 45-60 gunshots on opening morning, restaurants and steak houses were full of red wool - deer season was a statewide event. In 2018 we counted 7 shots before noon on opening day of gun season and last year only 4. The States attempt to please every single group and hunting method has cheapened the hunt and put hunters in the woods from September to January. The inordinate attention by the DNR to the (unwinnable) spread of CWD has scared away many hunters and using that as a tool to try to stamp out baiting/feeding has lost many more. The feeding ban also deprives a huge number of "other" wildlife fans from interacting with deer, turkeys and waterfowl. Not every citizen hunts.
Thank you to the committee for recommending some antlerless tags. Deer season is a lot more fun when I can get a doe for the freezer and then wait for a quality buck. I would like to see more private land tags. Our herd seems to have made it through the winter pretty well based on what I’m seeing plus the amount of car kills this spring. I live and hunt in Stella. We have way more than a healthy population in our township. With cwd a concern, I don’t think we should be stockpiling deer in areas with lots of private land- This does nothing to improve the population in the east and west ends of the county. Again, thank you for recommending some antlerless tags and for your time spent on the committee.

There are no numbers that will make everyone happy, and I do understand that. Where I’m coming from is last year was the first 9 day season I’ve ever had where I never saw a single deer. And this spring the sign isn’t there either. But on private land it’s a different story. I see deer by my residence on a regular basis. So I would recommend quotas of zero on public land and then staying with 2000 on private. There remains a growing disparity of deer distribution on public vs. private land. In terms of dollars spent I would argue to those who want more tags available thinking it will lead to more dollars spent the following...no one is going to come if they aren't seeing any deer. It's that simple.

Given what I have witnessed on public and private lands in this DMU in the past year, deer numbers have not increased enough to begin harvesting more antlerless deer. The presence and impact of wolves is steadily increasing and we've begun to lose interest in deer hunting because of the impact they have. In the 2019 9 day rifle season, our hunting group of 5 people saw a dozen deer in total and fresh wolf tracks and sign daily. Until the wolf population is controlled, there will not be enough deer to deem any antlerless tags necessary. In my 12 years of hunting deer in these areas, deer numbers have never been lower, and our group has not harvested more than 2 deer in a season for multiple years now.

the number of deer in the north woods is way to low, DNR allows to many hunts for does with out does you have no deer stop shooting all the does, all you are doing is making money off all the hunts foe no horns. wolfs and winter kill was very high this year take a walk out in the woods, don't just sit behind a desk and count deer, the insurance company's think we have to many deer because it cost them money to fix cars after a deer crash. Need more deer to feed the wolfs I would hate to see them all die off, O wait maybe that would be the answer to all this wasted money that is spent on the wolf population no deer and no wolfs we all win. we can stop hunting and you can stay in the office.

I listened to the meeting about two weeks ago through the teleconference. I was very satisfied with the way the meeting was conducted and the people on the committee. I thank them for their service to our county. For the CWD issues found between Tomahawk and Rhinelander I support all decisions the committee may make to eradicate the problem. I feel this problem was brought to our area via deer farms. I hope we are also managing them as well. I understand they usually have influence politically but we could ruin our state with CWD if we do not stand up against the CWD on the deer farms. Thank you again for your efforts and for the finely developed briefing.

It's pretty discouraging when you want to go hunting and you need to worry about your safety with the wolf's all around. Kind of unnerving walking out of the woods in the evening hearing the howling, or walking to your stand seeing fresh kills and wolf prints. Many hunters have given up that I know and talk to feeling its not worth it or they think the wolf's have taken all the deer. Bear population has exploded as well and that does not help the deer numbers either. While I say the deer numbers are the same in the survey from the last 2 years they are terrible. Many in our area did not see a buck all of gun season and only a handful of does and we were out everyday some days all day.
Bear and Timber wolf numbers continue to grow on my property based on trail cameras and the deer population dropped dramatically when the timber wolves arrived 10 years ago and can't seem to bounce back. I co own 440 acres and have many food plots as well as fresh cut poplar and still see very few deer. We would see many deer before the timber wolves arrived. We have 11 hunters on this property and have only harvested one buck in the last several years. My share of the property taxes is over $3500 and I haven't harvested a deer in many years. I hunt a little with my bow and also opening weekend of the 9 day. Can't take anymore hunting because of the frustration of not seeing deer.

There are very few hunters per acre in the National Forest (where I hunt) and there are growing populations in areas where timber harvesting is progressing. I harvested a buck and seen other deer (both sexes) while on my stand during the Archery and Gun Seasons. I contributed that to knowing my area and scouting year round. Other hunters I talk to were frustrated but they hunted only a couple days and didn't scout their areas. Too many hunters are blaming the deer populations but the reality is there are far fewer hunters in the Northern Forest region and the Deer have the advantage in an aging forest unless you set up a good hunting plan.

Hunting practices have changed over the years. More hunters are using blinds to hunt instead of the more traditional means of posting and driving. And more acreage is closed in smaller parcels by private landowners. Would it benefit the hunting population to know how the deer were harvested? From a ground blind, tree blind or other? I have noticed a significant reduction in the numbers of hunters from out of the area in the past two decades or so. Do we care about the metrics of how deer are hunted today? Consider a two week moratorium on any type of deer hunting prior to the opening of the traditional deer gun season. Thank you.

Been deer hunting in the north for 30 years but last year was my first in Oneida. I own 50 acres of old agricultural ground that is converting back to forest. We see a lot of deer on my property, I'm an avid deer hunter so I like having good numbers. It seems too high for my neighbors that are trying to raise crops and I know that they get damage permits...prefer to see increased permits so that I and everyone around could have an opportunity to harvest these deer during hunting season. We see a lot of damage to our oak seedlings deer numbers in my area are negatively impacting oak recruitment.

How about fewer tags sold for more money with longer season (gun deer). The 9 day season is really a 3-4 day season for most hunters with family obligations. Everyone and their brother is out opening weekend everywhere in the state on the same day. Why? It reduces the quality, safety, and opportunity for hunters. Perhaps a format similar to turkey season with different periods in different zones. It feels like one has to purchase a crossbow to have a reasonable opportunity for harvest in the north. Don’t get me wrong cross bows are cool but they are not archery they are short range rifles.

The deer population in Oneida county - Nicolet National Forest is terrible. The doe to buck ratio is extremely high. Too many deer tags are being given with all the different seasons offered. CUT BACK! If a hunter is lucky to see a buck it’s a spiker. Bucks are being killed too young therefor are not breeding. There needs to be 1 year of no deer hunting, OR change the 3inch antler law to a minimum 4 points. Give the buck that extra year to breed. You CANNOT compare Oneida county and surrounding counties to Western WI or Central WI. Obviously the populations are higher in these areas.

It seems like certain farmers bate deer year round, harvest deer year round, limiting the number further for surrounding public paper company firelanes. Also, it is hard to obtain access to landlocked acreage inside farmland, when the farm employees are the only ones reaping the benefits. There are also numerous permanent stands erected on public land that have never been taken down, beaver dams blown up with explosives by private citizens, solely to lessen hunters access to public hunting grounds bordering private acreage. Very little governance by DNR and local law.
I think we should do like Michigan 2 buck tags for the year, one has to be 4 points or more on one side and the other one can be what ever. You can shoot 2 with the bow, two with the gun, 2 with the muzzle loader, 2 with a x bow, or 1 with gun, muzzle loader, x bow, bow and any combination. Also I think we should have our out of state licenses the same as what that state would charge a Wisconsin resident. So if Kansas is going to charge $450.00 that is what someone from Kansas should have to pay. If Michigan is going to charge $175 they will have to pay $175.

Our deer numbers even after extensive habitat management are directly tethered to wolf numbers and when they camp directly on or adjacent to our property. You can tell when they’re on top of you not only with scat, howeling or game cam pics but the abrupt decrease in deer sightings. It’s a big problem and wolf numbers are way in excess of what the “experts” think they are. It’s totally unfair to those of us that are truly stewards of the land that we sacrificed to purchase and maintain. That’s the deer number factor in our area east of the Willow Flowage!

The area in which we hunt has decreased in numbers from 2018. Spring of 2019 we found at least 4 dead deer. Our neighbors found 3. Very few fawns. Most does had no fawns some had one. We had one set of twins and by bow season it was down to one. We have to be careful of doe harvest. I suspect fawn numbers will be down again this year due to weather and predators. If deer numbers do not look good again this fall we will probably not hunt our property this fall. Once again be careful on doe harvest numbers as the population is not increasing. Thanks.

I saw noticeably more deer last summer and fall, but they quickly went nocturnal in November. I hunted various seasons through December, and while my group didn’t shoot many deer, that wasn’t because of a lack of deer.

I’ve been out in the woods quite a bit this spring and I’ve seen a lot of deer, all looking pretty healthy. With good numbers and the growing threat of CWD in the county, it seems irresponsible to not offer a good number of antlerless tags. Keeping more deer on the landscape isn’t doing the population’s health any favors.

Our family hunts Oneida county every year a lot. We hunt bow, rifle and black powder. Deer sightings were down of the whole spectrum of the hunt. Very disappointing year, my young hunters could not even punch a doe tag this year. If we try and build the population back up and institute measures to control and reduce predation of whitetails, I feel we can nurture the herd back to a reasonable level. We eat deer as part of our regular diet and count on punching tags. Limiting doe tags or only giving to youth would be recommended.

I have hunted in this unit for 38 years. I have had daughters that have hunted in this unit for the past 6-8 years. The hunting has gotten progressively worse. I saw a total of 3 deer on our private land that we manage for deer hunting. All the deer are around homes that feed. We need to get these deer to distribute all over. The food plots that we are able to plant get eaten before the deer season and the deer go to the bait piles near homes. We need to be able to supplement feed at these time to keep these deer spread out.

I feel the agricultural damage permits are way out of line and are being taken advantage of, especially in my area. Also the enforcement of the baiting and feeding is lacking. Why no questions or concerns about baiting and feeding and impact on the spread of CWD and illegal harvest of deer. I have reported illegal baiting a number of times and the complaints have been totally ignored. I know the wardens are busy but one individual I have reported continues every year even though his has been cited in the past.

I hunt strictly on county land that the county has done a terrible job maintaining. There are no deer in our area. We are 10 miles south of Rhinelander off of Hwy 17 south. Corner of Lincoln and /Oneida. Since we cannot bait and there is not farm land close, we do not have any deer. We did back in the early 2000 but they are now gone. Since, I own property here with no hunting land, I have no choice but to hunt here. So, please do what you can to keep the antlerless count down so we may reproduce our herd.
Thank you CDAC for your work. I feel a quota similar to last year would be a bit more appropriate. I fear the late opening weekend is affecting our population estimates to a large degree. Based on the percentage of Public land in the county I think offering 1300 public land antlerless tags would be appropriate again. I have observed a solid number of deer this spring that seem to have made it through winter very well. Please continue to allow Public Land hunters a chance to harvest a doe for the freezer.

I think habitat has a lot to do with the amount of deer we are seeing in the woods. For instance the tree farming is killing the habitat. I believe in logging for better habitat. Better under growth for foraging. Plowing and planting pine trees in a row does nothing for habitat. Also spraying the planted pine trees or habitat with some sort of weed killer or shrub killer does not help foraging. I have seen the signs that prove it. Nothing grows but pine and grass. Doesn’t help the grouse either.

Two comments: The WI DNR should support the delisting of wolves as an endangered species in WI and subsequent hunting/harvesting of wolves in the Northern Forest zones as part of their deer management strategy. The DNR needs to expand access to more hunting land that supports deer. Woods (be National or State forest land) do not support deer as much as agricultural lands do. However access to areas adjacent to agricultural land is limited or nonexistent thus limiting to opportunity harvest a deer.

This format of deer population control would be fine in an enclosed fence or Game Farm. I believe all the wildlife species needs to be considered together as they all live together in the same forest. If the deer over browse the hazelnut the grouse suffer or the seedling poplar trees the beaver starve. Likewise if the bear and wolf populations aren’t managed, the fawn mortality rates rises. A balance of all wildlife needs to be considered versus micro-managing each species of wildlife separately.

I’m concerned with the lack of deer in the NW section of Oneida county. I’ve hunted there for the last 10 years, and last year was one of the worst for seeing deer sign and deer. There were so few gunshots during gun season that it was hard to believe the season was even open. Personally, I think the population estimates are high in comparison to previous years. I’m not in favor of having the antlerless quotas near the level of 2019. I think they should be at least 30% lower.

Heads need to be pulled from the backsides of those making decisions regarding the gun deer hunt. I sat for 8 out of 9 days if the 2019 gun deer season and did not see a single deer. Nothing. Saw plenty of wolf tracks, had wolves on camera, and also had bear on camera. Until those in charge start listening to those of us actually putting time out in the woods, this seems to be a lost cause. The almighty dollar is clearly speaking, and to be frank, it's bullcrap.

I have hunted on the 200 acres I own and sounding public for 16 years. I have trail cams out year round and I know that in my case we have continually seen less deer in the past couple of years, especially does. And have many more coyotes and wolves on the trail cams and a good amount of bears too. A few years back when it was antlered only the does were more prevalent. I don’t think it should be Antlered only but the number of bonus tags seems high from how I see it.

There needs to be a much bigger penalty for people baiting. I saw way to many people baiting on private land, which drew all deer into their property. Eliminating my chance of harvesting a deer this year on public land. I didn’t see a single deer, but many well used trails going into private property bait piles. Enforcement of no baiting and the penalty should increase quite a bit. It’s frustrating as a public land hunter that people aren’t following the rules.

I don’t know if this is the place for this or not, but I hunt a lot of public land up by Rhinelander/Lake Tomahawk. There isn’t as much pressure as there used to be and it’s hard to get the deer moving. The amount of antlerless tags provided does not help when we aren’t seeing as many deer as we have in the past. Also, I would not support an earlier gun season that would start to interfere with the bow season. Leave the seasons as they are. Thank you.
Where I hunt in Onieda county near pelican lk used to be a thriving deer hunting unit. 1st the wolves and Antlerless hunt fiasco killed population. Now we can't even get to the places we like to hunt because all the roads are gated. CLOSED I can't find a place to bow hunt cuz all clustered. I can't drop in my canoe at old launch spot. I can't even take my kids to our favorite berry picking. Spots. It's like someone stole my Christmas presents at age 8.

I think there should be a buck only season for a least 3 years. There is very little opportunity for shooting a deer in this zone especially with all the extra special hunts other than the regularly schedule season. There needs to be some growth without trimming down bambi every year . Let the deer grow and flourish so there will be hunting for many years to come. Stop the holiday hunts. Youth hunts. And also get rid of the wolves. That ought to do it.

Too many predators, I did not see a single deer last gun season. I sat all day both days of opening weekend and then hunted again Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We have 10 hunters in our camp and only 4 of the 10 even saw deer. My Dad sits all day every day and he only saw 1 deer all season. We have family that hunts in 2 other camps (12 and 6 hunters) that saw fewer deer than we did. The population needs to go up away from agricultural areas.

In my opinion, the antlerless quota should be lower because our deer camp hunts over 400 acres of private land in Oneida Co and hardly anyone sees does or even deer at all. We have lots of wolves on our cameras and some hunters even see them running around the land, and we think this has an effect on the number of deer in our area. We almost never harvest deer at our cabin the hunting is terrible when it used to be very good a few years ago.

It is hard to come to any conclusion being last years hunt was effected by the heavy snowfall right away. I saw plenty of deer from opening day till Wednesday, both bucks and doe. After that it was zero deer movement. No tracks till later in the gun season but then only at night. This coming season could be completely different. But even last summer while mowing fairways at Pinewood Golf course I saw fewer doe/fawns and not one buck.

The wolf population is hurting the deer population where I hunt. I scout quite a bit and as soon as I find deer sign Instantly I find wolf sign. To blame rough winters on deer population is wrong Years ago we had rough winters also and lots more deer and deer sign. I will agree the winters are hurting the deer herd these winters because how much energy do the deer expell running away from wolves or just keeping an eye out for them.

When can people start to feed deer again? Anyone who observes deer knows that feeding them is not what causes CWD. Deer are herd animals. They lick one another. They mate. They give birth. They graze the same areas. They are always close to one another, touching one another. Don't blame people who enjoy deer in their yards for CWD. Look to game farms and people who exploit deer in order to make money off them.

Wolves are a concern of mine. Since wolves entered the area I hunt, in the early 2000’s. deer harvests have been terrible in that area. As far as the proposal to have an unlimited harvest in the two CWD areas - where I hunt is between Hwy 8 and Hwy G. These two areas have large expanses with no CWD positive detections. The proposal for a liberal harvest throughout these two zones is not necessary at this point.

I believe that the deer herd made it thru the winter in excellent shape and have been seeing a lot more deer throughout the county this winter and spring, both in areas of the large Heartwood parcels and especially in the Starks; township of Stella area. I would really like to see another 500 private land tags to address the situation. Also, please support getting a wolf season back in Wisconsin as soon as possible.

Figure out a season framework and leave it alone for at least 5 years. Seasons should be based on decisions of our DNR professional wildlife managers. Not politicians or the media. Too many changes or talk of changes every year is a waste of our tax dollars. Managers should spend more time on habitat improvements, Hunter access and the like. Please empower science based decisions and not political based.
Where I've hunted for the last 50+ years we've averaged about 30% of the hunters in our party getting a deer. Without the doe permits that number would be about 15%. There are usually about 8 hunters in our camp and I think we would all like to see less doe deer shot. I've gone more than one season without seeing a deer in the woods. To me a quality hunt would be seeing more deer and shooting less deer.

I would propose a two week gun hunt during the first two weeks of November. The reasons for that it is closer to the actual real rut and would it help help the the economy because you would have three weekends for people to hunt. No special hunts, only one weekend youth hunt in October. Bring back where you have to register your deer at gas stations, bars and restaurants to help small businesses.

I am seeing large numbers of predators. Bears, wolves, coyotes, and Cougars. While any one species is not going to wipe out the deer, the combined force of all of them is concerning. Please encourage deer hunters to consider hunting predators (legally of course) and support a wolf season. Also I would like to see an increase in bear tags. I fish all over Oneida Cty and see bears everywhere.

Each year the wildlife biologists say we need to kill more deer yet the people I interact with that hunt continually see and harvest less deer. I don't think natural depredation such as bear, wolves and coyotes is calculated in at a high enough number for killing deer. I have sat in on numerous cdac meetings and disagree with harvesting so many does. I think the number should be 500 not 920.

1. No deer hunting for a 2 week period prior to gun season.  
2. Only 1 buck harvest allowed for all types of deer seasons.  
3. Doe permits sold on a party permit system.  
4. Minimum age limit to purchase a rifle permit 10.  
5. Raise out of state fees comparable to what adjoining states charge non residents.

Don't see numbers of deer that I did when we bought the land in 1990. Went so far as having the woods selectively logged but was not satisfied with the forester or logger that I had and the amount of deer I see has been going down ever since. Been so bad the grand kids don't go anymore cause we rarely see any deer. I had 4 boys and they haven't gone now for about 6-8 years now.

Too many predators. Seems to be groups of deer in, around private land areas. Very few deer away from houses, in the deep woods. Lots of wolf tracks all over. We hunt from East side of Willow flowage, along hwy. Y .W. Dam Rd. North. Down to Burrows lake area. Have seen deer population gradually getting worse for years. Many wolf pics over the years. Something needs to change.

I live in the state forest and I am in the woods EVERY day - I see no difference in deer population this year, despite the snow. I think we would have been in trouble if we would have had a run of below zero temp days this past winter. All in all the herd looks healthy. I found zero mortality in the deer yards - the winter of 2018/2019 I found 16 dead deer in the winter yards.

The past few years I've been hunting & on vacation in Oneida county, I've seen less & less deer. The bear & wolf populations are both way too high & need to be regulated by hunting, especially the wolves. I know there's bear hunting, I've been applying for the points, but there needs to be wolf hunting to control the population which will also help the deer population grow.

As mostly an archery Hunter I feel that regular archery license(not crossbow) should be a buck or antlerless choice as in years past. I know for myself when this changed it was discouraging and I haven't hunted nearly as much. I would like to see regular archery hunting grow and be more attractive to new hunters and I believe the Buck or antlerless choice would be beneficial.

Private landowners are still baiting deer in high numbers that curtails the ability to harvest deer on public lands. Private landowners with hunting land should not be allowed to purchase antlerless tags for shooting a deer on public land. I would also like to see a rule for being able to set up timeframes each day for retrieving big game with the use of 4 wheelers or UTV's.
6847 Need to enforce no feeding in county. Seems way more deer near homes than out in remote parts of public land, hunt with group of 7 hunters, the 5 that stayed close to cabins went 4 for 5, the guys that hunted farther out did not see any deer but 4 for 7 good year, amazed you can drive through Saint Germain and see deer any time of day in yard eating and no enforcement !!

6848 The last several seasons I've seen so few deer especially on public lands. Last year, within our group of 5 hunters, we saw 1 deer over 3 days. We of course are also seeing fewer hunters. I'm sure all of the factors mentioned in the slide presentation come into effect, but it's hard to want to hunt up there with so few deer seen. Appreciate all your hard work. Thank you!

6849 I spent more time in the woods this fall, even during/after this deer season's snowstorms. With the fresh snow, there were fewer tracks observed than ever before. I even took it upon myself to try to scare deer up out of the the thickest areas, with none to be found. I truly believe the bow and crossbow seasons are having a large impact on numbers for the gun season.

6850 Too much emphasis is directed to the business side of wildlife management and profitability of this natural resource (IT). Unfortunately, IT needs to be managed by humans — so we need to consider what is best for IT, instead of ourselves, and everything would fall into place. There needs to be less deer, ban baiting, and close all the deer farms profiting from IT.

6851 I would support mandatory CWD sampling for gun season or at least opening weekend to increase our understanding of the prevalence of the disease in the Oneida County herd. Depending on the results of more robust testing, I would like to see a short-term period of aggressive harvest in the areas surrounding positive test considered in order to help slow the spread.

6852 Wolves are the biggest problem right now. If you haven’t figured that out by now you need to look for a new job. The deer population is pathetic. I’ve been hunting here for 56 years and it is getting worse and you never mention the wolf!!! As the reason. Totally disgusting. No excuse to not manage a predator that has ruined deer hunting in northern Wisconsin!!!!

6853 I live on Crescent Road. I see deer on my one acre parcel daily with no attractant or other wildlife feeders. If I walk south for two miles I can see up to 200 deer a night. Longview Forestry, LLC, the Bible camp, and all the owners near crescent corners have a surplus of deer. I would be in favor of a CWD sub unit for this section of Oneida and Lincoln counties.

6854 I'M VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SELF REGISTRATION. I KNOW THERE ARE SOME WHO HAVE HARVESTED A DEER AND ONCE THEY GET IT HOME, THEY GO BACK OUT AND CONTINUE TO HUNT ON THE SAME TAG. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT REGISTRATION OF DEER SHOULD GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS. I DON'T THINK ANYONE REALLY KNOWS EXACTLY HOW MANY DEER GO UNREGISTERED AND HOW MANY HUNTERS ARE DOING THIS.

6855 Hunted 6 days saw 3 does. I had a doe tag choose not to use it. 2020 they are select cutting where i hunt on public land. I'm not very confident in 2020 hunt. I'm against changing or adding to the 9 day gun season. I have hunted many years buck only in Oneida. I'm willing to do the same again to raise the population. Thank you for listening to my input.

6856 In the area south of the willow flowage the deer population is way down. I would like to see more deer but when there are more deer then there are more people. I'm 63 retired, hunted a lot bow, rifle, muzzleloader. Seen one buck with the bow and I got it. Only seen three other deer. But seen 5 wolves from tree stands. ID REALLY WOULD LIKE TO SHOOT A WOLF

6857 Our deer camp has not harvested a deer in the last 5 seasons (east of Hwy 45) deer sightings are near zero in those years. Something is wrong. We harvested at least one or two deer in most years prior to the last 5. We did purchase doe permits but failed to even get an opportunity for a doe. Not many deer around. Some wolf sign (scat) on the log roads.
Please drive around and look at all the deer that are on the landscape in Oneida County throughout the year. Just looking from your treestand during the opening weekend of gun season is ridiculous. There are many, many deer that are available for harvest. Now more than ever with folks out of work and the food supply chain disrupted. Let people hunt!

We are seeing many deer on our private property in Oneida. Public lands in Northern Forest zones may have sparse populations. But we are seeing pockets of crowded deer, we often cannot thin our crowded herds due to antler-less tag restrictions (if they sell out before we can buy). Private land owners should have a chance to harvest antler-less deer.

The Oneida County CDAC should look back at the last 4 or 5 winters. Winter Severity Index is high in at least 3 of the five years prior. The deer herd trend in the county is going down, yet the council approved issuing more doe permits. Makes no sense to me. Youth tags are still valid and that should be enough harvested for this current year.

On our property we witnessed deer being chased off by wolves last season. We depend on venison as a meat source, and not seeing any deer has become very upsetting. In my years of hunting here, I haven't been able to shoot a buck. The coyote population has grown drastically here as well. Offering incentives to hunt them may be of help.

I live in western Oneida county and snowmobile many miles around the western part of the county and ride atv and dirt bike in the summer and would like to know how you can even justify a deer hunting season for 2020! Unless deer have learned to fly a guy should see tracks. The only prevalent tracks seen regularly are predators.

Wolf populations and deer kills are way too high in the public hunting areas in the western part of Oneida County. Deer populations in these areas are extremely low. This forces more hunters to hunt remaining public lands creating over crowded public hunting lands. Something needs to be done to decrease the populations of wolves!

My opinion after living and hunting here for the last 45 years is we need to be buck only for a few years. We MUST control the predators/wolves.!!!! And need to start logging the National Forest. Most all of the deer in my area (Three Lakes) are in and around town, due to no food in the Nicolet and not many predators.

I think our last 3 winters have been rough on deer with snow depth. Wolves are a big problem on the herd. One of the biggest factors in my opinion is the registration. I think we need registration stations to keep people from harvesting multiple deer on one tag. I think people abuse the online/ mobile registration.

Would like to see a deer season(s) in which only bucks with 3 point a-side could be harvested. Would increase the chance of seeing bigger more mature bucks and maybe put Wisconsin back on the map as a destination to come and hunt large bucks. Most hunters seeking a quality deer hunt are going out of state to do so.

The population of deer dramatically change depending on where you are in Oneida county. Therefore, break Oneida county into different harvest zones. Allow feeding of deer once again in Oneida county. Make people broadcast the feed instead of putting it in a pile. I believe you would see increased harvest.

I am very disappointed in deer population where I hunt. In all my years have I ever seen fewer deer or deer sign in the woods. Mainly due to over population of wolves and poor management practices in past years. I believe the only way to increase licence sales is to increase deer numbers in the northern zone.

I have been hunting on public land in Oneida county for the past 7 years or so. There are never any doe tags available for the gun deer season. This is very frustrating. Every other county in Wisconsin is either or every year. Would be nice to have a better chance to obtain doe tags for public land hunting.
As a landowner and farmer in the Crescent Flats area where CWD has been detected, I highly encourage a relaxing of sport hunting in this area to dramatically reduce the deer population. The deer to extensive damage to my crops and we simply cannot kill enough deer each year to keep up with natural growth.

Too many deer. CWD not far away. Too many deer. Forests browsed heavily. Too many deer. Slipped and twisted my ankle so much deer manure in the woods. Too many deer. Worried that we’re going to be seeing CWD spread further, low deer body weights, too much pressure on woody vegetation. Too many deer.

I think in my opinion there should be antler restrictions on bucks/antlered deer in the northern half of the state. This would greatly decrease the amount of immature animals being harvested and therefore increase the number of animals being reproduced. Everything else in my opinion seems to be working.

This unit is primarily focused on non-hunting tourism. Some management of the deer herd by hunters is only necessary due to the lack of native predators. I would like to see numbers of native predators restored first and foremost, with hunting reserved for food-gathering by people who live in the unit.

Forest management directly effects wildlife and public use. Never have I seen such total destruction and mess left in public land logging operations that will not only render the land useless for recreational activity but also leave that land so exposed to the dangers of fire and erosion. Terrible

I would like to see small bucks grow up. They don’t stand a chance around here. Should have to be a 6 point or bigger. Also to many land owners in crescent flats and county hwy N that feel the need to have wildlife sanctuary’s, leave corn up all winter and not allow any hunting or hunt themselves.

For PUBLIC Land gun hunting, I would recommend a BUCK ANTLER RESTRICTION. Every other year, only bucks with 4 points on 1 side can be harvested. I used to see bigger bucks when I was younger, now it's all spikes & forks. Giving them a chance to live longer will enhance ALL hunters experiences.

I feel it is headed in the right direction. The last couple of years I have been seeing an increase in deer and an increase on adult bucks as well. I do support a longer firearm season just for the opportunity to see more rutting activity along with better deer movement. Keep up the good work!

currently my son, grandson and I are turkey hunting in Oneida Co. We consistently see 100 to 150 deer per day driving around scouting for turkeys for 2-3 hours. There wasn’t a shortage of deer last hunting season and there isn’t a shortage this year! Just a bad year last year..can't explain!

I like this survey format and hope it is used in the future, However, I think it needs to be later in the spring. Winter severity and its effects on the deer herd should play a large roll in what the quota should be. I don’t believe you get a true picture of that until later in the spring.

The requirement for public vs private antlerless tags is too restrictive for hunters who hunt both types of properties. I do not want to try & get 2 tags and deprive someone else, but I do not want to violate either. This is a poorly thought out and unfair rule that NEEDS TO BE CHANGED!

Our group has been hunting this land for 50 years and this past year was the worst. Our group of 6 hunters did not even see a track. We own 200 acres and have permission for another 360 acres. Something needs to change. All the kids have stopped coming up because they never see any deer.

People in Oneida County should be able to feed deer all year round. I don’t like the idea of does being shot. Use of a crossbow seems to be a more accurate way to kill a deer rather than wounding with a regular bow. The information in the video was interesting. Thank you Jeremy Holts.

Deer population is down in wolf inhabited areas..which is also most of the huntable lands..onieda county needs 2 deer MGMT units to properly balance deer herd..I along with others have suggested this to the council..they passed on to DNR ...only to be denied..time to wake up!!!
Business in this co. Are selling bait by the tons, I don't know how this is allowed knowing the ban on baiting. I think it's a good old boy thing. It's not right for the hunters who follow the rules. I believe it should be banned for all counties or not at all. Thank you.

I think the antlerless permits are about right, never go back to unlimited again, really feel a wolve hunt should be started back up, and coyote hunting should be marketed or somehow rewarded with perhaps an antlerless tag if a hunter harvested coyotes in the previous here.

I believe some kind of priority be given vertical bows versus crossbows be it vertical bow only days in early November, antlerless permits only for vertical bow, or otherwise. The vertical bow hunter needs some privilege much MW the muzzle loader to maintain that sport.

Wolves and coyotes are taking to much of the deer herd. I saw one doe on my 40 acres during the season and one buck one doe on cameras I have set up on my property. I have one deer that got killed on my property by an attack from a predator that I found on April 18th 2020.

Far too many deer and all the problems they bring. Reduce deer herd now. Daily bag limit of 1 from June 15-March 15. Possession limit of 3. I'm serious. Want the forests to be able to regenerate again. Tighten up deer farm regs or outlaw them so wild deer are healthy.

I believe some kind of priority be given vertical bows versus crossbows be it vertical bow only days in early November, antlerless permits only for vertical bow, or otherwise. The vertical bow hunter needs some privilege much MW the muzzle loader to maintain that sport.

There have been 5 wolf kills within the surrounding closest 40 acre parcels to my property over the last three months. That I am aware of. Not to mention countless others as you expand that area into other properties. It seems to be taking a toll on the local deer herd.

The wolf population has Escaladed and we have seen a number of wolves in the fall and gun season. We don't even bow hunt this land any longer for safety reasons. We found 4 wolf kills last weekend alone while out riding on our lanes. They are really depleting the herd.

It appears to me the the buck to doe ratio is out of wack. There appears to be far more does than bucks and in addition very few mature bucks. I would favor some kind of antler restriction to bring the ratio more in line and increase the number of mature bucks.

I hope to see more deer this gun season. My area has changed dramatically due to clear cutting and gravel pit mining. I seen more predators than deer this past rifle season. I will more than likely search for a new hunting area for the up coming season.

Do Not change or create a special season just for crossbow hunters. Leave the archery season as-is. A crossbow is just different type of bow. As with gun season, remember how many different types of guns are used for hunting.

please consider allowing baiting in restricted amount. after all deer will use several areas in their normal activities such as acorn trees, licking branches, scrapes and sparring all while following their instincts to interact with each other.

It is crazy to attempt to manage the entire county deer herd with one quota as the middle of the county has always been inherently more productive of deer than either the Willow or "Consolidated" blocks. There were good reasons for the old DMUs.

I have always thought that fawn harvest should be eliminated (or at least discouraged). A possible penalty for harvesting a fawn would be ineligibility for the following years antlerless harvest. I am not proposing a fine, only discouragement.
I rated Ag Damage as a non-issue as I don't feel that any Crop Damage payments should be made to those that are simply creating their own "havens". If your livelihood is truly being threatened, then allow hunters to help reduce the numbers.

We need to do more against predator kills. There needs to be more done for creating more food opportunity's on public forest land for the deer. Where I go hunting on public land in rhinelander by moans lake seems to be all pine planting.

Allow baiting. When hunting on small tracts of private land bait can be the only way to safely hunt to be sure your shot is in the proper direction. Also not all small tracts of private land have good natural deer movement and trails.

You’ll never stop CWD. The DNR dropped the ball when it was first discovered outside of Mt Horeb area. The wolves are killing the deer and it’s happening to much. I’ve found 3 dead deer less than 100 yards from my house from wolves. And I know it’s wolves because the kill is fresh and there is wolf tracks and I hear them at night there are lots of deer. hunters don't hunt anymore. they sit with heaters. tree damage is very bad on my land. landowners should get doe tags in the mail so they don't have to stand in line. thanks for doing what u do.

For the season of 2019 I saw 1 deer during gun season, only a few during bow. I live in the Lake Tomahawk area. This is really bad. You are not maintaining the herd. Wolfs are hear and they are making quite a differance.

I would like to see this year stay the same like last season. Letting crossbow season running side by side during the nine day gun. I would have the opportunity to get a antlerless tag to fill and get some venison. Thanks

Saw lots of does last rifle season and archery season in certain areas. I think the DNR is doing a good job with management. More frustrated with all the logging and lack of woods remaining in the Woodboro Lakes region.

I feel the DNR has spent millions of dollars on CWD testing and we still don’t have a confident answer about the spread of the disease and if it’s been here forever and the labs finally figured out how to test for it.

I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the process in maintaining the health of our deer heard. It is not the harvest it is all about the hunt and the health of our deer heard here in the north.

Would like to see turnip fields maintained like they once were on county land to help deer populations. Also, when you are more likely to see wolf sign then deer sign, I think we need to address the wolf population.

The antlered population has become terrible. Doe and doe fawn numbers are through the roof. I would definitely support an antlerless only or something similar to Missouri system of 4 point on one side or better.

Please do not cancel the 2020 deer season related to Covid 19. My family's deer harvest is very important in providing food for our family of 11! We hunt and fish year round to provide our family healthy food.

there are to many predators on the land in this area. we must get wolves delisted. leave crossbow season alone don't change anything . change back to a 9 day season no extra . will get people hunting again.

I don’t believe in the way you register deer now. It’s to easy for the violators to over harvest deer and throw harvest numbers way off. Bring back the registration stations so you can have actuate numbers.

There are plenty of deer, we can afford to harvest more deer than we did last year. Create a disease management zone in the areas of the county that have CWD and reduce deer densities within that zone.

For several years now, all I see are does! Everywhere in Oneida Co. Wondering what the DNR actually does that they have buck only in my area, yet I see very few bucks and probably a dozen+ does daily.

I believe that the bear, wolf and coyote populations are getting out of hand and have a tremendous effect on the deer populations. I have personally seen these predators chasing deer in the woods.
The deer herd in this area has been going down for a number of reasons and I just don't think killing that many Does is going to help anyone see more deer or have a chance at harvesting a nice buck.

I don't agree with the no baiting rules for CWD areas and we should be allowed to bait. In 2019 as soon as we got snow, all of the deer in our area disappeared. There were no tracks within a mile.

I think we should have zero antlerless tags on public lands in Oneida county. I walk a lot of public land each fall while grouse hunting. Oneida county public lands have very little deer sign.

Based off observations of the number of older bucks it would be an interesting to see a proposed antler restriction to allow bucks to maybe have a year to grow vs being shot at 1.5 years old.

Crossbow & archery should be treated s if the same- there should not be any differentiation or need for a special crossbow license. Bow & Crossbow should both be covered by the same license.

Way too many wolves in the area that I hunt in year before was good hunting and then the wolves moved in and took care of our dear hurt not happy with that at all. Need to have a wolf season.

My simple opinion is that does equal more deer to hunt. Close the doe season except to youth hunters, so they have a higher chance at success. Hopefully they turn into life long hunters.

I enjoy being out there in nature, if I shoot a deer that's a bonus, if I don't shoot a deer that's alright too. It's the getting out of the house and being in nature that matters to me.

Adamantly against the expansion of the 9-day rifle season earlier than the full week of Thanksgiving. Rifle hunting in the deer rut will destroy the age and sex structure of the herd.

The gun hunting season should be a week earlier. Late the rut is pretty much over and there is much more of a chance to have a significant snow which can make hunting more difficult.

Ross bows are WAY too liberal and accounted for disproportionate buck harvest. Give them one week AFTER the rut and let real bow hunters have October through early November.

The deer numbers in the Crescent area are far too high to the extreme. The antlerless quota could be doubled and there would still be too many deer for a functional ecology.

Why wouldn't the dnr just extend gun season and incorporate the muzzle loader week with a second week of gun deer. Instead of having gun season start a week earlier.

I think the feed ban should end. Every case of CWD here that I have read about has been from a game farm. No one in my group including myself hunts on game farms.

Please address the use of lead ammunition. If you need statistics on the affect of lead please contact REGI, Wild Instincts or Wildlife Hospital. It has to stop.

There are pockets of high deer population in the county near homes and cabins due to continued feeding. Deer population is much lower in heavily forested areas.

I have not really seen an increase in deer population for the past three years, but it has improved from 10 years ago. Thank you for allowing us to participate!

Predator control needs to be addressed in order to sustain this deer heard. The excessive amounts of bears and wolves are detrimental to hunting as we know it.

Too many predators (ie coyote, bear and wolves). Concentrate on regulating these populations and deer herd will bounce back. This is good for our economy.

I hunt the Big Woods with little agriculture. Predators are still a huge problem. I would like the DNR to aggressively pursue a return of a wolf season.
allow bow and crossbow hunters to bait with a small amount 1-2 cups per stand 2 stands per 40 acres. Not everyone is able to plant a $1000 food plot.

I believe southern Oneida county where I live and hunt may have far more does than northern Oneida county and this should be taken into consideration.

I can’t believe that you are considering issuing Bonus antlerless permits in Oneida County Oneida County needs to be a zero Antlerless Hunting county

Last year Me and my friend hunted in Oneida about 3 miles over the Lincoln border and we saw no deer and I hunted 8 days. Saw only slight deer sign.

I think predator management is a big issue; We need to be able to manage wolf populations. And bear also. They have an impact on deer populations.

I have seen less and less deer every year now, I truly believe that we should go to buck only and only allow kids the chance at antlerless

Too many predators and not enough deer. Wolves are out of control. It is a disaster. I may not even hunt this coming year. It’s that bad.

Wolf numbers are high in SouthWestern Lake Tomahawk, Cassian into the Woodboro area and are certainly affecting the deer population there.

I feel the numbers are low in the actual public lands, but we see most deer in the yards along the lakes or in town where people feed.

The amount of residents feeding deer is a large problem. Concentrating deer near residential areas limits opportunities for hunters.

I would really like to see the state go to allowing a hunter one buck & one doe per hunter per year, regardless of weapon choice.

Seriously STOP baiting and feeding! Don't just give it lip service. Deer corn and apples etc. should not be part of the economy!

We see plenty of deer. Bow season and gun season. I passed on several small bucks during both seasons. Lots of does and fawns.

Do away with public and private antlerless permits. And put back tags back in the rules. Along with in person registration.

Something needs to be done with the wolf and coyote population is to high. I’ve seen more of them than deer while hunting.

Might need to consider more in town hunts in the future. Have seen a lot of deer in and around houses and subdivisions.

I still feel that there should be added provisions for senior land owners like automatic and no cost antlerless permits.

Would like to see what the unit goals are based on and also the relationship between harvest numbers and hunter numbers.

Are you thinking about going back to baiting to help all hunters harvest a deer maybe with a half or a gallon of bait

I would support extending the gun deer season, I would oppose having a different season dates for crossbow and bow.

Why where there more deer taken, then the quota of permits(2000 quota= 2031 shot). If you only gave out 2000 permits
Way too many Wolves!! With lack of predator control & high fawn mortality, the population doesn't stand a chance.

Control the wolf population! IT IS TOO HIGH. Allow for fire lane usage during gun season for your aging hunters.

We have a strong wolf population in this county and need to take that into consideration when making decisions!

Hunters should be allowed only one buck per year no matter how it is taken. Gun, bow, crossbow, or muzzleloader.

Stop feeding and baiting in all units of the state. Crossbow season is too long and during the prime of the rut.

I would not be against having an antler size limit, like they must be at least a 6 or bigger for antlered deer.

We have a strong wolf population in this county and need to take that into consideration when making decisions!

Hunters should be allowed only one buck per year no matter how it is taken. Gun, bow, crossbow, or muzzleloader.

Need to get control of predators with hunting. Mostly wolf population is way over the goals set for the state

LEAVE THE SEASONS ALONE. THERE NOT THE PROBLEM AT ALL!!! TAKE CARE OF THE PREDATOR ISSUES ON HAD CURRENTLY.

we need to rebuild the herd in western Oneida and Price County, to many predators. To many special hunts.

Thanks for keeping an eye on the deer population. Didn’t see much last year. Only one deep in the trees

I definitely support having an antler and antlerless hunt both. I disagree with only antlerless hunts.

Recommendations need to be different for Oneida Co.west of highway 51 where there are a lot less deer.

Wolves are a concern in my area as I have several on camera being north of HWY 8 and East of HWY 51.

The deer population is not even close to what it use to be. Its hard to see many deer in this area.

You need to open up wolf trapping again, and soon before everything is dead in the north woods!!!

I do support our youth in the field hunting but I feel that there are way to many youth hunts!!

Predators are a huge problem where I hunt. Wolves, coyotes are more abundant than hunters.

Make non residents have to apply for tags and increase the cost of tags for non residents.

I am in favor of an antler restriction and lowering the predators numbers in the area.

Hunting party of 5 hunters saw 3 deer total. Wolf sign in our area (tracks and scat)

WE NEED TO HAVE Baiting back in northern Wisconsin/…NO Science about deer BAITING..

Quit shooting all the does ! I buy a doe tag, not to use it, but to save some deer !

I believe that baiting at a reasonable amount on private land should be acceptable.

There are no deer in Oneida county. Wolves tracks all over. Kill the wolves

I THINK IT'S TO EASY FOR HUNTERS OF ANY AREA TO KILL DEER AND NOT REGISTER THEM!!

There are a lot more does and fawns than bucks in my area where I live and hunt.

need to control wolves too many also need to reduce to number of special hunts

Please adopt antler point restrictions, pretty pretty please with sugar on top

Too many birds of deer in Minocqua 15 plus deer grouped together all the time

The deer population should be set to a growth model, not a maintain model.

I do not support making the season longer. It's not going to help anything.

Not happy with private land owners getting more tags than public lands.
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<tr>
<td>6992</td>
<td>I would keep things the same with buck only but at six or more points.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6993</td>
<td>If you want accurate harvest numbers eliminate on-line registration!</td>
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<tr>
<td>6994</td>
<td>More deer, kill off the wolf. They were eradicated for a reason.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6995</td>
<td>Start the season a week earlier and let it run for two weeks.</td>
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<td>6996</td>
<td>Deal with the predators, 9 years to get a bear kill permit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6998</td>
<td>Leave the gun hunt the same length as it has been.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6997</td>
<td>Need more tags both buck and definitely antlerless</td>
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<tr>
<td>6999</td>
<td>More predator harvesting including all Predators</td>
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<tr>
<td>7000</td>
<td>Need to do something about the Wolf problem</td>
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<td>7001</td>
<td>Please stop antlerless harvest completely!</td>
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<td>7002</td>
<td>Shorter hunting seasons and less of them</td>
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<td>7003</td>
<td>No deer farms. All they do is spread CWD</td>
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<td>7004</td>
<td>Could support more public land doe tags</td>
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<td>Please reduce the Wolf population.</td>
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<td>7006</td>
<td>Please manage the wolf population</td>
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<td>7007</td>
<td>Need more funding and work on CWD</td>
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<td>There are no deer in Oneida co</td>
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<td>7009</td>
<td>Need more tags too many deer</td>
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<td>7010</td>
<td>Bring back baiting</td>
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Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 281
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 63
   - I hunt in this unit: 375
   - General interest in this unit: 58

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 345
   - Bow: 218
   - Crossbow: 176
   - Muzzleloader: 160

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 24.94
   - Maximum: 63

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 256
   - Mostly Private Land: 62
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 21
   - Mostly Public Land: 12
   - Exclusively Public Land: 22
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 23
   - Not too crowded: 41
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 17
   - Somewhat crowded: 15
   - Very crowded: 9
   - Not applicable: 12

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 97
   - Fewer: 146
   - Same: 124
   - More: 30
   - Many More: 7
   - Unsure: 8

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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<tr>
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<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
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<td>37</td>
<td>187</td>
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Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public :</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td></td>
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10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

- **If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...**
  - **Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:**
    - Support: 143
    - Oppose: 241
    - Unsure: 28

- **If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...**
  - **EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:**
    - Support: 242
    - Oppose: 150
    - Unsure: 19

- **If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...**
  - **Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:**
    - Support: 57
    - Oppose: 336
    - Unsure: 19

- **If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...**
  - ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
    - Valid: Not applicable in this DMU
    - Not Valid: Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I’ve been in the woods in this state more than anyone I know for the past 20 years in Outagamie county. I’ve see the number of quality deer dramatically decrease. I literally hunt on the edge of the city of Kaukauna. But I’ve also spent a decent amount of time up north. If Wisconsin is serious about improving the quality of the hunt, antler restrictions are the only way. Unless you plan on closing the deer season for at minimum 2 years which let’s be real if the money generated by the yearly hunting seasons was gone, well I wouldn’t have anyone to talk to about issues like this. Another major concern of mine is the disconnect between the DNR and trespassers. In the past 20 years I have caught at least 100 trespassers. Maybe it’s not a big deal until I mention that the snowmobile trail also goes across the land, for how long I don’t know unless there is someone who actually cares about private property. Perfect example, for the last 2 years every time I walked down the farm lane to hunt I saw 4 wheeler tracks. I finally caught the trespasser this last fall and watched him drive to his house. I went there with every intention of just telling him to stay out. When I got there I was confronted by an intoxicated individual who had 3 kids on his wheeler. His neighbor was a cop and delayed any action due to a conflict of interest. In reality he should have been charged with trespassing and operating an ATV under the influence as well as reckless endangerment to the children on the wheeler. Instead charges were reduced to loitering and prowling. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources needs to be more involved and serious about situations like this before all private lands are closed down for snowmobiling. Believe me I gain nothing from the trail. I would greatly appreciate a response as I feel I am the only one who takes things like this serious.

1-I believe there should NOT be days prior to gun season in which bow hunting is stopped. Bow hunters should not be punished because gun hunters want a chance at shooting a buck. Gun hunters can learn how to bow hunt if that’s the case. The best time to hunt the rut is the days leading up to gun hunting so you would be taking away the buck numbers. 2-I don’t think extending the gun season will increase numbers shot. Most years gun is after the rut anyways so bucks are worn out and hunkered down and spooked very quickly. Also, most people are done gun hunting after the first weekend anyway. 3-Crossbow proposal is flat out ridiculous. A crossbow is a bow, it should be included in the bow hunt with no restrictions. If you want to lose a lot of bow hunters then put this proposal through because in the recent years lots of people have started hunting because they can now hunt with a crossbow. I can tell you of my immediate bow hunting family you will lose 3 of the 4 of us. The objective is to promote future hunters to this industry and by making restrictions during peak times of the season based on the weapon choice is not fair. 4-Bow tags should be able to be used during the gun season universally. Guns are easier to kill a deer with so if someone wants to us a bow during a gun period why would they no longer be able too? They are making it harder on themselves so let them. I do not agree with the new proposals and believe they are discriminating against bow hunters. You also need to think about the future hunters as it is already hard to get new hunters and by making more rules and regulations on weapon choice and seasons, I believe you will be losing current bow hunters and not gaining new ones.
A fundamental outside activity of WI residents is whitetail deer hunting. The number of WI hunters is sadly waning annually due to increasing costs, lack of outdoor enthusiasm, family tradition breakdown, etc. My family and I enjoy both bow/crossbow and rifle seasons year in and year out. I am not in favor of restricting the crossbow season to anything less than regular bow season (Sep-Nov and post gun season is great). I have gone plenty of years without bagging a deer during archery season so I don't believe the deer herd is too low. The current/traditional coinciding bow/crossbow seasons allows for all 3 living generations to enjoy the hunting season and WI outdoors the way it was intended to be as an annual family event. Older hunters need to use crossbows and spend time with their children and grandchildren appreciating these outdoor traditions together. Once the family event is gone this sport will die! As is tradition, bow/crossbow seasons need to remain from September through the late November whitetail rut. If you restrict whitetail hunting during the rut you will cut hunters out of the most enjoyable and rewarding time of the season. The thrill is in the chase and observing the whitetail in it natural setting performing their natural breeding rituals. This is awesome to watch! Bagging a deer is just icing on the cake! Please don't deprive hunters of this special WI annual experience. For those lucky enough to own private land, these proposed changes would drop the value of their land in my opinion. I am not a proud land owner yet but, I intend to be in the future me and my family. Just please leave a good thing alone!

I am a land owner (300) acres. My wife and I have been unable to harvest a deer now for several years, BECAUSE THERE ARE NONE left. I am not going to buy a license anymore, nor am I going to encourage hunting in WI. I have hunted 4 continents and 10 countries, 12 states in the US and 10 provinces in Canada, and WI has the very worst trophy potential and overall numbers of anywhere. I am apologetic every time I tell someone about our deer resource. Thus, I have to travel to find good hunting, instead of being able to hunt my own land. It would be nice to have a chance at a buck that is more than 18 months old. But then that is not what you guys want for us. Every hunter wants to shoot a BIG one. Not a fawn or doe or a 6 pointer. I think the deer numbers are way down and we keep getting fed a lot of numbers that don’t resemble reality! I am going to try to get as many hunters as I can, to stop buying a license, then we will see how you manage the resource with no income. First thing to go will be employees. I remember the days when you could sit on stand and see 50 deer in a day, but I also remember the party deer arrangement, when there were not so many deer(same as we have now). Car deer collisions are not a result of too many deer, but of too many cars. So why don’t you limit the traffic flow instead of the deer population? That would help everyone, greenhouse gases, global warming, and of course better deer hunting for the people that pay for our all of our outdoor activities.

Our forest in Outagamie County are in trouble. We are fighting disease, invasives, and to MANY DEER ON THE LANDSCAPE. It is so hard to regenerate the forest. I am having to place fencing around trees to get them past the deer. Since 1972, I have lost in the forest the large elm, butternut, and starting to loose smooth bark hickory. Oak wilt and Anousum (pine) is in the area. Maples only generating from stump sprouts. Aspen struggle to regenerate from deer browse, emerald ash borer is in area. Trees that I have worked to get past the deer browse are being rubbed by adult bucks. I counted in January, 28 deer in one herd, the forest floor is tore up with them scratching for acorns. A week ago, counted 45 deer within 1 mile browsing in fields. MAINTAIN NO! REDUCE YES! Setting quotas on number of does or bucks do not work, CDAC data has proved that. CWD is coming! Reduce herd now! Get back to science, not numbers, EARN-A-BUCK worked. Until legislators let our wildlife specialists in the state determine on how to control the herd population based on facts and science, continue to give 2 or more doe tags for those who want to harvest more deer. Our forest are in trouble! The health of our deer is also at risk! REDUCE THE DEER POPULATION TODAY, NOT AFTER CWD HAS ENTERED THE COUNTY! We are so lucky to have a healthy deer herd. Reducing today, will help protect the herd tomorrow!
I hunt from opening bow til Jan 31st. Public, mfl, private...I hunt the holiday hunts and gun. But do I agree with the extra doe hunts not really. I would get rid of extra doe hunts. Please leave the 9 day gun alone. 20-21people I surveyed "gun hunters" said NO to the longer gun hunt. Please don't infringe on bow/cross bow times (it's hard enough as is) And please get rid of the private/public on extra $$$ for doe tags. Raise non resident tags less for resident tags to get your funding (wi is already cheap for non resident). I spent $72 on doe tags to hunt different counties, public, private to be legal....I lean toward more deer population over more deer harvest.. personally i feel more people will leave hunting if you make the drastic "gun season" the local and state hunting community are getting upset with all the big changes and even more upset with the new proposals. Would love to see the DNR work with hunters more then the DNR pushing there agendas upon the hunters. The resent questionnaire about the new proposals "clearly showed" with the wording to miss lead people. As a hunter of Wisconsin that process really disappointed me. I plan to hunt other states that reward hunters even if it cost me more money in the end. Better deer population management. Happy hunters = more money for local and state level economies.

The DNR wildlife biologist said that the deer herd is out of balance with the habitat and I agree. So why are we trying to maintain the current size of the herd? "Maintaining the herd" is irresponsible when it is out of balance with the habitat. I don’t care if you had previously set the “maintain” goal as a three year goal. The goal should be decrease. I think most hunters just want to shoot a buck and they don’t really care about the other 360 days of the year when the deer struggle to find enough to eat. So we suffer with smaller bucks and fewer fawns. Discussing how many tags to offer is silly when such a small percentage of the tags are actually purchased or filled. The committee offered 2000 tags and only 37% were purchased and 5.8% were filled. Please explain how changing the 2000 number affects the tags filled number and the size of the deer herd? You could make it 10,000 and the same number of deer would be taken. Very few hunters will ever say that there are too many deer regardless of how many there are. They base they opinion on what they see from their stand, not very scientific. Now is the time to begin managing the herd appropriately, before CWD causes more hunters to stay home.

Please continue the extended hunts for archery and crossbow - and Thank You. I’m a landowner and UW student/tutor. Time focusing on school is essential for some. I would also like to see an extended muzzleloader season into Jan. It doesn’t need to be as long as the string weapons extended season, but for the same concept - students wanting to focus on school while not worrying about missing out on the hunt. Would also like to see an active WDNR hunter safety program for adults - possibly highly technical. This program should get into various topics: 1) Safety/Marksmanhip - many types of legal weapons (and no ARs), 2) How to hunt w/o (too many) gadgets. Also includes what types of clothing, 3) Dressing/Skinning deer and turkeys - and meat processing/storage, 4) Forages to plant or promote for landowners interested in WI game health/mgmt. Another aspect I see is the promotion of apex and carrion consumers for forest ecology. This means, mostly predatory animals (wide range) engaged in: 1) cleanup after field dressing, 2) cleanup of dead deer, 3) cleanup of intentional human culled (and field processed) sick or severely injured deer (but not small healthy deer - that’s part of predator promotion).

Hello, I have hunted the Toad Creek marsh located north of Black Creek for 30 years. The last 3 three years of gun hunting have been the slowest of the 30. The 2018 season was the first time every that I did not see a single deer on Opening Day. I spent 60% of that day hunting in the stand and the rest of it walking around trying to kick deer up. My group harvested zero deer that gun season. The 2019 season was a little bit better, I saw only one deer, a buck that I harvested. The group managed to harvest 2 bucks for season. The consensus of the neighbors matches my opinions that there are not enough deer in the woods. Everyone can hear the number shots that ring out over the course of the nine day hunt, it’s very low. I feel that the late hunt, extra corn and flooded woods did not help matters during the 2019 season. But now, with the addition of multiple packs of coyotes and wolves( I have a wolf pack on trail cam feeding off a deer carcass) and bears in the area, I think that the 2020 season will be VERY slow. I do not agree with the number of extra antler-less permits that could be given out. Bucks only please.
I feel that some of the decisions were based on data that came off of a really bad year—actually two years—of bad weather. There were times we simply couldn't get to where we wanted to because it was flooded out with two feet of water, or raining too much to make it any kind of special hunt. I'm also thinking that the deer could have stayed on higher ground themselves. The deer are definitely there—cameras tell the tale, but the bucks really seemed to be nocturnal. We don't have a problem with shooting does or other antlerless deer. From what I see, there is a good abundance of them and maybe if this year is a bit more dry and better conditions, the counts at the end of the year will give a better picture into if enough antlerless tags are given with all regular tags. There are many other situations which can lower data as well. Personally, our hunting group has been cut in half due to some different circumstances, but there certainly isn't any way the CDACs can know this. I'm sure other hunting groups may have some of these reasons as well. It's just an offer showing other reasons why numbers may be down.

In recent years, I have talked to a lot of people who are strictly against shooting antlerless deer but yet they want to kill big bucks. What I have seen the last 7 or 8 years while hunting is incredibly high deer numbers but incredibly low buck numbers, with some days seeing over 50 deer, but only 3-7 of them are bucks and not necessarily mature bucks. As a deer camp, we try to only shoot mature bucks and in the last five years, between 10-15 people on a given year, we have killed maybe 2 mature bucks in that span. These numbers are nothing compared to the past. We used to have years where we would get at least 4 mature bucks and and even some years where almost everyone would harvest a mature buck. In my "uneducated" experience, I would say that the buck to doe ratio is incredibly messed up and the nutrition to grow big bucks is becoming much more sparse due to competition. Some of the best years we ever had on our land was during the “Earn-a-Buck” program and I would love to see something similar to that implemented again just to get people to shoot a few more antlerless deer each year.

I would like to see two bonus antlerless tags issued with each license. I believe that one effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic will be that more people will be interested in putting meat in their freezers rather than Horns on the wall. There are too many deer in this county, and this year's circumstances offer an excellent opportunity to put motivated hunters in a position to do something about the overpopulation. Forcing hunters to pay for additional antlerless tags hits the people who can least afford that, and who are probably the ones who would take an extra animal if afforded the opportunity. The committee's job is to manage a burgeoning population; not raise funds for the D.NR. (although I know it is grossly underfunded, thanks to our do-nothing legislators and Governors who have little interest in our Natural Resources). I would urge the Committee to issue two bonus tags with each license, as it did in 2019. The best defense against CWD is less deer on the landscape. Thank you for your dedication to our Natural Resources.

There was talk of limiting the crossbow season, of which I can only hunt with during the archery season. In my case it is a disability issue which I don't feel people like me should be penalized for. Also, In my area, deer is extremely scarce, (haven't shot a deer in 7 years!!!) so we WILL NOT harvest a doe if one is seen. The idea of issuing only one tag is okay, with the option to purchase additional tags.....for those with a large population of deer on their particular piece of land. There must be a better plan for this state in order to have really good prospects for trophy quality deer. Too many people have the attitude: "If it's brown, it's down", which is terrible thinking! at the end of last season, we have only been seeing fawn everywhere. Those does will not be bred; no fawns will be born; those does now will be shot; NO MORE DEER!!! We depend on game for our freezer, however, the past many years have found it bare. We are so disgusted with the hunting here that we travel out of state or even out of country.
It is my sincere position when it comes to deer hunting that we fully enjoy our time outdoors. Please keep in mind many of us own property at great cost to ourselves in order to enjoy the our hunting experience. “Less is always More” keeping our season structure simplified is much more desirable than the start and stop structure we have now. Bow hunting, is bow hunting, period! It is up to the individual what type of bow he wants to use. Be it long bow, recurve, compound, or crossbow, really it’s that simple, freedom of choice. Firearms? The same. Shotgun, rifle, muzzleloader, handgun. Freedom of choice. Issue a bonus tag with each license, let hunters be their own stewards, outdoorsmen do not want to mandated as to what they can harvest. Complex rules and mandates anger people, discourage license sales, and close off private land. Please keep in mind most men and women enjoy the outdoors because it’s freedom, the best way to discourage this activity is to have oppressive oversight.

I would like to see the doe numbers maintained and the buck numbers increased to allow for a more balanced, natural heard. I also want to see the hunting heritage in Wisconsin continue with our youth and I feel that the lack of mature bucks is not allowing the youth to enjoy the process of getting into hunting. This is caused by unrealistic expectations created by watching videos of mature whitetails being harvest in states with better buck age structure (Iowa, Kansas, etc.). I feel strongly that WI has the necessary ingredients to produce these deer, but we need to take out enough does and protect some of the younger age class bucks so that they can reach their potential. Doing a doe only season would really get this process going and I think that everyone would appreciate it after the fact when they are enjoying better hunting. In the meantime, everyone can keep the freezer full with doe harvests that are also helping the cause. Thank you!

It seems all recommendations were created with the false assumption that harvest numbers were low and also that people have lost interest in gun season because of the timing and/or number of tags. First there are plenty of deer harvested and not enough registered. Second people around the states that hunt private land hunt a lot of swamp property because large farms control the agricultural and let less and less people hunt these properties. Because of rules or bans to baiting, these swamp hunters have very little opportunity to draw anything maps from farmland. Excitement in the hunt has dwindled for both of these reasons. First people do not need to go to registration stations and show off their prize and they are also seeing far less deer because the deer reside on farmland. Farmers see the deer, hunters do not. Decisions are not made with the hunter in mind, they are made with business and insurance companies in mind.

I think a set crossbow season should be set. As a hunter who uses both crossbow and compound bow, there is a definite advantage over using a crossbow and it makes it sometimes too easy to take a deer. I would leave the regular bow season the way it is, but only allow crossbows for a specific amount of time within that season. However, still allow disabled hunters or those who are not able to use a regular bow to still use crossbows outside of the set crossbow season. I just have heard too many people who say it’s so easy to use a crossbow to kill a deer and often they liken it to gun hunting, which is very true. But gun season is only 10 days (plus a few days here and there for holiday/youth hunts), so why not treat it the same? I just think it might help to deter the glutton hunters who have 7 or 8 deer stacked up in a season that have no intention of ever eating it all, but did it because it was too easy.

Deer hunting in this area to say the least is a huge disappointment. I see fewer deer every year. My neighbor farmers have 15 crop damage tags each, and who knows how many other farmers have that in the area. I believe that food plots/baiting have a great deal to do with disrupting deer feeding patterns, therefore the deer are not moving naturally foraging for food. In short, if you don’t out bait or plant a bigger food plot than your neighbor, the deer are not on your property. Also baiting and food plots are creating a “hunter” who doesn’t even know how to “hunt” the “hunter” is reduced to a “shooter” I think the antlerless harvest is too high because of the crop damage tags as well as the antlerless and bonus tags. I have been considering not hunting deer in Wisconsin any longer. Too many hours in the woods with seeing fewer deer.
NO on the Holiday Hunt and extended season!! Neither one is necessary. The harvest totals from last year prove that it is not significant and not needed. You all talk about opportunity, but what about the opportunity that you take from people. A lot of people like to small game hunt at that time - when do they get to go? A lot of trapping is done at that time of year - when do the trappers get to go? What about the archers that want to hunt bucks during the Holiday hunt time period - they can't. What about the snowmobile trails and all the snowmobile clubs that need to go out at that time to mark & clear trails - they can't. The current season structure is just fine WITHOUT the Holiday Hunt and extended season. This CDAC council sure seems to be working from totally inside the box and ignoring the input from outside the box.

I would like to thank the Outagamie CDAC for having the extended archery/crossbow season last year. I've lived in Waupaca County for 20 years and last year was the first year I explored and hunted in Outagamie County public land during the extended season. Our Waupaca County CDAC did not provide the same opportunity, even though most counties in the Farmland Zones have too many deer and are trying to control the herd. I would encourage you to increase the number of antlerless free permits to 2 or even 3. Many people lost a lot of money to the Covid-19 virus business closures and will be depending on that venison to feed their families! Please consider increasing that number. If we are serious about controlling deer numbers to reduce deforestation and the spread of CWD, let's do it right! Thanks.

I pretty much support the deer management outlook. Since I am an avid bow hunter the extension of the gun deer season really hurts my opportunities to hunt deer. In my opinion the first weekend of the gun deer season is the largest population of hunters out there. Extending the season does not help on getting more people into the sport. Pushing the season any earlier would also hurt the bow hunting experience. The reason so much time is put into the hunt is to be able to hunt the rut. People who only hunt gun season should not get an advantage since bow hunters have been spending time in the woods, scouting, and sacrificing their time since the middle of September. Deer do not act the same after gun season and pushing this longer I believe hurts the health of the deer population.

I chose to support an antlerless hunt because the following year the DMU will become a high pull for trophy deer. Just 1 year could really jump start a trophy DMU. I am also highly against extending the hunting season beyond Jan1st in any unit across the state. There is already plenty of hunting opportunity to harvest a deer especially for bow/crossbow hunters. The deer become under stress this time of year, most bucks lost their antlers between mid December to mid January. (of course there are exceptions) Some hunters make mistakes and will harvest bucks that have lost their horns during this time. There is no need to allow these mistakes, these are the following years quality bucks and is not helping support the antlerless effort to manage the herd.

I hope that WI does not increase their out of state hunting license fees like many other states have already done. WI hunting is rich in tradition and I believe that the majority of out of state licenses are sold to people that use to reside in WI when they were younger. I look forward to hunting with my four brothers on my private farmland each year, they were born and raised in WI however they now live out of state. If their out of state license fees increase much more, they will likely not come back home to visit with the rest of our family for both the bow and gun hunting seasons. Out of state hunters contribute to the livelihood of many other businesses in the state, I believe this would diminish greatly if the license fees were to increase.

Please end the extended archery season! As a snowmobiler, a local club DID NOT OPEN trails although adequate snow and cold temps would have allows due to the archery season remaining open until Feb 1st! There is a tremendous amount of work put in by club volunteers to mark and maintain trails, and our local restaurants and gas stations benefit greatly from trails being open. To see that only 20 bucks and 60 does were harvest in 2020 in the "extend season" shows this is NOT an effective season. The season begins mid September and lasts 3 1/2 months WITHOUT the January hunt, and there is no reason a hunter cannot "fill the freezer" during this time.
Personally I think the deer season should be extended to 16 days. That would give the hunters that have to work more time to hunt, That would allow more hunters to harvest a deer. To prevent from over harvesting the herd you would need to cut back on bonus tags. That would help spread the harvest out over the hunting area. Because now some groups shot lots of deer in a small area and none are shot in other areas. Hopefully that would help more hunters see deer in the woods and make more people become interested in hunting again. When they don't see deer they quite hunting especially in northern counties. Thank you for your time.

I am concerned about those who hunt and don't care to shoot good enough to kill the deer on the spot. Bad hunters in Outagamie County are ruining it for the rest are my major concern. I don't know if this would work for Deer Management, but could we perhaps do a lottery for deer tags like bear? Or do a rotation? For example, Farm A, Farm B and Farm C are all right next to each other. Stats show that every year a resident on each farm purchases a deer tag. Could we possibly rotate and provide Farm A and Farm C with tags in 2020, and then Farm B gets a tag in 2021. I just think we need to do more if we want to maintain the deer population.

My land was part of the fawn tagging study and I owned this land for over twenty years. The numbers have dropped off dramatically and I hunt only edges and am very careful not to spook anything. I found five dead nub bucks this spring, not sure what the cause was but they weren’t from gun season- to fresh. My opinion is to go back to the old crossbow rules I shed hunt a ton of public and find bolts all over the place. Archery was supposed to be a challenge. It seems the easier the sport gets ethical shots are being forgotten. At least don’t allow scopes on crossbows how easy can people want hunting to get.

Any change of the traditional 9 day gun deer season would be devastating to the core base of hunters who look forward to that time every year. Imposing changes that effect the archery hunters because the gun hunters are upset “archers take all the big bucks” is a bogus claim. If that is their claim, I would rather encourage those gun “hunters” to head into the woods themselves and try archery hunting prior to the gun "hunt" for that big buck. Increase revenue for an additional archery tag sold and the hunter wins because who doesn't love chasing big bucks during the rut leading up to gun deer.

The informational video presented prior to the survey was well done. It was interesting to hear a wildlife biologist explain the various graphs and trends rather than just viewing the information myself. Although it hasn’t yet reached high levels in the county I hunt, I am concerned with CWD across the state. What is CDAC or the DNR doing to help prevent the spread of CWD? Is there any appetite to place more restrictions or regulations around captive cervid industry to protect the great bounty that is the people’s resource of the wild deer herd in Wisconsin?

Science should dictate all decisions keeping in mind that the white tail deer is just one animal in a healthy ecological environment. Threatened native plants need to be considered and some attention to Ruffed grouse habitat, I know I’m getting off subject a little bit but I wish equal attention would be utilized for invasive species control, the Hungarian Partridge and the yellow perch. Walleye seem to be the white tail of the bay at the expense of perch. Sorry for getting off subject but my point is let’s spend some time and money on other things too.

Believe current policy to issue bonus antlerless tags are influenced by the generation of revenue by the state and not the best interest of the deer herd. Also this being driven by insurance companies lobbying to reduce the deer herd. Also where I've previously hunted private land in Shawano county, land owners were issued so many crop damage tags that it decimated the herd to the point where seeing a deer during the bow season was rare. I don’t believe there was any governing body overseeing this area with the intent of maintaining a healthy herd.
The problem with the entire framework of your deer numbers is still the amount of farm tags given out to farmers that don’t have crop damage from deer! You can give out all the tags you want in this county and if private land owners don’t want to shoot does they won’t... you personally cripple my hunting of close to 350 acres and my good neighbors hunting land equaling close to another 500 around us by allowing a farmer with 15 acres of timber to shoot all the does all year round! By the time seasons start everyone else’s hunting is ruined...

Need to consider looking into a new price structure for non residents. We are literally throwing money out the window by leaving the price where it currently is. I firmly believe non-residents should be closer to North Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, or Nebraska. Doe tags, I believe we need to stop handing them out and start making people buy them. In addition, raise the price to $20 for residents. If the deer numbers get too high, open it back up. By then, we will have created enough non-resident attention, it will be a win-win.

I don’t like the antlerless holiday hunt Dec 24-Jan 1. That is one week I used to look forward to going after a buck, late season bowhunting. That is the only full week I get off to hunt and now I can’t harvest a buck. It also doesn’t make sense to me to hold this hunt and only give away 1 antlerless tag per license. If the purpose of this hunt is to keep the population in check, then you should be giving out more than 1 antlerless tag per license and let people harvest more antlerless throughout the seasons.

Here is my issue. I live 3 miles from where I hunt. A lot of days I see no deer while hunting. I see an average of 60 deer daily from 1/2 to 1 mile north of where I hunt to my house. These are all private lands most of which will not shoot antlerless deer yet they claim to follow QDMA guidelines. You figure out how to fix that and you will please a lot of hunters. There is way to much focus on shooting big bucks vs herd management. My daughter gave up deer hunting due to not seeing deer. That is sad!

Over the past 3 or 4 years the coyote population has exploded on my land (Dale, WI). Very few fawns are recorded on trail cameras or seen while hunting. Far less deer are seen while hunting and far less deer sign is seen while scouting. More coyotes are seen on cameras and while hunting than ever before. More deer carcasses are found over winter as well. In my opinion, antler less tags should be reduced from last year to offset the increased predator kill to help stabilize the deer population.

I’m an above average outdoor hunter. Our country has been very hard to harvest deer. Trying bow hunting for the 1st time to try to better my odds on harvesting a deer because I normally rely on 2 deer to get my family through the year. I hunt all the deer hunting with gun seasons including black powder. I hunt everyday and struggle just to see deer. Been hunting my whole life. Looking to go to better harvest county’s and make a couple hour dive VS waste the whole season staying close to home.

There are lots of deer very close to or in the city/town limits of Appleton and the surrounding towns in the metro area. These deer do a lot of damage to crops, landscaping and gardens, and the only things that reduce their numbers are disease, starvation, and automobile accidents. There needs to be a way to harvest some of these deer. I realize this would step on the toes of local governments, but bow hunting should be a safe way to harvest some of these deer and reduce the damage they do.

I also hunt in forest county. The deer numbers are absolutely terrible there. I found more wolf tracks than deer tracks. Who Ever is on the CDA for forest co obviously doesn’t go in the actual woods. If you really want to know how the animal populations are just ask any bear hunter that runs dogs. Those guys are in the woods more than anybody except loggers! Something needs to done for the Northern Forest County’s! I’m ready to sell my cabin & hunt in a different state it’s that atrocious!

I love deer hunting, particularly bow hunting, but there are too many deer being harvested in Outagamie County as the numbers are seemingly very low. Hunters like me would be much more happy to take less deer, but see many deer (especially higher quality deer). One doe tag per buck tag seems reasonable. This would give the average hunter the ability to harvest 4 total deer per year in Outagamie County. This provides ample opportunity while allowing the herd to thrive.
If a crossbow season is implemented for a shorter period of time than archery, I ask that instead of allowing only those above 60 and disabled to use a crossbow outside of that time frame I would include youth age 11 and under. My daughters love hunting but do not yet have the strength to pull back a legal bow. My hunts are way more enjoyable to mentor them versus going out on my own. The rut is a great time for them to be out there an experience that thrill.

With all the bonus antlerless tags and the crop damage tags and the longer seasons and having 1 year olds buying licenses are depleting the deer herd. It is to the point now where it seems like it is all money driven and not about the herd or the enjoyment of hunting. I loved hunting as a child and enjoyed it and hunted a lot until the earn a buck years when the deer were slaughtered. They are finally starting to come back DON'T do it again.

Lower the water levels at Mack and Herb Benke. Herb Benke and the adjoining public lands used to be teeming with deer. Now all of their bedding areas are underwater and they have moved onto the private lands. Water that we could walk through with waders is now ten feet deep. It’s been like this for 15 years now and hunting has been yucky too. Waterfowl rarely use the water in numbers greater than 3 birds at a time. It's a complete waste.

It is getting very bothersome that there is a feeling that there is a NEED to change deer hunting every year. I am at age where I simply get sick hearing it and am just ready to quit hunting as I can not keep up with the changes. If you expect a good hunt you have to work at it all year. The complainers go out the week or day before and expect to kill a buck. Stop listening to all the complainers who in the big picture are very few.

If you want to reduce the number of does why would you go from issuing 2 doe tags to only 1 I use my tags and might not buy another doe permit if I was not issued 2 when I bought my license. We pay enough for our license. If you want to get more money charge out of state residents more for their license or not give them any doe tags, but they would be allowed to buy them and charge them the same as we would pay in their state.

Please step up the anti-CWD measures in Outagamie County, region, and state. I believe swift action should be taken to prevent its spread to the County. I worry the public stigma of CWD-infected meat will have substantial impacts on the number of hunters in future years and continue the downward trend of reduced hunting rates. I have gun deer hunted all my life and even I have found myself weary of eating venison for fear of CWD.

I heard you want to shorten cross bow to a month. I DO NOT support screwing with the existing seasons or expanding the gun hunt. We have black powder for those who wish to continue with a gun. I would support only 8 points or larger for bucks. Get some size back in the bucks and charge more for out of state tags. Whatever the person's residence charges for their state, we charge the same in Wisconsin.

My only comment would just be the decline in the deer population. Three of my kids and I hunt together and we have not seen a deer in the last four years during opening weekend of the gun season. It's hard to keep them involved. So last year I think we each got 2 doe tags with our gun tag. I keep one and disregard the rest. This tag is reserved for my daughter who has yet to see a deer.

Deer hunting continues to be on the decline and disappointing as deer numbers have fallen. At this rate my opinion is that recruiting new hunters and fisherman to the sport will continue to fall off as our wildlife resources are depleted. Another more recent example of poor management is the decline in bag limits for fishing. In Wisconsin, we are not managing our resources effectively!!!

Introducing an antler restriction of 3 pts on one side. Youth and first time buyers are excluded from the restriction. Introducing muzzleloader only areas during the gun season, especially on public land similar to Missouri's set up. Allowing more crop to be planted on public land by local farmers if they leave a certain percentage standing, to allow for more food for public land wildlife.
With the number of large groups of deer (12 or more) I see in so many fields we need more antler less tags issued. I feel 2 per license would be better. Kill numbers were down last year and people saying they seen less deer i feel is because of the later season and very early colder snowy conditions. also with many farmers not getting crops planted deer movement was different.

Coyotes are taking more fawns then you realize. We are finding more dead fawns on our property each year and are starting to think how can we get rid of them? Coyotes are definitely hurting our deer population and thus our hunting experience. Our attitude becomes we have to shoot less does to maintain the local deer population. We also saw less quality bucks in 2019.

This was the first year, in 30 years of hunting, that I was unable to harvest a deer. There are several factors: 1) too much corn on neighboring properties 2) increased hunting pressure 3) urban sprawl - affecting how I can safely hunt my land Used to be getting a deer with the gun was a sure thing. May have to spend more time crossbow hunting.

It seemed that predation was undervalued in the data collection. This perception that the DNR is protecting predators is common among my hunting community. I am VERY concerned that bear, coyote and wolf populations are driving down deer numbers in this unit and in the Northern parts of the state based upon personal testimony of hunters.

The past few years have been the wettest I can remember in years. The river bottom lands make up alarge part of my hunting area. We have not been able to hunt it, and there has been no feed for deer because of high water forcing more deer to farm fields. This and high antlerless tags has caused a high decline in deer numbers.

My issue last season was the amount of rain we had. Most of the area I have to hunt was flooded to the point that deer were no longer using it. The lack of crops planted in my area didn’t help either. That being said, I feel that the amount of antlerless permits being handed out just for buying a license is a bit much.

Don’t like the use of Cross Bows during Bow season. should go back to the old way and have to be at least 60 to shoot one unless your disabled. I am 58 years old and will be shooting a bow until I cant pull a bow back anymore, that will be a while. People think you can shoot 60 or 70 yards with one.

Unit needs mandatory testing for CWD. With the mild winter and counties that are nearby testing positive it is only a matter of one quick jump to be in this county. Oppose any allowances for increasing season for bow or crossbow hunters unless gun hunters can do the same in January.

we need to create more ways to harvest deer inside the metro areas. Also create more opportunities for youth hunters. Utilize forest damage tags for landowners trying to regenerate their forests. I need more flexibility to control the herd to lesson the browse to new growth trees.

the trend in Deering hunting has shifted to archery (bow/crossbow) so why is there a push to make more gun seasons? We need less guns seasons and embrace the movement with more interest. Gun seasons just create problems and more landowners are closing there properties to it. I do.

DO NOT, extend the traditional 9-day gun season!!! Get rid of all the 'special' antlerless seasons! If people want to shoot a doe they have the opportunity during the regular seasons!!! Go back to the traditional season layout, before all the 'earn-a-buck' and 'T-Zone' crap!

Why are there so many turkeys that scare the deer away when we are hunting?? There should be bonus turkey tags Or (5) turkeys on every small game license! Please increase turkey tags Get rid of the spring draw ! Let people hunt them do deer hunting will get better!!

Do not extend the gun season into early season archery. Gun season should remain/start after the first week in November - I largely suspect that lower values were due to many environmental reasons, in addition to the late gun season start date around Thanksgiving.
I would like to maintain baiting of deer for the youth hunters but have the bait scattered in large areas to prevent the spread of CWD. This gives the youth an option to make a clean kill with extra time to shoot. We need to promote our heritage of hunting.

-One buck per hunter per year, choose what weapon you will use - keep bow season and gun season alone, add a special season for anyone using a crossbow that isn't a senior citizen or doesn't have a disability - No holiday hunts or antlerless only hunts

I would support a one buck per hunter per season. Shoot the buck during any season you want but you can only get one buck. This would solve a lot of the present issues like possibly more does shot and better quality bucks surviving the hunting season.

No holiday hunt or extended archery hunt. Having a month long season of gun hunting is a negative impact. The holiday hunt during the Christmas break is also taking away from late season bow hunting and taking away the chance of harvesting a buck.

Earn a buck destroyed the deer herd and made hunting no fun for many years. The deer herd has been back to solid numbers for the last 3-5 years. Thanks for all the work to make hunting fun again and support reasonable yet solid deer numbers.

Too many people shooting does off of small blocks of public and then deer won’t come back into and stay in private and then not enough of antlerless on private land being taken. If hunting private it, should be earn a buck for all private

You need to ban baiting. Baiting is the single worst thing to ever happen to deer hunting in WI ever. Baiting has changed the hunting dynamic and is the reason people do not see a satisfactory number of deer each season.

2019 was the worst year as far as number of deer seen while hunting in my 25 years of living on and hunting my property. The deer numbers are much lower than prior years. I believe coyotes could be a contributing factor.

The deer population is exploding in western Outagamie Co., Particularly the townships of Bovina, Liberty, Deer Creek, Maple Creek. Milder winters, lack of hunting pressure, and back yard deer feeding

January 31 may be a little too late as some bucks drop horns and it makes it more difficult to select does. Also need meat processors to support longer season but that’s not a big deal for most.

The number of deer on our property was drastically lower this past year, but I believe it had a lot to do with the lowland and the flooding that occurred. The deer simply moved to higher land.

I feel like the number of deer is always over estimated. My first year in this area 6 years ago I saw double digit deer. Last year was the first time since then that I’ve seen a deer at all.

I feel that our deer numbers are lower then usual and instead of having a holiday hunt for does. We should have a holiday hunt for bucks only to let the does repopulate the deer population.

Water is/has been to high near wolf/embarrass river areas. Deer haven't been moving very much in my observations. Can dams be opened more in the fall without flooding other areas?

It is my belief that your deer management units are too large. There may be an abundance of deer in one section of a dmu and a drastically different population in the others.

If we need to keep the deer population lower we should set point restrictions. This would keep sport hunters interested in hunting in Wisconsin and bring in more tourism.

High water in the woodlot through the Deer season 2019, greatly reduced the time to be able to hunt. The high water has also reduced the available browse in the woodlot.

Appreciate the time and consideration our CDAC representatives volunteer and put into making our privilege of deer hunting the best opportunity possible. Thank you!
| 7092 | Stop allowing crossbow hunters to use their "gun" for 6 months. Archery season should be separate from crossbow hunting. The archery season is much too long. |
| 7093 | STOP TRYING TO GET RID OF ALL THE DEER AND HURTING THE HERD!!!! DEER IS THE ONLY BIG GAME WE HAVE AND YOU GUYS ARE TAKING AWAY IT ALL AWAY AND MAKING IT WORSE!!!! |
| 7094 | Gun deer hunting should start the season 1 week earlier about the 15th of the month and run through the end of the month for a 15-16 day season |
| 7095 | Section 4 the questions are worded horribly. I could not imagine how they could be answered in any way to give input |
| 7096 | while I did see many deer were i live. My hunting land north of shiocton is completely useless because of high water |
| 7097 | Seem to see noticeably fewer deer in the last 8-10 years than in my first 8-10 years on the private land I hunt. |
| 7098 | While I see deer where I live. My hunting land north of shiocton is completely useless because of high water |
| 7100 | The state has to change the law on deer retrieval. Hunters MUST be allowed to get there Wounded animals. |
| 7099 | Forests have a real hard time regenerating. I also farm and the damage to corn and soybeans is terrible |
| 7101 | Make a antler restriction of 4 points on one side and minimum 15" spread to let young bucks mature |
| 7102 | I believe you are doing a great job with management numbers. Please keep the numbers the same. |
| 7103 | What is causing the influx of white deer and should we be harvesting them to stop the influx? |
| 7104 | Raise the out of state license fees by 200% We charge far too little for access to our game. |
| 7105 | would like to know what percent of hunters fill all antlerless tags given to them. |
| 7106 | Make a point restriction like 4 points on one side or 15" wide so bucks can mature |
| 7107 | The number of deer has really diminished over the years. It’s very disappointing. |
| 7108 | Bow hunted 12 times from Dec 1- Jan 31. Saw 1/3 of deer seen the previous year |
| 7109 | Implement a 4pt rule on one side or 15"width limit to let small bucks mature |
| 7110 | farmers need to get their corn off the field before The gun season !! |
| 7112 | not happy about the cross bows. should have a strict season on them |
| 7111 | There is no shortage of deer only shortage of quality deer hunters. |
| 7113 | I would like to see back tags be used again to identify people |
| 7114 | My hunting group and I strongly oppose the extended gun season |
| 7115 | should be allowed to harvest bucks also during a holiday hunt |
| 7116 | Recommend to keep crossbow season as 2019 season was |
| 7117 | need to stop the use of Cross bows during the RUT. |
| 7118 | Get rid of youth hunts, antlerless weekends, |
| 7119 | A longer gun deer season would be nice |
| 7120 | Have some common sense for once omg |
| 7121 | Deer numbers are too low. |
| 7122 | We have a lot of deer. |
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Ozaukee, Southern Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

112 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 80
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 14
   - I hunt in this unit: 99
   - General interest in this unit: 18

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 75
   - Bow: 63
   - Crossbow: 49
   - Muzzleloader: 16

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 19.7
   - Maximum: 64

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 57
   - Mostly Private Land: 19
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 12
   - Mostly Public Land: 3
   - Exclusively Public Land: 8
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 10
   - Not too crowded: 17
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 5
   - Somewhat crowded: 5
   - Very crowded: 2
   - Not applicable: 3

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 14
   - Fewer: 29
   - Same: 52
   - More: 9
   - Many More: 5
   - Unsure: 3

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Antlerless Quota is...
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public :</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support: 61, Oppose: 42, Unsure: 9

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support: 88, Oppose: 16, Unsure: 8

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...


If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Support: VALID, Oppose: NOT VALID, Unsure: Not applicable in this DMU.

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I lived in the town of Port for the first 20 years of my life and I saw very few deer in that area, I would say that hunting the very limited public lands has been challenging in both not seeing many deer and non-hunter encounters (mixed between positive and negative encounters). For the past 12 years I have lived in the city, the amount of deer that I see is ridiculous, I used to have a garden I can't keep it because there are too many deer. It seems to me that the deer have congregated in areas that hunters are not allowed to hunt or are having to many non-hunter encounters. There seems to also be limited knowledge on where to hunt. I have hunted in the north woods for many many years and only since my purchase of a crossbow have I started to hunt in my home county. Quite a few people in the area are not keen to allowing people on their land to hunt or they want money to be able to, all of this ends up having negative impacts for aspiring hunters in this area. I would love to see better data on open hunting areas and the regulations in those areas be made more public to help the hunters.

Issue one doe and one buck tag per hunter per season or go back to hunters choice do not issue four tags per archery license and four per gun license and do not sell extra bonus tags. In my and many others opinion that just promotes a massacre which leads to fewer deer numbers and fewer hunters. When I first started hunting when I was 14 I am 34 now I would see between 15 to 20 deer a day now im lucky if I see that all season. There are not nearly has many deer has you think there are. I know people that stopped deer hunting in wisconsin because they do not see anything and I am highly considering joining them. They now hunt out of state where deer heards are better manged. I have hunted outside of wisconsin and could not believe the deer numbers I see then I come back here and nothing. I know my opinion probably will not matter on the issue but look at the numbers less license sold because of less deer in the state.

There is so much food for the deer in this unit that it could easily support 30 to 40 deer per square mile. I monitor the herd in my area and you people are so far off it is a joke. There are no more than 12 deer per square mile north of HY 33. North of 33 should not be in 77M. The only reason it is, the CDAC is loaded with farmers that want all the deer killed. Coons do far more crop damage than deer. THE ZONE SHOULD BE ARCHERY ONLY AND IF THAT CAN'T BE DONE, STOP ALLOWING RIFLES, YOU ARE GOING TO GET SOMEONE KILLED.

I have hunted in this area for over 50 years. The amount of deer I see in the last 20 years have been dwindling every year. My wife and I hunt a 40 acre parcel for gun season and this last fall was the worse we have ever seen. She had two does run by her on opening day I saw nothing opening day. Over the whole gun season we may have seen 8 deer between us that were actually other deer and we hunt every day. The way this state hands out doe permits is unreal. Instead of killing everything in site why not let people enjoy seeing a few more deer. We don't need to kill all deer like the insurance companies would like us to do, it is a resource not a commodity, use your heads.

Please for the safety of all gun hunters in every county. GET RID OF DEER DRIVES! Whether it's Ozaukee county or other counties in the state, I have never met a hunter that hasn't had gunshots to close or even had rounds hit near them when others are doing drives around them. I have had many bullets hit trees around me and even the tree I'm in. As a deputy in Ozaukee county, over the years we have taken numerous calls of rounds hitting houses and last year a guy shot in the leg with a .308. All reported after or during a deer drive in their area. At least prohibit them opening weekend.
Myself and a lot of others would like to see that “deer drives” or group hunting be stopped. All the people that do drives, the first thing they do is push out the public land. By doing that all the deer leave the area and gives all the people that like to sit an unfair advantage. A lot of people can only hunt public land and do not have access to private land. If all the deer are pushed off the public land there is no reason for the people that like to sit to even hunt. Knowing there not going to see a single deer. Detouring a lot of people from hunting.

The big problem with Ozaukee co, are these small farmettes that are nothing but deer refuges ... there is little public land to hunt and trying to find private land is a joke. There has to be a mechanism to have private land owners open up their land. The 2019 season was very disappointing, in 2 instances I had deer I had shot snatched by other hunters on public land. I’ve resorted to hunting on my 5 acres in my backyard... and managed to bag a decent doe. Hunting ethics have pretty much gone down the toilet and I’m about done dealing with it... good luck.

I would like to see as much done to keep cwd out of ozaukee county. In addition if there are any deer farms in or around the area we should push to close them. I see no net positive impact of these being in the area or in general. I also recently saw an opinion poll about stopping cross bow hunting on October 31. I support this, although I am a bias archery hunter who wants to see less competition on the land. Every sit I had in ozaukee I had another hunter within a few hundred yards or had a hunter walk past my stand.

I wish there was a DNR program that made it easier for hunters to connect with private land owners looking to reduce the number deer on their property. Only 3% of Ozaukee county is public land and much of that is not suitable for actual hunting. With so much private land and such high deer density, it could be a smart way for the DNR to help maximize the impact on the herd by the limited number of hunters hunting in this county.

I realize this ship has sailed, but I think crossbows should not be allowed for the harvest of antlered deer prior to the gun season/rut. DNR should only allow the use of crossbows for bucks after the traditional gun season. Video was very good, thanks for your efforts.

I believe it is critical in this county to encourage all methods of hunting deer. I hunt only with crossbow on my small acreage land due to safety and to keep low profile. Please continue to support crossbow hunting in all seasons at least in our area.

Its required for hunters to apply for and obtain a discharge permit prior to hunting in some cities in ozaukee county. I have no issue with this requirement, but the city does not ask if deer were harvested. Wondering if this should be recorded.

If Ozaukee County went with an antler less season I would hunt somewhere else. I did harvest 1 buck by bow and 3 antler less with a gun. Any information on private landowners willing to allow hunting would be greatly appreciated.

I live on the edge of Ozaukee and also hunt in Sheboygan and Washington counties. Having tags that are county specific is an inconvenience. I would prefer statewide tags or zone tags, not county tags.

My only comment is, If you would like more deer to be harvested, why was limiting the crossbow season ever even a consideration. Seems like that would only continue to lower harvest.

Quotas and long seasons should be more localized. The area of the County that I hunt seems to be way down on the number of deer compared to what I would see years ago.

I would strongly support an antler less Holiday hunt in Ozaukee County. I would strongly disagree with any “no buck” season. Thank you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7141</td>
<td>I feel that if you want to actually hit the quota numbers allow hunting in city parks. The amount of deer in the city is crazy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7142</td>
<td>We should expand the hunting seasons for other predators and also some small game species as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7143</td>
<td>Do NOT change the crossbow season from 2019! The crossbow kill was down from 2018...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7144</td>
<td>I would recommend being able to select either bow or gun for our sportsman licenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7145</td>
<td>Suggest an additional harvest permit for private-no so for the public land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7146</td>
<td>Baiting should still be allowed. There is no agricultural near our land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7147</td>
<td>Number of does seen in 2019 was lower than previous three years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7148</td>
<td>Keep crossbow season Without the need of a waiver for its use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7149</td>
<td>Would like to see bow hunters allowed 2 bucks per season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7150</td>
<td>The dig buck population is down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7151</td>
<td>Limit the crossbow season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10965
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 67
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 32
   - I hunt in this unit: 156
   - General interest in this unit: 20

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 146
   - Bow: 85
   - Crossbow: 69
   - Muzzleloader: 56

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 20.65
   - Maximum: 61

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 121
   - Mostly Private Land: 20
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 7
   - Mostly Public Land: 4
   - Exclusively Public Land: 4
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 7
   - Not too crowded: 12
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 5
   - Somewhat crowded: 3
   - Very crowded: 1
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 17
   - Fewer: 59
   - Same: 65
   - More: 12
   - Many More: 8
   - Unsure: 3

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Pepin, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT : Support 74, Oppose 69, Unsure 21
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 92, Oppose 58, Unsure 14
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 20, Oppose 134, Unsure 10

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID 1, NOT VALID 0, Unsure 0

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>2.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for Pepin, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
I feel there are adequate deer numbers in Pepin County and the hunting is still decent, but it's nowhere near where it was years ago and could / should be. The quality of deer hunting in Pepin County (and the state in general) has gone downhill in recent years. Yes, some parts of the county offer better hunting than others. After talking with several other landowners and serious deer hunters, the consensus seems to be that deer sightings / encounters are down, yet we are constantly told about record deer numbers and high hunter satisfaction. Those claims just don't seem to be matching up with what we're seeing in the field. The last couple years have been tough hunting in Pepin County. The brutal never-ending winter of 2018-2019 certainly didn't help things when it came to the 2019 hunting season either. I'm not in favor of the Holiday Hunt - I live and hunt in what has traditionally been one of the better areas of Pepin County and just don't feel we have the deer population to justify it. When gun season rolls around, it seems like there are more deer, but realistically there are a lot more hunters in the woods chasing deer around. Deer go somewhere unpressured and away from the crowds and almost tend to herd up at times. You can't use 9 days worth of sightings to dictate an entire future season. We've already got 9 days of rifle, followed by 10 days of muzzleloader and 4 more of antlerless only. That's 23 days consecutively with a gun in hand. Do we really need another week of gun hunting? When is enough, enough? The harvest numbers haven't shown the Holiday Hunt to be overly successful- yes some deer get shot, but it doesn't put a big dent in the population. The people who are serious about shooting does are not going to wait until the last minute in late December to decide to do so. They are going to take care of business long before that. The Holiday Hunt also completely ruins late season hunting for the bowhunter who is seeking a buck. Bow season comes back in for a couple days following the gun/ muzzleloader/ antlerless hunts and then gets shut down for the Holiday Hunt and you're left with another couple days to chase a buck during late season, assuming there is no season extension such as proposed for 2020. I'm on the fence about a season extension. I’d support a season extension if the Holiday Hunt takes place, just for the chance to get a buck during the late season. As for the people that are worried about having a season extension and it conflicting with small game hunters, hikers, cross country skiers, snowmobilers etc... in the last Pepin County CDAC meeting it was stated that 95% of Pepin County is privately owned. The landowner is going to choose what happens on their land through out the year anyway, so to me, this is a non issue. Another viewpoint that was brought up in the Buffalo County CDAC meeting was that of construction / seasonal workers. There are a lot of hunters who work in the Twin Cities or other areas a good distance away because it offers better pay than what can be found in Pepin County. These people work long hours and just about every weekend through out the fall and might finally get a chance to hunt around gun season depending on their job and the weather. Don't these landowners and hunters deserve a chance to hunt? A season extension would give them a chance to spend some days in the field. All of this being said, do we really need to hunt from mid September until the end of January? I’d much rather eliminate the Holiday Hunt all together and end the season in early January. I’d personally love it if Earn a Buck was brought back, but am aware it would take action in Madison to do so. Enough antlerless deer would be shot to keep everyone happy and bucks would get a chance to get some age and size to them. The ridiculous Holiday Hunt could be eliminated and there wouldn't be a need for a season extension until the end of January. Regulations / season dates would be easier to understand as result too. If Earn a Buck were to come back, I feel that it should not be overused. Several consecutive years of Earn a Buck is a overkill, but I feel it's a valuable tool to have the option of using. Maybe use it every other year or every 3rd year as needed to get things back "to normal" if deer populations get out of check. Through out the latest Pepin County CDAC meeting there was mention of giving hunters more opportunities as a result of all these extra seasons. Wisconsin as a whole has the same mantra, in that more opportunities will bring more hunters. Deer need to be effectively managed and are a valuable renewable resource for this state but are not treated that way. It's all about license sales. Wisconsin just wants to sell as many licenses and shoot as many deer as they can. I’d argue that if the product (deer hunting) were better, the sales would be better and there'd be no need for all these extra hunting opportunities to try and entice more sales. I understand it's a cultural / traditional thing, and everyone can use their license as they choose, but the landowners and hunters of Pepin County (and Wisconsin as a whole) could certainly take some notes from places like Iowa that have a good deer herd, a logical season structure, and overall a very high quality hunt that has
Here are a few of my thoughts regarding deer management in Wisconsin. 1-First off, I'm not sure if the DNR, Dept of AG has a clear objective when it comes to managing the herd? Who has more sway when it comes to managing the resource, special interest (logging, farming etc) or the sportsmen/women who's license $ funds the department? Hunter recruitment continues to drop year after year as a result of fewer deer on the landscape and hunting regulations that are far to complex. 2-Seasons....Why is the DNR overthinking this? There is plenty of opportunity to harvest a/multiple deer in the 2 general (archery/firearms) seasons. There is absolutely no need for a special hunt/s every year to try and control a population of cervids that does not need to be managed to this extent. This whole management theory/plan is being overthought and is more of a danger to the herd than any disease or other outlying contributor to the health and population of the this resource. 3- Farming/reforestation-If farmers (god bless the american farmer) are struggling with crop loss due to overpopulation, let's look at all the factors and not just deer. Raccoon, Bear, and turkeys will destroy as much or more cropland than deer....Where is the management plan for these animals? Why is it always the whitetail that bears the burden and pays the tole? If the AG community thinks they have too many deer on their property and this is having a financial impact, HARVEST them as you see fit on THEIR land. The DNR should not use this as a blanket management tool for a whole county. 4-Private landowner contribution-I will keep this as close to the point as I can. I manage my 200 acres in Pepin County for Whitetail deer! I do not manage for timber/oldgrowth forest or agriculture. I have about $900K invested in this property and do not take suggested input from a government agency that has no monetary stake in the resource lightly. 5-Privitization of the herd- Here is the risk to the DNR. Every year landowner groups become more and more frustrated with over management of the deer herd. I'm not saying structure and management is a bad thing, but overthinking this is!!! So here is what is starting to happen whether you want to acknowledge it or not. If the DNR continues to overstep their management ideals, the landowners that own property strictly for the harvest of whitetail deer will unite and privatize their own management practices. It does not need to be this way....Manage public lands (we fund those to) work with the farmer, manage public land timber sales and reforestation projects...But do not expect support from the hunting public or improved license funding from younger generations if you continue to try and manage something that will manage itself if you would just let it (that's a hard concept for the department). 6- The resource (deer) belongs to the people of the great state of Wisconsin and I understand that the Deer Herd in Wisconsin is not privatley owned...But the private landowner that only owns lands and purchases licenses to harvest these animals should have as much say or more than the non-hunting public that appears to dictate the management framework. Just my thoughts.
I do not support holding a holiday hunt. The late season bowhunters lose opportunities. We've already got several weeks of gun hunting and the deer are stressed out and running for their lives while trying to find enough food to make it through the winter. In addition to the late season bowhunter getting the short end of the stick, the holiday hunt hasn't been overly successful in shooting a large number of antlerless deer. We have good hunting, and I think the amount of tags allocated is about right. The last few years have been tough hunting, but in the big picture, hunting here is still pretty good and a lot better than other areas of the state. If we go ahead with the holiday hunt, the season needs to be extended- this gives more opportunities for bowhunters who basically lose the entire month of December. On another note, I wish there was more outreach efforts from the Pepin County CDAC members. Their contact info is available via the DNR website, but I'd like to see them step up a little and seek out ideas / opinions from the general public versus just waiting to get a phone call or email from someone. The local news outlets don't do a great job of advertising the CDAC meetings and a lot of people don't know about the online comment option. There are several events held every year with the Durand Rod and Gun Club, Arkansaw Fur, Fish, and Game, Whitetails Unlimited and Pepin Sportsman's Club, among others. Perhaps some of the CDAC members could attend some of the events and have a basic questionnaire for people to fill out in order to get some feedback. Or even if the CDAC provided some sort of dropbox for people to put comments / ideas into at these events. This would get the CDAC some valuable info through out the year and from multiple locations within the county. Just an idea.

I’ve been hunting one of the best and least talked about public big tracts of land in western Wisconsin. It borders the Chippewa and is extremely hard to access without private boat landing access. It’s called 9 mile island If you didn’t know yet. My family, and many family friends, have hunted there for 30 plus years... from when it opened to recreational hunting in the mid 80s to now, we’ve been there. And since then to 2015, it was one of the best pieces of land we’ve all ever hunted. And even in 2015, guys that have 100’s of acres of private said they’d rather hunt there.. but since then, with ONX and public MFL maps, it’s been destroyed. No matter where you sat on that property, you seen a 120 plus inch buck, every damn sit, and 5-20 does. You never worried about seeing deer. But now, we go out there, and we sit the best spots on that island with the best sign best bedding, whatever you can possibly do to find the deer, and you’re lucky to see 10. And yes; that is better than most properties, but that ain’t right. We did our homework, we busted our ass, and yet, there’s people out there acting like coyotes, wolves, and extreme hunting pressure doesn’t play a factor. And that’s just sad. I once seen 5 coyotes on the trail of a fawn, 2 minutes after she walked through. They all did the same exact thing. It was like clock work. You guys need to make a change to public land hunting. You’ve already lost the guys who won’t buy tags anymore because public isn’t work it anymore. Improve what you still have.

I believe that the majority of areas where deer population is a concern (too high) is almost entirely on private land. But because as a whole the population is deemed too high, there is a demand to release more tags with each license sale. I believe that limiting tag amounts to public land tag holders versus private land tag holders would help keep deer populations at a desired number without reducing populations on public land to a point where hunters are seeing more hunters than deer in the field. As a public land hunter of almost 20 years its gotten to the point where we’re seeing private land dominate the hunting landscape leaving extremely crowded and massively over harvested public lands. As a young hunter, not seeing deer means far less interest which leads to far less future hunters in the future. As a public land bow and gun hunter I would never dream of filling the 6 tags I am provided for my license. I think this threatens the integrity of the hunt and why I picked up the hobby/lifestyle in the first place.
As an archery hunting family that has limited time to hunt especially with other children/family members that are only home on the holidays and they are archery hunters as well, it is not ideal to have an antlerless only holiday hunt. Would prefer to be able to archery hunt for a buck with family during this time. This is often the only time on holiday breaks that especially college age archery hunters have to hunt for a buck. The extended season is a trade off but I would rather not have to hunt in the cold of January when chances at a buck are greatly decreased, look at your 2019/2020 numbers of bucks shot in the extended season. Also when leasing land and not being able to allow archery hunters to shoot bucks during the holiday has not received a positive reception. In theory, I think for gun hunters, the holiday hunt is a welcomed season but as far as archery goes archers are being punished.

Too many antlerless tags are given out for every license bought. I have two sons that hunt with me. Last year I believe we could have tagged a total of 13+/- deer as a family. We collectively saw one deer (yearling) last season. I own approximately 100 acres near public land. My sons are getting turned off of deer hunting with the lack of action/opportunity. My sons were 15 and 13 at the time of deer hunting. It sucks to see them so excited prior to deer season only to have the excitement sucked out of them as minute by minute, hour by hour and day by day goes by with no action. They are bored out there, and frankly, so am I.

I HAVE NOTICE A DECLINE IN THE DEER POPULATION IN THIS UNIT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS. I THINK WE HAVE LOWERED IT ENOUGH THAT WE CAN START GIVING OUT LESS ANTLERLESS TAGS BEFORE WE PUSH THE DEER TOO FAR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION AND END UP BEING IN THE SAME SITUATION AS THE NORTHERN FOREST UNIT. THERE USE TO BE ALLOT OF DEER UP NORTH UNTIL THEY WERE OVER HUNTED AND NOW YOU HARDLY EVER SEE A DEER UP THERE. THEY ARE SLOWLY RECOVERING NOW AFTER YEARS OF BUCK ONLY. WE CAN ALWAYS GIVE MORE TAGS AWAY IF THE POPULATION SHOOTS BACK UP. BUT IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO REBUILD A POPULATION AFTER AND OVER HARVESTING.

as a hunter who did take anterless deer the statement is the average hunter is only going to take what they want to eat reguardless of the number of tags a person can have! a better option is to get more hunters in the woods, lower licence fees both in & out of state my own son did not hunt because the out of state fees were too high. there is nothing wrong with the normal 9 day gun season, very few people hunt all 9 days, i only hunter 5 days of the season . extending the regular 9 day gun season would be a mess it stills goes back to how much do you want to eat!

I strongly feel that the deer numbers are not where they should be. I have noticed over the last 15 years that the numbers have drastically decreased. I don't think that decreasing the population is what the focus should be. At the very least, I think that the focus should be on maintaining the current population. Handing out more doe tags and shooting more does is not the answer. The holiday hunt can go away as well. Just about everybody who hunts the 9 day gun season already has their tags filled by the time the holiday hunt rolls around.

Although, I said tag allocations are too low, I understand they do not sell out and you are doing you best to try to increase doe harvest. It is an unenviable position and one that many game agencies in the midwest states deal with. None have been able to remedy the problem without employing Earn-a-Buck. Many of these tactics that actually work are controversial because of the way/culture surrounding deer hunting has changed within the last decade. Good luck and stay the course to lower deer numbers, I would support EAB.

I feel there are too many tags being sold compared to the number of deer in the county. I have seen a drastic decline in deer numbers over the past 10+ years. I used to see 10-15 deer a day. Now I don't see that many in a whole season and the size of the deer (buck and doe) is a lot smaller. The numbers are just not out there like they used to be. I haven't taken a deer in 4 years due to both the lack of numbers and the size of the animals. There are very few mature deer in the areas I hunt.
This is a smaller county and that being said, there is a lot of traffic on the public lands. All the deer are pushed out to private lands because of the hunters themselves pressuring too much. With that being said, public lands should decrease in bonus tags too. Private should increase more to help prevent crop damage. No major roads in this county and if there is, it’s mainly around private lands as well.

Deer population I observed appeared to be healthy with a even number of buck to doe sightings. I do support the use of crossbows for the entire archery season. I believe crossbows make for more accurate shots which probably does increase the harvest a bit. Also, lowering the amount of bad archery shots that just would deer that later die and aren’t found. Thank you for the opportunity to give my input.

With what I have noticed, there are a mass amounts or farms that didn’t get their corn down. This giving the deer a reason to stay in the corn. Very little reason to wander do to the abundance of food available. Late winter I did notice large groups of deer 20-30 deer in packs traveling through fields. It was a little latter in the season to see this but it did happen.

I believe we need to get a handle on the numbers of deer. I do take a two to four does a year but we can see up to 40-60 deer a day on stand. I mainly trophy hunt but manage to do my part for deer quality. When I bought the property 10 years ago we had bigger bucks around and I feel it was due to the earn a buck season(s) that were before me buying the property.

Earn a buck may have to be started again if too many does are out there and not enough antlerless are harvested. Antlerless only season would be very harmful to the herd as I don’t believe anyone would go hunting that year and you would end up with lesser deer harvested and low income for not selling licenses.

Not a good idea to extend archery season into late January. If a hunter hasn’t filled their tags by January, better luck next year. The deer don’t need to be pressured and hunted another month, especially during the hardest time of year for the deer to find food and survive.

The rut has gone away because their are to many doe’s and the bucks dont have to move to get to next one. A doe only season Will only bring the doe population down and create the big bucks every one wants to shoot because they have a another year to get bigger.

In 23 years of hunting the same property, the last 3 years we’ve seen far fewer deer while in the same period we’re seeing more coyotes while hunting. I’m not sure what can be done but they’re having a huge impact on deer sightings during the season.

I think we need to go back to earn a buck because trophy hunters are killing the sport of hunting and making the normal hunters stay home because they don’t like getting confronted by said trophy hunter for doing none hunting things around the area.

I think the youth hunt should be longer than 1 weekend & earlier. Without our youth involved in the Heritage of hunting it will eventually limit the interests in our youth & there fore hunting Gets too cold for young kids in most deer opening weeks.

I do not support extending the archery season due to the length of the hunting season. The whitetails are pressured enough from all the hunting starting in September. Give the deer a chance to rest and recover from the hunting season and winter.

I feel if you want to control the population you need to bring back Earn-A-Buck, as well as the registration at specified places because I thing you are not getting a real accurate number right now!

Increase the non-resident license fee substantially shorten the archery season, and cancel special hunts. If you were a landowner, you might understand? have a antlerless season only.

We need to have earn a buck to get the deer numbers back down because there is to many trophy hunters not shooting does which is causing the deer heard to get way to big.
Saw a few less does than average. Saw many fewer bucks than average. Party of 6 went 0 for 6 on bucks in 2019. Passed on some does, but saw fewer than 7 year average.

Extra hunts interfere with the normal hunting dates. When Bow hunting starts, that's the only hunt that should be going. No extra seasons mixed in.

Private landowners need to do a better job with the doe population. Also crossbow are a quality weapon for helping reducing the deer population.

There are too many seasons, reduce the number. Have the muzzle loading season before the rifle season.

I have seen less and less deer every year. The deer court is lower than the DNR is saying it is.

Move youth hunt later closer to rut....get rid of doe hunt that follows muzzle loader season.

I think to lower the antlerless population the earn a buck may have to be a tool to be used.

Pepin county should consider shifting from decrease population to maintain population.

Habitat being removed for farming. Poor to non-existent habitat management.

Only concern is the coyote population is getting out of hand.

Allow a bonus earn a buck after registering 2 antlerless.

Allow hunters a bonus buck after killing 2 antlerless.

Keep hunting the same. No need for change.

Not enough access to private lands.

Very few deer on public land.

Too many deer!
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 233
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 62
   - I hunt in this unit: 304
   - General interest in this unit: 69

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 266
   - Bow: 184
   - Crossbow: 115
   - Muzzleloader: 124

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.63
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 190
   - Mostly Private Land: 65
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 26
   - Mostly Public Land: 4
   - Exclusively Public Land: 11
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 8

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 15
   - Not too crowded: 31
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 19
   - Somewhat crowded: 16
   - Very crowded: 20
   - Not applicable: 5

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 34
   - Fewer: 89
   - Same: 163
   - More: 37
   - Many More: 10
   - Unsure: 6

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
*Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT :</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?  
*Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Comments for Pierce, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.

7194 I would like to say it would be ridiculous to make an antlersless only hunt in ANY county in Wisconsin! People hunt to kill bucks, you take that away and you won’t have the kill numbers because the people won’t be buying the tags. I hunt Pierce county and every part of Pierce county is different with deer numbers. Along the rivers and hills are very high numbers, the small patches of woods and the flat lands, there are not enough deer. I get that we need to do something about the antlerless numbers in some areas, but a 19 day gun hunt or antlerless only is NOT the answer. If anything make it earn a buck again, but only in certain parts of this county/ Wisconsin. I also believe that holding a gun season a week earlier is a really bad idea as it’s messing with the breeding season! Look at Minnesota’s deer population. It’s terrible. They start the first weekend in November! No one is pushing down Minnesota’s door to go deer hunting. Wisconsin should take more lessons from Iowa. They have the right idea and have the numbers/ management practices to show for it. If anything, start the gun season later to put less stress on the heard. I had 6 tags last year and I could have used all of them. Why does anyone need 6 tags!? If even half the people shot 6 deer a year there wouldn’t be any left at 6 tags per person. Stop baiting everywhere in Wisconsin. That way it’s far for everyone across the board. Also Wisconsin needs to be charging at least $400 per buck tag for out of state hunters. $180 some dollars is not enough especially when the people in Wisconsin are always fighting for places to hunt. You will still get the hard core out of staters to buy tags to make up for the rest of the tags you’d be losing. Less competition. Stop messing with our deer seasons. Bow hunting should start the first weekend in September, bucks only to the third weekend September for bucks and does, that way we save all the fawns dying at an early age by not killing their mothers. Then stretch the bow/crossbow season all the way to the first weekend in January, but guns season starts the first weekend in December until the third weekend. 16 day gun hunt during the bow/crossbow season. That’s a win win if you ask me. Or just keep it the same. NEVER MOVE THE GUN SEASON UP in November, It will effect all of the breeding. Not a good idea! If all else fails keep it the way it is and stop trying to change everything for the very few who want it changed.

7195 I would just like to note why I no longer buy a gun permit in this area. SAFETY and sportsmanship is my biggest concern. I hunt mostly private land but it butts up to public land and as soon the sun rises I see approximately 6+ hunters all within 200 yards of each other on the public land. All other public lands I have checked during gun season are filled with hunters too. Once the morning hunt is over the flood gates open and large groups of hunters start driving the public land all day everyday and shoot anything that moves until the end of the season. I once watched an individual who was performing a drive take 5 shots at a deer that was in between him and I on the public land. He never even walked up the the area where the deer was standing to see if he hit it. The hunter turned around and kept performing the drive. One year I came across 2 dead does and a dead 6 pointer on the public land. Also, trespassing is a huge issue. I’d rather stay away from the unsafe acts and unsportsmanlike conduct some hunters perform in this county. I feel like the game warden needs some help establishing a presence on public lands during gun season.
I would like to propose that the # of hunters be monitored per square mile. In 2018 gun season, I heard over 36 shots fired from one property near where I live. The deer herd was wiped out in one evening by a local hunter and his family and friends. This is morally and ethically wrong.

I have taken 1-3 deer a season as only my primary means to eating red meat (personal choice). In all my many years of deer hunting I've been never more disgusted by that kind of blatant disregard for life in over 30 years of deer hunting. My background in hunting started in Marine Corp. I have an acute sense of hearing and identifying types of guns fired and the direction in which they came from. Simply put I would like to see the local DNR do a better job of monitoring the hunting area, specifically during the gun season. In fact, I have sneaky suspicion that some folks/adults are taking deer out of the designated gun season based upon the type of guns I can hear being fired, along with the follow up and frequency of shots there after, some of which are past the light hours of the early evening.

I live and hunt in a metro sub unit. and I must say your data and recommendations on harvest numbers couldn’t be any further from accurate. by giving out metro tags to everyone who buys a license your are relying on trusting the hunters to tag deer only harvested in metro units. when in reality many people are just using them as extra doe tags throughout the county. with the mindset of how are they gonna know where I shot it. also the amount of tags you give out is a joke for our metro unit. I try to herd manage the best I can on the 700 acres that I hunt. and I can physically show you that due to your outstanding and ridiculous amounts of tags you've given out over the last 3 years has totally destroyed our deer population. I highly doubt you will actually read this anyways as I could go on for pages and pages of how I believe with these new laws and guidelines you are implementing is killing the tradition of WI, deer season. but in the end its not worth it. DNR does whatever DNR wants to do. its all about the money anyways. not tradition or herd health.

I believe that the significant increase in archery harvest this year corresponds to the increase in use of crossbows. In addition, I expect that trend will continue and while it may be effective means of managing the doe population, it may also result in higher than desired levels of buck harvest. Accordingly, the efficiency/efficacy/range of crossbows (as compared with vertical bows) will need to be addressed, probably in terms of season parameters. Presumably, the most effective means of managing this is to shift the crossbow buck season away from the pre-rut and early rut (say, from Oct. 20 until gun season) given that during that roughly one month period, bucks are more easily hunted. Again, with the heightened efficiency of the crossbow, allowing crossbow hunting (for bucks) during this period may result in undesirably high levels of buck harvest. Obviously the previously used crossbow use exceptions (e.g. disabled/elderly archers) would still apply. Thanks.

I think to look at pierce county as a whole for deer numbers is very difficult. Certain areas are loaded with deer and others are not and if I personally were to use all the tags given to me each year there would be very few deer left in the area I hunt. I think back when we had Pierce County broke up into units 60a and 60b made a lot more sense and maybe should be thought about doing again. I know in the the Hager city area there is not enough deer to make sense of getting all the doe tags we receive each year and maybe some of those tags should be put in the hands of the hunters that hunt the more populated areas. I also think the holiday hunt is at a very bad time of year. Every year around that time I notice bucks starting to shed their antlers and if the point of the hunt is to get the doe population down what is that doing when shed bucks have the chance to be shot.

Keep the gun season at 9 days like it has been forever. It has been a family tradition as long as I can remember. Extending it to 19 days is not going to raise the deer harvest. The reason the deer harvest is down is because people are buying up anything they can, like the 10,20,40,80 acres and sitting and not moving the deer. No one is able to make deer drives any long like we use to do 20 years ago. A lot of the land now days is all private and no one lets you on there. Also there are less people eating and living off the venison. These big acre farms that are leasing land to the big buck hunters are doing just that, waiting for the big bucks and shooting them for the antlers and probably donating or leaving the meat for the varmites because all they care about is the horns! If you want the does killed why don’t make earn a buck mandatory!
7201 Just a comment on how many doe tags to hand out. Typically we get 2 with each license (gun and bow) hunting private land we are limited to the deer that are on the land. Once gun hunting starts they get pushed, when they get pushed to 40-100 acres that doesn't get hunted the chance of those deer coming back is small. So you could give use 20 tags we might be able to fill 2 the first day of hunting and then the deer sighting go to almost 0. The land around is either not hunted or hunted by people that stay in the stand from sun up to sundown. I also do not live in this unit so I am not able to take advantage short morning or evening sits for late season etc. I guess what I am saying is if there is a way to change the hunting pressure then you might reduce the number of deer. Not sure handing out unlimited tags will get that done.
7202 We are seeing abundant overharvest in certain areas. I refer to these as hot spots. Areas that have seen years of over harvest due to high antlerless tag quotas, irresponsible management practices, and irresponsible handling of crop damage tags. For example I do my diligence to manage my 20 acre parcel to keep antlerless numbers in check and provide enough habitat for a sustainable deer population. Then I go talk to my neighbor whom is enrolled in a crop damage program, and my local herd is being destroyed. 80 acres of ag and 30 acres of timber and they harvested 18 deer last season (8 with damage tags). Those 8 damage tag deer were most likely carrying fawns or recently dropped them. If these type of numbers keep pace year to year, I will no longer waste my time hunting in my home state. Thank you.
7203 A few concerns I have: * Since the opening of Nugget Lake to hunting during the Firearm season, the quality of hunting where I hunt has decreased dramatically. Please consider closing this area to hunting. * I see that increasing Non-Resident licenses in being considerate. Hopefully this will happen. Since money is always an issue with the DNR, this would be a great way to increase revenue. * With how many Antlerless tags are being issued with archery and firearm licenses I don't see the need to have the option of buying additional permits. There are hunters I now of in the area where I hunt that are shooting up to 10 deer, decreasing the quality of hunting. No way does one person need to shoot that many deer, but with being able to buy additional permits, they can do this. Not right!
7204 I am not confident in the DNR in estimating deer population numbers because of changing hunting practices such as quality deer management practices. (which I support) and I know for certain (from talking to other hunters and my own experiences) there are a good number of deer not being registered. Not intentionally but by getting focused on processing the deer and forgetting or not registering their deer on time or at all. All in all in my opinion the area where I hunt has been stable for many years. So when I hear of season dates and season structure being changed it makes no sense. These surveys are good because most hunters know what's going on in their areas more than DNR officials in Madison know by looking at skewed numbers!!
7205 Every year more and more tags are being handed out, more county / state parks are being opened up for hunting, seasons being extended, crossbows for everyone. The DNR is running the quality of deer into the ground! Wi DNR should take a hard look at why Iowa is so successful, night and day difference. I get opening county parks once every 5 years or so to thin the heard but opening them up 100% for every year is a joke. My property near Nugget lake is almost not even worth hunting anymore because of how many deer get killed every year out of there. I went from having great bucks each year to maybe a 6 pointer. Absolutely disgusted in the Wi Dnr and how they are running this states prestigious whitetails into the ground!
7206 Thank you for requesting this information. I am a MN bow hunter who truly enjoys archery hunting in your great state. I choose to pay for out of state licenses and to support local businesses when I am hunting because WI typically has a deer season that is "very bowhunter friendly". I oppose the expansion of firearms seasons or moving it earlier in November. I endorse treating crossbows as different than verticle bows and providing them with a special season. I oppose making Archery tag holders buy a firearms license to hunt with a bow during the firearms season. I am interested in your state retaining its already very functional harvest goals and laws [i.e. 2017-2018].
the unit 2 or 3 years ago was hit with EHD and/or blue tounge. Populations VISIBLY declined since then based on my direct observations of road kill; deer sightings along the road in pre-dawn drive to hunt site; and trail cam evidence in my hunting area. The population has not recovered from these low numbers. Plus, I note some hunters in my area seem to be taking advantage of the multiple harvest tags plus bonus. You definitely have "sub-locations" where some hunters like to shoot everything they are allotted. Difficult to control on an area-wide basis, I get it, but the disease plus liberal hunter take in my specific locality has had a negative impact for me on population.

I’m newly retired and love deer hunting of all methods. I think the DNR has done an outstanding job of not only managing the deer heard but also being open to public opinions. I’m very concerned about the new proposals because I believe hunters have gotten to a point where they are starting to accept different hunting weapons and methods and many that I know are considering changing as they age. I believe what these proposals will only accomplish is creating a hunter against hunter environment and put us back 10 years. Wisconsin has some of the best deer hunting opportunities in the country and I truly believe that if it’s not broke then don’t fix it. Keep up the good work. Thanks

Try and find ways to open more land to public hunting in the metro sub-zones. Avoid shutting down bow season during the extended antlerless gun hunt (After the 9 day season). I hunted this time last year, and I think it landed in the late rut. I saw 2 antlerless deer, and close to a dozen bucks. Which sucks when you cant shoot them. If I had my bow with me, I could have shot several bucks with it. I assume this was done to keep folks from shooting bucks with a gun, and popping a bow tag on it. From a harvest / population control standpoint dead is dead. From a statistics standpoint this would be an issue. Anyway that’s an issue for someone smarter than me.

Having this online method to comment is preferred to attending a public meeting for me. It allows a person to think through answers and also to complete the effort at a convenient time. (If the weather is good and there's daylight - I tend to be outside working / can not take the time to attend meetings.) The video was well done and a good way to review survey data / results and to consider that in combination with my own opinions and experience. I have never before taken the time to voice my opinions on Wisconsin's deer management or hunting regulations in a public, constructive manner. Thank you for this opportunity!

Been hunting since I was twelve. This past year I qualified for 10 tags for my unit, which in my opinion is far too many (they were free based on location). I don’t agree with the extension of the gun deer season. With how some parties hunt the numbers in areas will dwindle far too quick leading to more problems and more frustrated hunters. A one buck, one doe tag system is fine in my opinion with option of purchasing an extra tag if needed. I as well as others enjoy the archery season much more than gun season and extending the gun season may possibly conflict with archery season leaving hunters dissatisfied.

I would like to see a gun deer season longer than nine days. I know tradition has our season running from the Saturday before Thanksgiving to the Sunday after. My ability to hunt is impacted by the holiday in the middle. Extending the season to a week before (or more) like MN would be a benefit. I live in MN and own several properties in WI (in otherwords, I PAY TAXES TOO..) and pay large fees for an out of state license. Nine days is not enough. Tourism may benefit as others may come to WI to hunt if the season were expanded beyone the traditional nine days.

I have seen a trending decrease in number of deer per sitting over the last few years. I would say the buck to doe ratio is very healthy so the fact that hunters only harvest about 50% of the quota tells me that the quota should be targeting something closer to the actual numbers. Regarding the Holiday hunt, i was only opposed to it because I usually haven’t gotten a buck yet during late season and my vacation schedule aligns with the holiday hunt period. I want to be able to harvest a buck or doe during that time of focused hunting opportunity.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

7214 Special seasons for youth, disabled hunters should be doe only. Cross bow season for those without a disability/age 60 should be a shorter season. October 1st-20th then close till 9 day gun deers season. Having a party tag for a bear like they did back in the day would be great. Limit this to 100 bear quota for the first year. Improve moral and reduce the high bear population while deer hunting. Antler Point Restrictions would boost better shots. Knowing your target, bucks would get bigger and more meat/trophy hunts. 4 points on one side.

7215 I believe that with self registration, many deer are not reported. I find many carcuses laying it the ditches. The late season holiday hunts take numerous bucks that have shed their horns. Today as I was preparing fields for planting I had a turkey carcus with the breast removed and a pheasant laying in my woods along the road. I reported 3 deer shot and left lay last year to the dnr. They never returned my call. I'm not impressed! Also all the land they over paid for and they provide no access disgusts me.

7216 As a land owner in a great area, I am opposed to to many special hunts. Would certainly like to see more quality buck in the future as I feel there is not as many as in past years. I leave food plots, corn and beans for the wildlife. If crops are harvested at a normal time, deer damage to farmers is not a major problem like a few farmers say and we are in a high deer population. I think the extra doe tags are working fine, we have a nice long season and special hunts are not a good idea.

7217 I live in rural Wisconsin (54011) and am consistently inconvenienced by the out of state sportsmen and women. They drive fast past my house, park wherever they want, leave trash and don’t respect private land. Yes, there is public land nearby, but that doesn’t make my home your playground. I encourage charging more for out of state licenses. At the least, it would help our township respond to the damage caused to roads, patrolling and litter cleanup. Thanks for the opportunity for feedback.

7218 Let the gun hunt begin sooner. It gets too cold for hunters that still do hunt. I guess having 39-40 deer every night I different areas of the farm tells me to many out there. Also they are in our house area and garden. Disease will set in. In breeding also. Big dairy farmers are seeing 100 or more deer at night at their feed lots. Some told people you can hunt on their land but shoot a doe before a buck. I would like to see this for bow and gun season. This may help.

7219 We need to look into the out of state practices that Iowa and Illinois has put forth to enhance the genetics of the herd for the buck population and the price of the tags. We have a very large number of record animals in our state and should preserve it and also at the same time make it better for the future hunter. We should also capitalize on an increased out of state price on tags like Iowa and Illinois in order to increase funding for research and parks and recreation.

7220 Personally I think that the entire state of Wisconsin should adopt regulations similar to the state of Missouri as in a legal buck has to have four points or more on one side in order to be a legal shootable buck. But then make it so if you are 18 or younger any number of antlers is acceptable to be a legal buck. That would be to keep the interest of kids into our sport and assure that any opportunity they have to harvest a buck can be taken. Thank you for your time.

7221 The Deer Herd health is the most important point to me as a hunter and to be able maintain the harvest. I believe that no matter the increase or decrease in harvest numbers, that we have to look at the big picture of how the deer herd is maintaining. The number of hunters vary from year to year and the method of hunting deer will change going into the future. We have to just monitor the deer herd numbers and adjust if needed to maintain the deer herd's health.

7222 I am going to be a new hunter this year using a crossbow, I will not use a gun and I am unable to pull back using a bow, my only option is to use a crossbow due to an injury. It is my understanding that they might eliminate the bow and crossbow during the newly extended gun season. It seems to me if you want to recruit new hunters that putting restrictions on bow and crossbow for 19 days to accommodate gun hunters is a a poor way to obtain hunter recruitment.
I think we need to look into the Managed Forest Law. Many of the landowners are using this only for tax-breaks and not allowing access to the land. If this is the case, they should not be allowed to be in the MFL program as the primary use of the land is recreational. I would also like to see incentives to try and allow more access to private land through new programs or incentives. The biggest challenge in this unit is access to land to hunt.

If maintaining the deer herd is important, allow crossbows within the same season framework as vertical bows. If you want to recruit, retain or reactivate hunters, crossbows are an easy way to do that. In person registration stations should be an option again, leave the back tag regulations the way they are now, especially bowhunters. Provide more info on CWD and if people can eat venison safely, will also help the number of hunters each year.

The number of Buck tags should increase.... or have more tags for either sex!!!!!! If you have a longer bow season, there should also be a longer gun/muzzleloader season!!!!!! Have an early Gun/Muzzleloader would be nice too!!!!!! The number of Tags given per year should increase too!!!!!! Thanks;

I would like to see some easeyer way to make it less confusing on privet and public lands. im in an area where im stepping from one to the other needing not only county tags but privet and public tags. I hunt pierce and pepin county with public land or vpa boardering my property.I want to relax hunting not stessed that i have the right tags every time i move. hope you can simplify this a little. thanks for listening.

The anterless option is unacceptetable. I enjoy the chance of harvesting a quality buck. My children, the future, like the opportunity to harvest an anterless deer while i like to focus on more substance. Predators are causing numbers to go down and limiting the quality of the hunt. If we want to maintain the art and success of hunting, we need to encourage not hinder hunting with crossbows and choices. Thank you.

I am begging someone to please listen to the people. The area I hunt in this unit is becoming terrible. 5-10 years ago, I would see deer every day, usually a decent buck along with that. I am now lucky to see a deer a day. I have moved to Minnesota and believe the area here has benefited significantly with the 4 point restriction on one side. I ask that you please look into this.

As Crossbow harvest continues to rise it will have a negative impact on the Gun season. Watch this closely. We already are seeing a decline in Gun license Sales and as more deer are harvested by crossbow it will only cause more frustration among the Gun hunting community. Work with the Legislature to return to the old Crossbow regulation allowing use by Disabled and Seniors only.

I am happy with the way things are now regarding what was done in 2019. I'd like to see this continue for the near future. Where I hunt incompasses both the farmland and metro zones. I don't really hunt any other place. I always see about an equal ratio of bucks to does, mostly young bucks, but some large bucks occasionally. Thank you for the oppurtunity to add my opinions.

Peirce county needs less back tags permitted. I haven't seen a mature buck in several years where I hunt. Limit doe tags with all types of hunting too 2. Nobody needs 3 tags for each type of hunting(gun/archery). We try to manage the population in our area so that the deer are healthy but the numbers keep gettin lower and lower. Anterless limits need to be implemented.

The deer season is a very important time for our entire family. Large changes in seasons and or timeframe with how many and what sex of deer seem to be over reach with the amount of deer we did see last year near Elmwood WI. An antlerless only season seems a bit extreme for the amount of bucks and does we see equally in Elmwood WI.

Thank you for hearing our concerns and weighing it with your own findings. As a dedicated hunter, I would place knowing the animal and flora health is well before my desires to hunt and take an animal. I know many might feel the opposite opinion. I trust your biologist to help us all find the best course of action. Thanks again!
I would like future deer seasons to follow the current formula. I am not in favor of an extended gun hunting season. I also do not want a rest period between archery and gun season. I think lesser weapons should be able to be used for all deer tags. I think the current season framework is simple and easy to follow. Thanks.

As a 60 year old hunter who has went to a crossbow out of necessity I strongly oppose closing the peak Rut season to crossbow users. I only harvest deer when every shot is certain. I have the time to put in and enjoy every minute. See no reason to limit that on private land when I and my family are the only people hunting.

I would be more than ok with having just one antlerless tag and one antler tag issued with each license. If someone wants to buy additional antlerless tags to harvest more than one antlerless deer I would be fine with that as well. I personally do not see a need for myself to harvest more than one antlerless deer per season.

I have supported all hunting and fishing activities my entire life and would like to see the elderly hunters receive a discounted deer hunting license just like the discount on fishing licenses. I believe that more retired people would then have an opportunity (afford) to purchase a license and enjoy the sport. Thank you.

I hear some discussion of returning to Earn-a-buck regulations. I think those regulations when needed make sense for resident hunters; however, imposing that requirement on non-resident hunters may adversely affect the number of non-residents willing the visit for hunting and bringing their tourism dollars.

Public land is getting over crowded with hunters due to landowners leasing land. Mostly in the southern part of the county. Also, i dont think is necessary to give out that many doe tags. A person could literally shoot as many does as they want. Only half the doe tags available are getting bought?

Concerning the Holiday Hunt, I oppose that for mainly the stress on the heard at that time of year with winter and same reason for the extended season till end of January. Hard on bucks and fawns. I also use to take the week of Christmas off and hunt but won't hunt if can only harvest does.

Based on the deer numbers I saw last year (fall 2019) vs the year before (fall 2018), it definitely seemed like the population was down. I wondered if that was related to the high snowfall we received in Feb/March last year. Hoping it is better this year after a milder and shorter winter.

While I enjoy deer hunting the combination of limited access to hunting areas & the risk (albeit small) of CWD resulted in my spending the least amount of time I have spent deer hunting in the past 60 years. This is not meant as a complaint, it is only an observation on my experience.

The issue that we have is the farmers do not let anyone hunt the land. We even see the land owners that are in different programs not letting people hunt, and it’s killing the sport. Or the land owners are big on deer management so if you don't see a trophy you don't shoot.

I have seen deer numbers consistently go down. Everyone is hunting now so access to land is almost impossible. The deer numbers are normal on posted or leased land but are few on accessible land. I know people that quit hunting due to not seeing any on regular basis.

Regarding antlerless only deer season I object. Although most bucks I saw were 1-3 years old I did see or photograph more bucks than doe's. This has been the trend where I hunt for the last 2 seasons. For that reason I have not harvested any doe's from my property.

I started hunting with crossbow the past few years. However, due to my job I can only hunt periodically, mainly weekends. Eliminating the crossbow option after November 1 would greatly reduce my chances to hunt and may result in me not purchasing a license.

Raise non resident license fees. Instead of having a youth season or holiday hunt have a 3 day early muzzleloader season at the end of September or early October. Outlaw baiting during hunting season and allow supplemental feeding outside of hunting season.
I really like the present structure. Keep archery and crossbow at the same time. Keep gun and muzzleloader the same. Keep the Dec doe only and Holiday doe only as well. They provide a great opportunity for herd control in areas of high deer population.

I think that we need to look into options/improvements to access of private land. Much of the county is under private ownership and access is tough to come by. I think that MFL lands need to be reviewed and allow hunters access to this land as well.

In my opinion, organized drives to gun hunt deer are dangerous and should not be legal. Recently moved from Louisiana, where my dad retired as a game warden. Organized drives have been illegal there all my life. Seems strange and reckless to me.

From what I see the deer numbers in Pierce county on the higher end of the spectrum, but do not pose an immediate threat to themselves, forest and farmland. To prevent any more growth all available tags should be distributed to license holders.

My main concern is that we don't over react to the number of buck's killed in the 9 day gun deer season and try and extend or move up the 9 day gun hunt to coincide with the rut. We have it good in Wisconsin.....lets stay the course.

You will not control deer population when no one hardly hunt's anymore, they just sit in there shacks. Watch deer daily and nightly before gun hunt, then they head to posted land don’t see none. Right after gun season they are back.

Please do not extend the deer firearms season by taking away my bow hunting. Allowing firearms season to begin any earlier than the Saturday before Thanksgiving is a huge mistake for the State of Wisconsin.

Overall, the number of deer in this area has been consistent with what it has been in the last few years. I think the population is maintaining similar numbers and should not be changed at all.

Go back to the way it was! One doe tag per license, 20.00 per bonus tag, or buck only with antler restrictions! There are NOT AS MANY DEER IN PIERCE AS YOU THINK!! Bring back tags!

Totally against extending the nine day deer season. If that happens, I will close my land to deer hunting. Probably no big thing, since I only own 135 acres in Pierce Co.

Keep on asking for input from your public. They need to be involved since the DNR can’t be everywhere. One idea, raise nonresident license fees by 25%. Generate revenue.

There is not enough land that is open for hunting. Much land is privately owned and other land in land use permits is landlocked. Need more land for hunters to use.

We need to take a page out of Iowa’s book on out of state hunting. WAY too many out of state hunters, and why wouldn’t they come kill our deer, it’s cheap enough.

leave it alone there is no reason to mess with it. If people want to hunt they will. We need to stop bending over for certain people. Can't make everyone happy.

Am concerned about potential of deer being carriers of disease causing ticks if population gets too high. Support doe harvest to keep numbers in check.

There are too many tags given out per hunter. Bow Hunting seasons are too long-do not extend into January. Leave the gun deer season the way it is.

Provide additional testing sites for CWD during the hunting season to ensure the county remains free of the disease and combat any detection early.

I strongly oppose an antlerless only deer season. I also strongly oppose an extended gun deer season. I think the 9 day gun season is sufficient.
A couple years ago we saw hardly any deer. This past year we saw numerous deer. The deer herd is cyclical so just leave it alone.

Enforcement of road hunting needs to happen in the Salem Township. Especially the coulees east of the Rush and South of HWY 10.

Didn't see an option, but I know there was an idea to extend the rifle season by several days. I am OPPOSED to this option.

I will be new to crossbow hunting this year. Looking forward to a better chance of harvesting a deer. We use it for food.

Being a non resident hunter who will be hunting there many years to come, the non resident license price is about right on.

Could the laws be changed to allow antlerless permits to be used in their respective unit AND in an adjacent unit?

Extend the muzzleloader season and to create more DNR revenue purchase a separate license for muzzleloader

Suggest enabling use of an unused gun buck tag, after the gun buck season, for the continuing bow season.

Please consider no buck permits. We have too many does and fawns - there are very few bucks

I would like to see the buck population increase. Earn-a-buck would be a good way of doing this.

Need to bring back earn a buck. It’s the only way you are going to control the doe population.

If there is a doe only season, and I can not shot a buck for the whole year, i will not hunt.

If there is an antler-less hunting season only for 2020, I will not purchase a license.

Pierce county is one of the best managed counties in the state. Keep up the great work.

Continue to let the crossbow season go along with the bow season during November.

Less tags need to be giving. To many party hunting and killing young deer/fawns

need to reduce non resident hunters by increasing non resident license fees

Bring back paper registration? Locals need the business now more than ever.

Extra tags and extended season lead to increased chances of trespassing.

Increase cost of out of state licenses to mirror the state coming from

Feel free to ask questions. Thank you, Samuel Anderson

There are too many wolves and coyotes killing the fawns.

Keep all seasons the same as last year.

not much access to private lands

I strongly support earn a buck

Too many deer out there!

Like to see more deer

CDAC did a fine job

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary
Recommendations - Spring 2020

Polk, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

618 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 342
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 121
   - I hunt in this unit: 560
   - General interest in this unit: 121

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 522
   - Bow: 304
   - Crossbow: 195
   - Muzzleloader: 175

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.33
   - Maximum: 67

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 297
   - Mostly Private Land: 124
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 63
   - Mostly Public Land: 22
   - Exclusively Public Land: 48
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 6

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 30
   - Not too crowded: 88
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 49
   - Somewhat crowded: 51
   - Very crowded: 32
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 122
   - Fewer: 169
   - Same: 222
   - More: 67
   - Many More: 18
   - Unsure: 20

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Polk, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private</th>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License</th>
<th>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>321</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>255</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone:

- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 210, Oppose 344, Unsure 64

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit:

- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 284, Oppose 278, Unsure 55

If the Population Objective is not "Increase":

- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 65, Oppose 517, Unsure 36

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted:

- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.44</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Dear CDAC Members

I would first like to give a bit of feedback from my own experience over the past 20 years of deer hunting. I have great love and respect for the species. I am a NR major from uw stevens Point as well. I hunt 4 different private properties between roughly Deer lake area and Cushing both bow and gun. I use roughly 20 cameras across these properties starting about 10 years ago. I am not sure on data and calculations methods you use, but would beg to object to the numbers calculations. I know each section of the county is different and can have different growth or decline patterns not in relation to near by areas. So just case study for gun season my number of hours has increased immensly since i have some nice heated stands and the number of deer i have counted each year has dropped considerably since the middle 2000s. Driving up river road there has been such a drop in number of deer I have seen at night. Also the number of deer on those properties bordering the public has plummited. There should be less pressure put on the public lands. I am happy for people killing deer just not to the point where it has whipped out a larger number of the herd. It has also dramatically dropped since the change from application for doe tags to free over the counter. I think the new system is better but it just needs to be managed better. Secondly on camera the number of bears we have had on camera has increased considerably and fawns has dropped significantly. Buck population has stayed mostly stable to a slight increase with a slow uptick in size. I am as big of a qdm proponent as there can be and haven't shot a buck in years. Even tho I know size has been slowly increasing. I have no one to blame but myself because i missed our big one last bow season. Needless to say there has to be more push for saving bucks until they are mature and maintaining a healthy doe population for recruitment. I think one thing that hurts fawn survival is the 2 free doe tags given out with the license. I think one tag is ideal. The number of hunter who aren't as experienced or good stewards of the land will shoot the mother and since they have the other tag shoot the fawn with her. It is the i need to fill my tag mentality, If they have it they will use it. I shoot several does each year off of a mix of the different properties i hunt to maintain a good population on each. I always try to take larger single does and usually can accomplish this. I hope people would just not shoot does with fawns and fawns but that is a little too much to ask for... But I think 1 doe tag free would help in this effort. I do not support the holiday hunt or extended bow season. I think to many bucks have lost antlers by then. I would be ok with a no buck gun season, but not bow season. Alot of the biggest bucks are killed during bow season and these people are hunting for the quality of the species. Where gun you get alot of people that will just kill anything to fill a tag. I don't think there is a way this will ever happen but I am a proponent of it for gun only. Also I had heard that there were ideas to change the gun season dates. This would be a tradgidy, keep tradition, we don't need a longer gun or earlier start. Also certain areas of the state have given out an exorbitant amount of crop kill tags. I have had friends herds get decimated in a year. There needs to be better regulation on this. Deer will travel miles to a field that is unharvested over winter. That farmer will be killing deer from many people who would like to harvest them durring season, not to mention bucks durring this. They should not be given an out because they were unable to get there crop off. Most normal years there is no excuse to not get your crop harvested. If they don't they should know the consequence is to have deer mitagate their yeild. In summation, there has been progress I guess towards your goals over the past decades of lowering deer population. I think your data in total kills shows to this trend. I think this is your goal for forest regeneration and less vehicle accidents. I was a forestry major and understand the need for regeneration, but to have these things steer your managment goals is a skew. I think it should be looked at for enjoyment of just the casual hunter who doesn't put the time in and just wants to see a couple deer. There has been gain in overall buck size and numbers which is good trend, but I think it can go farther. In all my favorite sport I tell every one is deer watching... My joy to watch them interact and just be them out in the wild is priceless. Thank you for your commitment and please do the best you can to ensure this is something that many of can do long into the future!
I would like to preface my comments by saying this is the first CDAC I've been able to attend and I thought it was very professional and well done. The multiple antlerless tag system is limiting and ruining hunting in Wisconsin. The more tags there are, the less of a need there is for more hunters. What is the biggest factor contributing to the loss of hunters... loss of hunting land. There are some group hunters that kill everything they see and then they're punished in the years to come with less deer. In a sense, some of the best hunting lands are the ones that people don't shoot many or any does. So the people that either do not trust the DNR or understand that they need to manage the wildlife on their lands are rewarded. I do not believe that it should be incumbent on the land owner to manage their lands for wildlife if we have a state run wildlife agency and wildlife is to be preserved for the commons. Another important point is that Polk county is much too large and diverse of an area to be managed in the exact same (two free doe tags) way throughout. There is a growing wolf population in the northern portion of the county***. As you can see this can create a lot of distrust in the DNR's management practices. I personally know people that have vowed never to shoot does after the past 4-8 years of low deer harvest(statewide, though we had -13 percent from 2018 to 2019, this is the first year since.... 1981 or 1982 that WI has harvested less than 200,000 deer during the rifle season... LOL). In short I feel like if you have to have two free antler-less tags, you need to produce some sort of "PR" video explaining how important your decision is(ie how the quota is even calculated...). Because frankly if the deer numbers are so high, people get all these tags, and there is only 10 percent success rate... People obviously do not trust the DNR and are not shooting does. Perhaps everyone in the deer advisory council should say if everyone of their hunting group shoot all the deer they had tags for. If they did not, they should explain why. If they saw deer and didn't shoot them, isn't that completely against the management objective of the very quota they're putting out? My only other recommendation would be that the in person game registration needs to come back. I say this because CWD is a serious thing and Wisconsin needs to be proactive and responsible in requiring mandatory testing throughout the state(even if tag prices need to increase, which they should anyways to support more wildlife biologist). This would also clear up what Jesse was talking about that he suspects a lot of people aren't registering deer(I was against online registration from the beginning for both the loss of accuracy in our deer harvest numbers and for the loss of tradition). I could go on and on with my grievances. In short, we keep recommending the same things; more and more tags, taking the tradition out of the hunt, allowing the destruction of the BOW season, and drastically changing the rules so frequently. Are we ever going to stop and ask if maybe what we're doing is at all correlated with the loss of hunters. I realize I say the DNR a lot in this and most of the decisions are made by the CDAC but ultimately the DNR is allowing your recommendations. Remember, the DNR needs hunters far more than hunters need the DNR! #BanCrossbows
I support 2 antlerless tags per license, the deer donation program, the Holiday hunt, revising the use of crossbows, and the addition of an antlerless handgun season. Antlerless tags: Please reference the Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2019 comment 2338. This is spot on for my situation. I am a cooperator for Snapshot Wisconsin and participate in DMAP. We get thousands of deer photos every year. We see scores of deer during gun season. Most are does. Some smaller bucks. We have LOTS of buckthorn and honeysuckle. The understory beneath these is barren. We have an active eradication program for buckthorn and honeysuckle in hopes to get more native plants established in the area. According to our DNR forester, native plant establishment will be difficult due to over-browsing from too many deer. Cutting the herd can only be done by reducing the number of does. I believe hunters are hesitant to shoot 2 does because they have no need for that much venison. The key here is to PROMOTE the deer donation program. I wonder how many hunters are not familiar with how the program works or where the processors are located. Hunters can harvest does and support the food shelves at the same time. The Holiday hunt: For me, this hunt is not so much about reducing the herd as it is to provide opportunity for our younger hunters. Statistics show that hunter numbers are declining. To encourage new hunters the Christmas holiday allows my grandkids an opportunity to get into the outdoors with Dad and Grandpa to experience the joy of wildlife viewing and to discover some skills and necessities involved in deer hunting and management. My grandkids live out-of-state and Christmas is the only time we all come together in Wisconsin as a family. Again, multiple antlerless harvest authorizations and the deer donation program helps to support this hunt for those that don’t need the venison for themselves. Crossbows and Handguns: The biometrics clearly point out that buck kills are elevating with the advent of crossbow hunting. Deer herd reduction programs must include harvesting of more does. I favor a season for crossbows where shooters would need to qualify to take a buck by first harvesting an antlerless deer. I would also favor a handgun antlerless only harvest season commensurate with the crossbow archery seasons. In my area, the need to reduce deer numbers is necessary to improve forest/wildlife management. Landowners who choose to manage their properties are handicapped when they cannot manage key components like deer browsing caused by excessive deer numbers. I believe that with the reduction of does, we will also start seeing larger bucks. Fewer does translates to more movement of bucks to locate the does. Traveling bucks are more likely to be seen by hunters. This enhancement will also help attract another set of new hunters on which our hunting heritage depends.
My family has hunted the "Polk County Barrens" in Sterling Township for decades. We now have third generation hunters in our cabin with a fourth generation on the way. During that time, we've seen the deer population and land cover change significantly. In general though, we've had a great experience, with considerable success. For a majority of that period, it was managed for what it is—a Woodland area (Unit 70). The recent switch to managing it as a Farmland Area is particularly disturbing. The Barrens area is simply not farmland and should not be managed as such. The practice of giving two anterless tags to every hunter as if the land is farmland is excessive in this area. Our hunting experience during the past two seasons has been poor. Our 10 person group did not harvest any deer during the 2019 season and only one small buck the previous year (2018). We have kept a camp log for all 47 years we've hunted in the Barrens and have averaged harvesting 6 deer per year. We also track the number of deer seen by our group. The numbers are way down. Some of our party did not even see a deer in 2019. These guys are not at camp to drink and play cards. They are patient, serious hunters.

I have listened to the video and attended CDAC meetings. I believe your population estimate for this area is much too high. My sense is that WDNR biologists are too reliant on past harvest data and don't walk in the woods. I have spent my life and career in the outdoors and see no evidence of over browsing on white pine or red oak. This observation is based on walking miles through prime cover while grouse and deer hunting. Also, the woods in the Barrens area has been heavily harvested over the past decade so there is at least 10 times the browse available compared to the 1980's and 1990's. One last request is more sentimental. You should bring back deer registration stations. You destroyed a charished tradition by going to online registration. The gathering of hunters at the store, gas station or pub where deer were registered was of great benefit to small businesses statewide. In my opinion, these benefits overshadow the ease of administration brought on by online registration. I also think it leads to an undercount of deer harvest because it is now too easy to simply not register a deer.

As I have hunted all over Polk county in one way or another. I am very concerned with the deer population variance through out the county. I hunt in the Clam Falls area and have seen a drastic decline in deer numbers over the last 20 years. In the area I hunt we have had no changes in land usage as it is farm fields and old growth forest. That being said the only thing that changes the population must be depredation and hunting. As the state is about protecting the predators and not the viable animals which bring in revenue, the only way we can get back to a decent population as we had in the past will be to STOP SHOOTING DOES. I believe we need to look closer into smaller areas for population density. Out in the Cushing area there are an abundance of deer as the land owners understand the DNR can not be relied on to do the right thing with the doe tags. I hunt prime farm land close to public land. 20 years ago I would see 40 - 100 deer per day (as my records show). Now I only see an average of 7-20 deer a year (2016-2019) during gun season. This is a very alarming number for a deer hunter with young hunters coming up. Children starting to hunt will not stay interested if there is no reasonable chance for success. If these children are not hooked on hunting there will be NO FUTURE for this sport. As the DNR does not seem to understand where there money comes from this is very concerning issue. As I explain my feeling of this issue to people, I use this analogy. If you consider the deer herd as we are farmers. Farmers do not butcher there heifers. They butcher there young bulls. The heifers are the future of there heard. Without females to make the new stock there will be none in the future to continue the cycle. If we look at the deer heard in our state as anything else we are doing it wrong. In conclusion. We have to stop shooting does and stop right now. If we do not there will be no hunters in the future to spend money buying tags to support the DNR's money needs. If these fees are not there the DNR will rely on more taxes to pay the bills.
I have concerns about the size of the deer herd in our area of NW Wisconsin (I believe it may be at an all time high), and the impact the current size of the herd is having on the landscape. It is clear to me that there are fewer deer hunters gun hunting in our area than in past years, and that over time, for at least the last 15 to 20 years, the number of deer hunters hunting during the gun deer season in our area has been declining. My family has a cabin on 320th north of Evergreen Ave and south of the old DNR fire lookout tower. I am concerned with the forestry management practices in our area, and with the size of the deer herd in our area. I would support the use of controlled burns to manage this "brush prairie" biome. I believe the size of the herd is too large, and that the deer are overbrowsing the landscape. I understand that it may not be safe or practical to apply controlled burning as a management technique in our area. But, I still think it should be considered and perhaps experimental and limited controlled burns may be feasible. I understand that there are most likely cost issues with applying controlled burning as a management technique. However, this biome, in my opinion, is becoming increasingly unhealthy, biologically speaking, because fire is no longer part of the natural ecology.

The format for the April CDAC meeting using the call in number worked well. It was convenient and fairly easy to follow along. I believe that it would be a great idea to further promote this style of participation in the future. Perhaps a method could be worked out to use both in person and call in participation. It should easily be possible using today's technology. I feel that the season recommendations for anterless quotas for private and public lands are way to high. I also feel that the season recommendations for bonus anterless quotas for private and public lands are way to high. As I listened to the discussions during the April meeting it seemed like there were more opinions expressed and decisions made based on these opinions. Only one CDAC board member mentioned that the decisions should be made based on the metrics that were presented, thank you Ken! The metrics show that the harvest numbers are down for the 3rd year in a row. Car kills are also down. Both of these metrics should indicate that the herd is declining. The CDAC board should not be making decisions based on opinions or second guessing the data, believe in the data and use the data to make your decisions. More tags and seasons are not the answer. Hunters are only going to harvest as the metrics show only so many deer. Except for a few, hunters will never fill every tag that they are issued based on your recommendations. More deer would help to lure the hunters back into the field. One metric that is missing, the number of hunters that are primarily hunting Polk county. We know the number of licenses sold state wide, which as the metrics show is in serious decline. It should be pretty easy to ask what is the primary unit hunted when purchasing a license and add a county specific metric for number of hunter. Please reconsider and reduce the overall quota, the number of free anterless tags issued with each license and the number of available bonus anterless tags that are available for purchase.
I own land in McKinley. I have owned the land for 9 years but have hunted the area for about 13 years. The Doe population needs to be protected up there! My wife and I sat all day (sun up to sun down) opening weekend of rifle hunting and did not see one single whitetail deer. I have never ever had a season like that. I typically do not shoot does because our numbers have been down in the area for a few years. I bow hunt all fall and usually see anywhere from 10-15 different bucks. Between my cousin and I, we have 80 acres. We have about 1 doe and fawn on each forty and that is it, each year. Every night of bow season the same doe and fawn walk by me headed out to the corn. And this year my neighbors shot both of them. I completely understand that the deer population varies based on the location (vegetation, comfort for bedding, water source, etc.) Our land has everything they need, but the does are just hard to come by. If we don't do something about it, the doe and buck numbers will BOTH suffer. I understand that the southern part of the county has a ton of deer and its normal to see 20+ out feeding in a field. Has it ever been considered to split Polk county into 2 zones at Hwy 8? Polk North and Polk South. With the wolves and cars, and everybody getting multiple FREE doe tags in our area, we are slaughtering the deer population north of hwy 8. I personally believe that it doesn't make sense to give free doe tags. Support the DNR with the money made by charging at least 5 bucks per doe tag; and double it for non-residents. The holiday hunt absolutely should not happen North of Hwy 8 in Polk county. We need our does. This winter wasn't too bad but last winter took a huge toll. Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion. I am far from the grumpy, negative guy who just wants it to be his way. I am a thirty year old who grew up in the area, purchased land, and hopes to have a healthy and well balanced deer population for many years to come.

I have hunted deer in northern Polk county near Clam Falls on my home farm since I was 12 years old. I am now 72 and haven't missed a season. In those years I have seen the highs and lows of deer hunting. I used to see many deer during the season, upwards of 75-80 deer during the 9 days. Now, over the last 5 seasons I have seen a total of 7 deer. Last season, I saw 3 and the season before I saw 0. It is hard to convince me that there are so many deer out there that you have to give away 2 antlerless tags with each license. I have not shot a doe in 25 years and will not shoot one on this or any other land where I hunt. I enjoy being in the woods hunting deer, but I don't need to shoot one, but I sure need to see some to keep my interest up. I never thought that I would say that I am getting bored with deer hunting, but when you are in the woods all day every day of the season and don't see anything on land you have hunted all your life and know it is good habitat maybe it is time to quit paying the DNR for the right to do that. That will probably happen if the next season is the same as the last 5 have been and I don't expect it to get any better with all of the antlerless tags. This is the biggest cause of the hunter decline. I have a grandson who is on his second year of deer hunting. How am I supposed to keep him interested when he doesn't see anything. I would like to see the north and west part of Polk county managed differently than the rest of the county because it is totally different habitat. Not nearly as open and not as much farm land. So please consider the hunter sitting in the woods not seeing anything year after year when you make your recommendations. Remember we are paying the bills.
I have been very happy spending my years hunting in the great state of Wisconsin. So much so, I plan on buying land and retiring in Wisconsin. I have heard there was a proposed change to the archery/crossbow season as well as the rifle season. Among the changes was creating a separate crossbow season, not allowing archery hunting during rifle and extending the rifle season. If these changes were set in place, it would seriously impact my decision to continue to hunt Wisconsin, as well as purchase land. The proposal truly seems to pander to a small group with no concern for the whole. A separate crossbow season is ludicrous. If that is a must, where does it end? A traditional archery season. A pistol season. A straight walled cartridge season. Why not a separate season for all variations? A crossbow is part of archery and should be kept that way. The changes to the rifle season (extending the dates and eliminating archery during). The majority of rifle hunters only hunt the first weekend and most animals harvested are during the first week. Extending it another 9 days would do little to the harvest. When adding the issue of archery hunting during rifle season, it becomes apparent this is pandering to a small group. The hunters who want to spend more time in the woods, took up archery. They did not complain and propose limiting another hunters time in the woods. The seasons have worked well for more time than I have been alive and should not be changed because some people are looking to fill tags easier.

I have been hunting in Polk County for the last 40 years on land that we own. The last 2 years and especially last year I experienced the worst hunting in 40 years. This past season I didn’t see a deer on the opening weekend. In years past I normally would see 10 to 20 deer per day. I hunt hard I spent most of the day in different locations of our property. I hunt the entire season with the exception of Thanksgiving Day. Our land is in northern Polk County. The Central Farmland classification is not appropriate for that portion north of HIGHWAY 8. This area is changing with many farms going out of business. I am going to be 69 years old soon and the late deer hunting season is quite often very cold and does limit time spent in the woods. I would propose an early firearm season perhaps a muzzle loader season. I am also a bow hunter and I would give up part of the long archery season to have a muzzle loader season when it is warmer say late October early November. We are attempting to bring up the next generation of hunters namely grandchildren. These young people are the future of hunting which is very important to Wisconsin’s economy. When they don’t see or get an opportunity in an entire season they become very disenchanted with deer hunting and this breaks my heart as I truly love the sport and I am concerned that deer hunting as a family tradition will be lost. Please listen to the hunters and not the lobbyists.

IF MOST OF YOUR INFORMATION IS COMING OFF OF DEER HARVEST REPORTS YOU NEED TO GET BACK TO DOING THE METAL TAGGING REGISTRATION. THERE ARE PROBLY 40% OF DEER BEING HARVESTED WITH OUT BEING REGISTERED. WITH THE METAL TAGGING WHEN THEY BRING THE DEER TO BE PROCESED THE PROCESER WONT PROCESS THE DEER WITH OUT THE TAG THERE FOR THEY WILL HAVE TO REGISTER THE DEER OR CUT IT UP THEM SELFS AND TO MANY PEOPLE ARE TO LAZY TO DO THAT NOW DAYS. WHEN I WAS YOUNGER IT HALF THE FUN TO GO TO THE BARS/REGISTRATION AREAS TO SEE WHAT OTHER HUNTERS GOT AND HEAR THERE STORIES. THAT WAS EXCITING FOR ME AND MADE ME WANT TO HUNT HARDER. THIS ONLINE/PHONE REGISTRATION HAS TAKEN THE FUN OUT OF THAT. THE WAY I GOT HOOKED ON DEER HUNTING WAS BACK IN THE LATE 90'S WHEN I TURNED 12 AND WAS ABLE TO SEE MULTIPAL DEER EVERY DAY I WAS OUT HUNTING BACK WHEN THE HERD WAS STRONG, IT WAS FUN. NOW THE YOUTH DOESN'T GET TO DO THAT WITH THE LOWER DEER NUMBERS. I HAVE MANY FREINDS WITH YOUNGER KIDS THAT HAVE NO INTRRESS IN GOING OUT HUNTING BECAUSE THEY ONLY SEE A DEER OR 2 FOR A HOLE WEEKEND OF HUNTING. THEY DONT GET TO HAVE THE FUN AND THE EXCITMENT THAT I GOT TO ENJOY IN THE GOOD YEARS. CROSS BOWS SHOULD GO BACK TO THE WAY IT USE TO BE ELDERLY / DR. NOTE. THESE CROSS BOWS ARE WOUNDING MORE DEER AND MAKING IT EASIER TO POACH DEER. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A CROB BOW SEASON IT SHOULD BE FROM OCT. 1ST THOUGH OCT. 17TH OR AFTER MUZZLELOADER SEASON.
I feel that there is a considerable contrast between the northern 2/3 of Polk county and the lower 1/3. The overall population of deer (generally estimated) south of hwy 8 is not equal to the density of the deer in the northern 2/3 of the county. There are far fewer deer in that section of the county, and overall, the hunting experience is much poorer than in the north. I think it is enough of a disparity that there should be something done to account for this. * To be consistent, the state of Wisconsin should outlaw baiting in every county of the state. There really is no solid reason to continue to allow baiting for deer in the state. Just make the change. * Return tagging requirements in Wisconsin. There are too many deer that are not being registered, and the numbers are not telling the full story. Too easy for people to 1. Not have to tag their deer, and 2. Not phoning in their deer/registrations. I am ok with no back tags, but the removal of tagging and loose registration rules are not capturing the real numbers on the landscape. * I would be in favor of going to earn-a-buck framework in the future. It is the only tool available to help manage doe populations that has shown to be effective in Wisconsin. Plus, I believe it encourages a better buck age structure, which would be a side-benefit to hunters that I don’t think they are really aware of.

My family has land that we own and hunt on. We try to manage it a little bit to hopefully see a few more mature deer. Some neighbors will shoot anything they see regardless of size and age including fawns. Any extension of the doe season in this area of Polk County (North of Cushing) will result in too many does being killed. I have seen this for the last several years. We also have several large farms in the area and they complain about deer problems but will not let anyone hunt their land beside their family. If they do not like the amount of deer in the area they should start by opening up their land to more people. I have also noticed in the last few years more people road hunting and shooting in the evening during bow season. Most people who are sighting their rifles do not shoot once right at dusk during the rut. It would be nice to see a game warden around once in a while. It’s frustrating for those of us that follow the rules and then have to deal with people that trespass, road hunt, and poach with no respect for property owners. What we need in this area is the DNR to step up and enforce the existing rules and also to send a message that it’s important to be a responsible sportsman. Changing the season dates and how many deer a person can shoot in a year is not going to fix the problems that we have in this area.

During the call in meeting and in the presentation it was said that deer harvest numbers were down in 2019 due to multiple factors including corn still standing, cold weather during the hunting season and the 2019 season being that latest it can be compared to the 2018 season being the earliest it can be. It seems we hear different excuses every year for why the deer harvest is lower than the previous year. It never seems the reason is because of a reduced deer population. As a hunter and land owner I have seen both rapid drops in the deer population year over year in some years and slow drops in the population year over year in some years. I have yet to see an increase in deer population year over year since owning my land for 15 years while making improvements to attract deer to my property. I live in an area where many people own small pieces of property and most people hunt. Many people allow friends and family to hunt their small properties as well. These small tracts of land cannot sustain reasonable deer populations with that number of hunters receiving multiple antlerless permits each season. The people around me who own larger pieces of property also have large hunting parties and have the ability to keep the deer population in check without any form of extra tags or hunting season.
Deer numbers were about average on my 330 acres going into the season. After poachers killed at least 7 confirmed within a full section (wardens eventually caught and cited, with help from area landowners) plus the regular harvested seasonal deer the numbers went way down. The rifle season allows for much poaching and over harvest. Archery hunting limits the amount of deer taken but extends the season for sportsmen. I am for an extension of an archery season. Not for a gun extension or holiday hunt. I spent the second half of the rifle season chasing poachers and trespassers. The wardens are overwhelmed as are the Sheriffs during that time. Too many irresponsible people can wreck the wildlife projects I have built a lifetime to create. It’s just sickening looking at the cost I have paid only to have the suggestion to lengthen the season. And create more hunting periods. Youth hunt, holiday hunt, for doe only hunt. Polk county is a large and diverse county. To implement rules that govern my hunting are that apply county wide is a loss of common sense. Please limit the amount of deer to harvest. As well as the length of time “sportsmen” have to harvest. With every season comes poaching opportunities.

My comments are this. We have very localized large groups of deer. Make a more detailed map and give out extra tags for certain areas not the entire county. If you want more doe shot make restrictions so we can only shoot mature bucks. Do like other states do. With a 8pt or bigger restriction. Then guys would feel more comfortable shooting a few doe for meat. Most trophy hunters won't shoot there doe because if you have more buck fawns being born. You have a better chance of at least one making it into the 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 year old mature status. I personally sat over 50 afternoons in my stands on 3 different polk county properties and never even had a doe walk within 30 yds. However i can drive a mile down the road to a property where no one hunts and count 60 doe in the same field. Honestly if you gave me 1 doe tag an only 1 buck tag i would feel better about shooting a doe than i doe knowing everyone around me can shoot a buck and 2 doe with there bow and a buck and 2 doe with there gun.let people pay for bonus tags dont give so many away. That way guys will actually try to get there money worth. And as far as doing a doe only year a wouldn't even buy a tag and the herd would grow even bigger.

Although I do not live in Polk County I am part of group of guys who own a cabin on land we lease from the county. I have hunted deer inthe county for about 20 years and now primarily gun hunt on private land but still do some archery hunting for deer on public land. I am very aware of forest damage caused by deer browsing on both public and private land and see it more pronounced on private land where deer numbers seem to be larger but forest damage is still very evedent on public land. I recommend providing as much antlerless deer hunting opportunity as available in the DNR's deer season framework to maximize harvest by the hunting public. Currently antlerless permit levels have exceeded the desire of the public to purchase them thus allowing deer numbers to continue growing in Polk county. By providing an antlerless holiday hunt in the county and extending the archery/crossbow season to the end of January maximizes public hunting opportunity and the ability for them to harvest deer with the permits they possess . Hopefully harvest increases would be sufficient to have a positive effect on decreasing deer populations and improving overall forest habitat conditions.

We have owned land in this area for forty years. It’s very disappointing to see the lack of deer in our area and the trend continues year after year. I have been working on property management all spring and it’s shocking how few deer are in the area. We also used to shoot a number of big bucks in this area and that has become a thing of the past. Please start making some responsible decisions about the deer population. If the goal is to maintain it appears there is some work to do! As of now the population is decreasing and the antlerless tags just keep getting handed out. My perception is that the goal is actually to eradicate the deer. I had a first year deer hunter with me last year and after the slowest opening weekend we have ever had in Polk county I ended up seeking permission on land in Dunn county, so he could see some deer and have a chance at a successful hunt. Nine hunters in Polk county last year and we harvested ONE deer opening weekend! Again please start making some responsible decisions about the deer herd in this area. It’s very disappointing to see the results of all the antlerless deer getting harvested!
Please support bringing back earn-a-buck and a baiting ban. I understand each would require legislation, but your CDAC can voice support for each by contacting the NRB and elected officials. I hunt an area that was hit hard by the July 19, 2019 storm. Deer numbers seemed to be negatively impacted last year by the storm. However, many areas were inaccessible because few areas were logged and deer were thus more difficult to access. As loggers wrap up in the area and trees regenerate, the deer herd will increase tremendously. We should be in a maintain or decrease mode. I had one wolf on camera, but many different bears in 2019. I have not yet seen evidence around Pipe Lake of a serious deer population decline as a result of predators. However, predator populations have clearly increased in last 25 years that I have hunted. Very happy to see Holiday Hunt. It is a great opportunity to manage herd, especially for property owners who hunt a different part of the state during nine day firearm season. I hunt in Pierce County during the nine day season, but focus on antlerless deer removal with the later seasons in Polk.

I believe maintaining POLK county at this time is a smart way to go. I would just recommend only giving out one antlerless tag per license. Some hunters feel they have to kill an animal because the DNR gave them two tags rather than harvesting only what you need. It's a childish mentality, but unfortunately, very present in this rural area. I am sure other parts of the state also have this same thing happen. With COVID-19, my suggestion would be to leave the seasons as they were for 2019 and then, when folks are able to meet in groups again, THEN make changes for 2021. Thank you for offering this survey and allowing comment. I hope it helps you make decisions. I am just thinking that people are a little uneasy right now with the stay at home policy. If you start messing with their sacred deer seasons right now, they might freak out. As someone told me once when things were heating up...lay low. That's my advice. Lay low with your changes this year. Thank you. What do you call a deer with no eye? NO IDEAR!

When I was 13 yrs old I shot my first 20 yds from the cabin. Our cabin is on the barrons on the trade river. I remember cars lined up . seemed bumper to bumper. Every car that went by had deer tied on over trunks in the trunks over the front fenders. If you didn't see 30 deer you where sleeping in woods. There was so many deer on a tough winter that they ate the trees up as far as they could reach. The DNR wanted people to feed them. If you want deer on public land quit putting doe tags on public land. And that will bring more hunters. The only deer I seen in 2019 ran across the road 3/4 of mile ahead. We got 2 bucks in our camp and all are great hunters that got a lot of stay in the stand all day. 8 hunters. That is only my story. they can all tell you the same. You can feed deer when they are starving, but don't feed them when you are hunting. You can put a corn field in your back yard; and hunt over ' but you can't hunt over a little pile in thr woods. give me a break. 81yrs old

Biologist numbers indicate that populations continue to rise despite the maintain objective. I am concerned that there is an increasing imbalance in the herd sex ratios given the low doe harvest. Many Hunters only take Bucks and therefore are contributing to the imbalance. I would strongly recommend that the State and County consider earn a buck programs to help improve the balance. Last year I executed a QDMA camera survey on my 320 acre farm and calculated a 4.5:1 Doe to Buck Ratio. We need to take whatever steps necessary to increase the Doe Harvest. Good Hunter responsibility is much more than going out on Opening weekend of Gun Season and shooting the first thing with horns that walks by. Last year on my farm, we harvested 10 does and no bucks. I expect that trend to continue until we achieve a better balance. I encourage the CDAC and fellow Hunters in Polk County to act responsibly to ensure a healthy herd for generations to come.
I would like to see an earlier season for gun hunting. Why can’t we be like out west, you get a buck tag and once you shoot your buck your done, unless you have bonus antlerless tags. The dnr and insurance companies are always pushing for more deer to be killed. If the season was open earlier, more deer would be taken due to warmer weather for hunters to be out in and you would catch deer in the rut, this would improve kill numbers and if the season was longer, hunters would go more. Hunter numbers are down and this equates to less time in the woods for the season. But nothing will change and I don’t know why I am doing this. Always the thing you hear is “Tradition” and times do change except changing tradition and yet we change antlerless seasons and extend them and have changed we can now have uncased guns, and do not need to tag a deer unless you leave it unattended so therefore why can’t we change the season?

Hunting pressure last year during the 9-day season was considerably high in Polk County, in my opinion, especially on public land. I felt smothered by hunters who'd claimed their spot in the woods for the entire season, by putting up a stand and leaving it there. For this reason, 2019 was not an enjoyable hunt. I assume the unusually high number of hunters in Polk County has something to do with the number of antlerless permits that were available, combined with the lack of opportunity to hunt. Everyone hunted the nine-day season, it seems. Given that the antlerless quota is the same for 2020, I would like to see expanded opportunities to harvest antlerless deer, by adding the Holiday Hunt this season -- that may spread out the hunting pressure a bit, and provide more opportunity for still hunters to move through the woods without disturbing the hunt of stand hunters who may otherwise be sitting on every knoll. Thanks.

I would like to see restrictions for non residents for antlerless tags, because the land that I hunt on has public land on 3 sides. Residents and non residents go there just to shoot antlerless deer. After season I am lucky to see a deer. I know some are still there and new ones may move into the area, but with each new season I have been seeing less each year. There are a lot of excuses by the DNR for lack of deer sightings, I hunt as many days as I can with the bow including late season, I hunt every day of gun season, so I am out there all season long. I am not a fan of the crossbow, but since they will always be here they should be classified as a rifle and used during the rifle season, that’s what Colorado does, some of these cross bows advertise as meet your next rifle. I would like the DNR to manage for antler size, if this is not realistic for gun season then at least for bow hunting. Thank you.

I live in NE Polk county where the storms that occurred in the summer of 2019 had a huge impact on everything. I’m okay with regeneration but I’ve seen more wolves than I’m comfortable with. I’m not opposed to wolves. I’m concerned that after watching the video that you are not considering the substantial damage to our lands here and the predators that have increased. I’m a bow hunter and just love being in my woods. But for the first year in my hunting, I never saw a deer. I’m also not seeing as many in the fields and near me that I am used to this spring. In these crazy times, I think you may want to consider doing aerial counting. I am concerned about all wildlife and the balance of all. Thank you for making all the statistics available. But I also know statistics can be deceiving. I appreciate you letting me have a say in this. I want the best for all. Happy Earth Day.

Hi, Wisconsin's deer season is very confusing. It was my family's first time doing a youth and regular adult deer hunt. We saw ZERO deer. None. Lots of gunshots around us. My previous experience leads me to believe that deer are being baited to certain locations--most shots were just in the morning. We hunted all day each time we went and saw nothing. Second--too many seasons. I'm not sure the reasoning. But families have other priorities besides figuring out which weekend to hunt. Most people work during the day--so why even have the season open Monday through Friday? Why not have deer season each weekend from Mid-November through January? We probably won't return. I’d rather go to North Dakota where hunters are few, deer are plentiful, and the season is very well though out. My son’s first deer hunting experience was aweful. I just hope he wants to go again. Very frustrating.
Too many hunters sit in there mansion tree stands all rifle season. If more hunters got out and did drives on the properties they hunt it would get the deer moving so they could be shot. Where I hunt the deer population I see depends on what crop is in the fields on the property I hunt. Last year once rifle opened I had hardly any deer on my trail cams into this spring. The deer move to the thicker areas of land, which some are not hunted where others are hunted by a stand in the field. The neighbor sits in there stand and there are 20 does in the field, they don't shoot till horns come out, and they do not drive the woods. Honestly for rifle season I would recommend earn a buck. A lot of hunters hunt for horns. I do that during bow hunting, and I fill my freezer during rifle. Maybe letting hunters donate the deer for free to food shelves and the state picking up butcher cost?

A holiday hunt is one of the dumbest tools in a area where it doesn’t make a smidge of a impact. It creates problems with other recreational hobbies (snowmobile). It also is redundant to have from September opener, basically rifle hunting(crossbow) till the nine day gun season, then a 10 day muzzle loading, then a 4 day doe slaughter, and then Back to crossbow. If common sense was being used in this thought process, you would see that there is already 23 days of rifle. Now as far as I’m concerned the crossbow should no be included in the archery season. Sense it is then you have to consider that weapon (crossbow) as a rifle as well! So the deer after gun seasons are over turn nocturnal. They are pretty much up till the end of archery season. So let’s put the stupid holiday hunt in and pretty much cancels late season archery. Even if you add a few days on, it’s for not!!!

I feel like we offer to many seasons and the deer numbers are down in the area of the county that I hunt. 2019 season I seen 2 deer the entire 9 day season and I hunt all day every day no matter the weather. I archery hunt every weekend and sometimes after work from around Halloween until rifle season and seen far less deer then years past and did not harvest anything within that season. I literally shot the only 2 deer I seen during rifle season and hunt with several friends at our cabin and our group as a whole didn't see or harvest even half as many deer as we did in 2018. To many seasons are making for little to no pressure so if a deer leaves an area they do not return as nobody is out hunting like years past. Let's consider limiting the hunt season to a traditional 9 day only season and see what happens to the number of hunters compared to the harvest level.

Why do the CDACs always want so many deer killed. I've lived and hunted in polk county for 25+ yrs and the deer population has steadily decreased to such low numbers that I now have friends, family and youth that won't even buy a license to deer hunt because they sit for the entire season to maybe see one deer. There is no reason to kill off so many. I put in the time to increase habitat, food, and spend days on end during bow season and see less and less deer each year. Why do we need to give out so many tags? I strongly appose the holiday hunt because bow hunters who hunt late season can not harvest bucks... Pretty contractive, the CDACs want ALL deer killed but we are unable to harvest bucks (even wounded from gun season, as I've seen the last time we had a holiday hunt.) Please reconsider the holiday hunt, there is no reason for it in polk county.

First of all let me say that I haven't bow hunted for a few years mainly due to time constraints. I am all for bowhunting. However, when I started deer hunting bow hunting wasn't even a blip on the screen. Now we have crossbows which easily kill at 75 to 100 yards. Back in the day of stick bows 20 yards was about it. In my opinion the traditional nine day rifle season is the main season with 700,000 people partaking. My question is why has the rifle hunter been diminished to being satisfied with the left over bucks from the bow hunters. Why do the bow hunters get to hunt the rut every year? Isn't there something that can be done to give the rifle guy who never picked a bow up in his life a shot at a big buck? Maybe a drawing for a number of rifle permits to hunt the rut. I know it would be complicated but I'm sure there must be a solution.
The deer herd in this area appears to be at a good level and the deer appear healthy without crops nor forest areas being decimated. I am concerned of a new proposal to limit crossbow hunting to a subset of the bow season. The argument to limit to just October seems to have come without any logic or reason. The big difference between the two devices is accuracy - mostly wounding of deer and subsequent loss of them. The crossbow has likely reduced the number of wounded and lost deer to becoming recovered deer. The argument that hunters feel too many are killed during the bow season seems pretty silly, certainly not a sentiment passed around in this part of the state. Leave the bow and gun seasons as they were in 2019. Moving it a week earlier seems like a ploy to attract more folks, but I wonder if data really backs that up.

I feel the DNR should step in on many private land owners to recommend they allow hunters on their land. They could do a sign-in/ sign-out so if there is any damage to property then that hunter or that party would be responsible. The number of hunters would be determined by the number of acres. The deer are not stupid, after opener weekend they know where they can go to hide and its on private land. Many private land owners hunt yes, but many only hunt 1 or 2 days and their tags are filled. I know many that have 40+ acres and its only 1 or 2 people hunting 1 or 2 days. The deer know they can hide there the rest of the season. Also many private land owners do not hunt, but will not allow hunting; again, the deer know they can hide there. The public land is overrun with hunters and the deer hide on non-hunted private land. PLEASE HELP.

I think you need to limit the length of time you hunt with a crossbow. The buck harvest is increasing and I had no problem with elderly or handicapped people using a cross bow, but to have them hunt for months with that kind of weapon is crazy. Just like the technology improvements in muzzle loaders...they are now a high powered rifle, nothing rustic about them. There is no need for a special season, if that if the weapon of choice let them use it during the gun season. And as long as I'm on the subject....there is no reason whatsoever for a person to hunt with a weapon that holds more than five shells. When people are cranking off multiple shots at a running deer they are in no way sure of what is beyond their target. Make people be good responsible hunters. I am disappointed if I have to fire more than one shot.

I dont think hunter input matters. I have hunted this area for 50 years, and every year my friends and family see less and less deer. Many friends have quit hunting, even though we have cabins and own land. We are in the woods year around, we see whats going on. I walk my land, and hunt grouse also, and seldom do I even jump a deer. Years ago you go walk 100 yards in any woods and jump a deer, not any more in the last few years. First the baiting, and then issuing so many tags. It use to be driving the roads at night was an accident waiting to happen. Now your lucky if you see a deer, even during the rut. And also calling the area west of river road in sterling township farm land, what a joke! It seems like the plan is to wipe out the deer herd and clear cut every bit of public land.

You need to go back to the old way. Every year I see less and less deer. The deer are being hunted to hard, too many seasons. Get ride of the Holiday Hunt, youth hunt, and combine muzzle loader with rifle season. The deer are being decimated because of the predators and too many hunting seasons. If you want to get more people involved in hunting you need more deer. Creating more seasons to kill more deer will only reduce the number even more. I have sat out in the woods for the last 9 years all day every day of the 9 day gun season. The number of deer I have seen each year has only decreased. If this continues I will join the many people that have already stopped hunting. I wont sit out in the woods if I am not seeing deer. PRESERVE THE DEER NOT DETROY THE DEER!

Keep the 9 day gun deer season in November. Leave the Bow / Crossbow seasons the same as in the past unless there is a valid reason to extend it into January. The problem in Polk County last year was the devastating storm that went through the Turtle Lake, Almena, Poskin and Barron area which raised havoc with the deer population. Not that the storm killed them but their habitat was destroyed, restricted their movement and certainly created a highly restricted view in these wooded area for the hunters. It was impossible to see any deer because of the obstructions. But that's not the DNR's problem, it is the act of nature which we, as hunters, must accept and modify our approach to hunting deer. Thank you for asking for my opinions. An Old Time Deer Hunter.
I would like to see more deer around the southern end of Polk County. I have lived in the southern end of Polk County for 38 years, and I think the deer population is about the lowest I have experienced. I look for antlers and scout a lot, and I just don’t see the amount of deer sign I would expect to see. I feel southern Polk County has great agricultural and enough wood lots to carry a higher deer population than is in existence today. I travel to Iowa and other counties in WI to deer hunt and look for antlers, because, to be honest, the deer hunting in southern Polk county is hardly worth getting excited for... it’s not a surprise to me, hunter numbers are dropping off based on the low density of deer I experience in the southern end of Polk county...

I think only to be fare in accordance with other states because I do run into a number of out of state hunters, I feel Wisconsin should charge out of state hunter what their state charges us to hunt in their state if we choose to. For example, if Iowa charges $500 to hunt in their state then Wisconsin should charge $500 for Iowa residents to hunt in Wisconsin. This would also raise more money for Wisconsin DNR. Just something to consider. I do run into a large amount of Minnesota hunters hunting in Wisconsin during bow season and rifle season which is fine but causes me to find another place to hunt in my own state when trying to hunt public land. Do we have a separate hunt for out of state folks? Maybe they can only hunt the second weekend of rifle season?

Thanks for the opportunity regarding the deer hunt. I want to take an opportunity to say something about panfish limits. I agree with 25 limit on panfish in a person's possession. What I really have a problem with is when a boat pulls up near me, I fish from a private dock, and there are 5-6 people in the boat and they are catching and keeping everything they pull in. I feel that there should be a limit per boat as well, not necessarily per person in the boat. I am speaking specifically about Bone Lake in Polk County. This is so hard for me to watch. For the last three summers the same people come to the same spot, every day for a week, 5-6 in the boat, are pulling 150 panfish a day out of the lake. They say they need to fill the freezer for the year.

We put out trail cameras beginning every spring through the end of the year. They show the same deer consistently, as well as the numbers have been getting fewer each year. We used to hear numerous gun shots every opening weekend across the road on public land when we first bought out land last year not one shot was heard from there. Talking to a couple of hunters who do hunt it they said they see less deer, equals less hunter. Go back to applying for a doe tag and not giving them out like candy. To many hunters a loosing interest in hunting because of all the rule changes. These rule changes make it look like the state doesn't want a deer population. Too many special hunts, too many extra tags it shouldn't be about how much revenue can be generated.

I moved to Polk county from Minnesota, mainly to change my deer hunting for the better. Little did I know the Wisconsin dnr are pushing for extinction with the auto insurance companies padding their pockets. I've never witnessed such great potential in habitat in the area, yet deer barely exist. Last year I purchased a archery and gun license and you handed me six tags. You should be ashamed of yourselves! NO MORE DOE TAGS! One any deer license and if it were up to me we would be drawing for a buck tag. Look at all the states in the Midwest that are flourishing and copy their plan. It's that easy. If you want people to hunt here you need more quality and quantity. If no changes are made to improve the deer herd, I've bought my last Wisconsin tag.

Strongly oppose the holiday hunt. There's already enough hunting time, would even like to see only 1 free tag with each license. Many people I know spend a lot of time in the woods we're not seeing the numbers the DNR says there are. Maybe this is part of the reason hunter numbers are going down. The people in the field have a better idea of how many there are. I drive back and forth to work at the perfect times to hit deer, not seeing them then either. The drop in kill will probably happen here like the rest of the state. I wish the DNR had a reimbursement program for all of the hunting gear I've purchased and over $4000 a year in property taxes I pay for bad deer hunting. Considering just hunting other states and Canada!
1. Stop shooting the small bucks. Put a size limit on bucks to increase the age. We need older bucks to create trophy bucks. 2. Need more deer stop shooting the does. 3. Need less hunters with the Northern hunters displaced due to the wolves eating all the deer those hunters now moved down south. Need to split the hunters. 4. Eliminate the large group deer drives n public land. They are shooting all our deer and then go sit on their deer abundant private land. 5. Plant food trees and deer plots on public land to allow for better food sources and to keep them from the farmers fields. You need to take action or more people will stop hunting. If you make it a trophy hunt there will be more hunters to enjoy the sport.

As you can see I have been hunting for a long time. In the same area with same farming conditions. Deer population is so bad my family is loosing interest. We have gone from a family that was so excited to deer hunt to a family that is loosing interest rapidly. It’s because it’s no fun. What you don’t seem to understand is you can make the season year round but if there are no deer it makes no difference. Years ago we would see easily 20-30 deer per day. I have 2 grandsons (18 and 20 years old). They have collectively seen 5 deer in the last 3 years. ITS NOT FUN ANYMORE. Difference in my opinion. We see many bear, wolves, coyote all that where almost non existent 30 years ago. And you have to stop shooting does.

I think that we take less deer when we have a deer season that runs from mid Sept. to JAN. The good hunters have their deer and there is no one out hunting. I heard the least amount of shooting this year than any other year. If memory doesn’t fail me I heard 5 shots opening day. There were large 40 acre fields that where planted and left all winter. Many food plots by neighbors. The deer just didn’t move. Everyone was siting in their 10 ft. Comfortable stands. I’m guilty as charged also food, nice chair, heated. I’m 80 yrs old and need some of the comforts of home. I enjoy watching the deer, how dependent the fawns are on their mothers, how they tell me when a buck is coming etc.

The deer population is drastically declining. Not sure where you are getting your numbers but from what I see sitting in the woods on average of 30-40 sits, I see fewer deer than I did 3-4 years ago. I hunt 200 acres. So there should be deer everywhere. Also we need to bring back registration stations. Registering your harvest over the phone is leading to less deer actually being registered. So I feel like that throws the numbers way off. PLUS IT WILL STIMULATE THE ECONOMY!!!! If we keep killing all of these does, in 10 years there will be 1-2 deer per square mile, in order to get kids involved more into deer hunting, I feel like polk county needs to manage the heard better.

If we are going to ruin basically all of the December archery season by having a holiday hunt, it would be prudent to extend the archery season until January 31st. Adverse weather conditions are likely to keep many hunters home in January anyways. However, there are enough hunters who invest a large amount of time practicing, hunting, and scouting deer for the chance to harvest an animal with archery equipment, that is seems inappropriate to cut a large portion of their season out by allowing gun hunting for most of December with nothing in return. If we are taking the drastic step to add yet another antlerless season, why can’t we extend the archery season?

Remember that Polk counties objective is to MAINTAIN, not increase the herd. By looking at the numbers this quota will increase our deer herd. Very mild winter, will a 2019 kill slightly less that normal means our deer herd is growing. The holiday hunt is a must. Extending archery season also a good idea. Issuing more than 2 extra free doe tags? Not many hunters will shoot 2 does the way it is, so this is unlikely to affect the herd. A holiday hunt and extended archery season is the best option for people to fill tags. We can’t let a few user groups control late season hunting, especially when these activities are weather dependent and unpredictable.
I am opposed to having a holiday hunt season for Polk county. The holiday hunt season is during prime snowmobiling conditions. If the holiday hunt were to be put into place it will potentially shut down snowmobiling as well. Snowmobiles provide a large revenue to local restaurants and bars that have already been impacted by COVID-19. Implementing the holiday hunt would be selfish as there is already a designated hunting season, it would take away from snowmobiles that do not hunt, and it also takes away traffic from local bars and restaurants. Please take into the considering as many people would feel a negative impact from the state implementing this.

Concerning the public "Barrens" area, this portion of Polk county would best be served to hunters as either part of the northern region or separate the farmland region with NO BONUS TAGS for a period of two years. Public land is only 9%; so it's very crowded, and the deer population is fewer and fewer each season. Because we are in Polk county, the numbers are unfair to us, lots of deer, but not in our part of the county. It may be not feasible but we need to go back to the units to better get a hold of our deer population. Micro management is possible...if the money is there. HISTORY TELLS US WHERE WE HAVE BEEN, AND WHICH WAY OUR FUTURE SHOULD GO!

I would be in full support of antler restrictions, possibly a 4pt minimum on at least one side like some other states are doing. Wisconsin has the pedigree to be in the conversation as a whitetail mecca state with Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, Missouri but some things would need to change to get us to that point. Think of the revenue it would bring in if we were charging the same for out of state licenses like Iowa or Kansas? $500 per tag... Keep managing the antlerless deer with multiple tags and restrict the bucks. I'm a member and full supporter of QDMA so you understand why my opinion is this way on this matter. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

Excellent video re-cap for Polk County. Thank you! 1. Nobody likes to hunt when it's cold and miserable and the deer are herding up. Late season is a waste of time. 2. You need to reduce the zone around captive deer/elk chronic. Way too large. 3. Consider a tax break for private properties. Too much land is not available for hunting. 4. If you want to reduce antlerless population, extend 9 day hunt with first week antlerless only. Earn a Buck was a good idea. You need to get the numbers down without using car kill! 5. You need to allow answers of "don't agree with the proposition or statement". No opinion is not an answer option.

Why does CDAC want there to be no deer? I married into a hunting family 5 yrs ago and my husband got me interested in deer hunting, however my interest is rapidly deteriorating as I go to the woods and see no deer most of season. I saw a total of 9 deer during the entire 2019 bow and gun season combined. I keep a journal so I know what I saw when. 28 sits to see 9 deer and not have an opportunity to harvest 1. Please for the sake of the future of this county and deer hunting for our youngsters please reconsider the number of tags available or at a minimum the holiday hunt. There is no reason to make it worse for the up and comers.

So... 1) The deer population is increasing and is notably higher than the CDAC goal. 2) Deer are adversely impacting habitat, forestry, other wildlife, agriculture and society (deer-car collisions, etc.). 3) Current management goals and strategies are not reducing the deer herd. Conclusion: New deer management strategies should be implemented. Earn-a-buck is one. Finally, reduce the number of deer and you reduce the spread of CWD just like social distancing reduces the spread of Covid-19. Please ignore the whiners and implement some meaningful population control measures now to improve deer herd health and save hunting.

Wisconsin at least as I can remember has always had a fairly decent deer herd with fairly decent hunting opportunities and those are my greatest concerns. Deer hunting is part of Wisconsin’s heritage and I would think that most of its citizens would agree that we would like that heritage and tradition to continue to be such in this present as well as the future. Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts and opinions on this matter and I pray that you would continue to manage our natural resources in abundance so that we may experience that higher quality of life that comes from the outdoors.
Out of 6 hunters during gun season 2019, we harvested 1 8 point buck, saw one doe, and that was it for 3 days of hunting. The numbers are way too low due to over issuing doe permits and farmland permits & predator pressure (bear, wolves & coyotes). This area in Polk/Barron counties have been designated as "maintain" and "decrease". In Polk maintaining very few deer is mind-boggling - we should be allowing the herd to grow. In Barron how do you justify decreasing already low numbers? Give us a break and restrict antlerless permits for a season please. Thank you,

Please don't do the 4 day holiday hunt the annual doe hunt is enough. Or get rid of the annual don't want and just do the four-day Holiday Hunt at the end of the year but the problem with the end of the year Hunt is your shooting bucks without horns. I just think everybody can shoot their deer during a 9-day gun season the muzzleloader season and archery season. Guys don't hunt hard enough to get the deer like they used to. The public lands don't need more deer taken from them hunting was way better 16 years ago it was fun watching the numbers of deer come by it was great hunting.

I, along with everyone I know, am opposed to specifying public or private land. It's useless and adds confusion. People feel it is making a mess of hunting. We just want to hunt. Not worry about where we ate and what tags we have. We try to comply with laws. It gets harder every year. Many are considering quitting because of complexity. Lots of people killed deer illegally in Polk County without knowing it. They thought there was an open season when there was not. The confusion made criminals out of people who were trying to obey the law.

I live and hunt in northern Polk County, the deer density here is much different than that of the farmlands in the southern sector of the county. Having DMUs established on County lines versus geographic and structural features of the forest lands and farm zones made better sense. I also hunt just across the County line in Burnett County and have SnapShot surveillance cameras in both areas. The deer population is much higher in this segment of Burnett County yet, antlerless permits are not provided but come at an additional cost.

Polk county overall has many deer to be harvested. I support as much hunter opportunity as possible. I have concerns about the continued increase in deer populations according to the local metrics and the capacity of our hunting community to harvest enough deer. We are not engaging enough hunters these days. It is not wholly because of lack of deer or a general disgust with the DNR and how they approach deer management. Human interests have been changing and it's affecting hunting and our ability to manage deer populations.

I generally hunt during the week to avoid any other hunters. I'm retired and can do this so I'm not sure what the volume of hunters there are on the week ends wear I hunt I know there are other hunters in there. I will be 75 this season and would very much like to have the permission to leave my stand in over night, if this was legal would help me very much, it is getting a little difficult to carry my stand in and out every morning and evening. I think the DNR are doing a good job and I'm looking forword to next season.

Public lands are over harvested, wolves are a bigger threat than has been reported. Private land is pretty hard to control because you cant force private land owners to comply, and rightfully so. Hunting was better 15 years ago..leave archery and crossbow seasons alone, I take my 11 yr old out he cannot pull back or remain motionless enough to pull a bow back...please dont take crossbows away from youth...we are losing too many hunters already keep crossbows going it's not hurting anything especially with a strong herd...

Strongly recommend to have a minimum antler size limit installed to increase the number of mature bucks statewide. Every year the ratio of 1-2 yr old bucks shot v. 4-6 yr old deer is at least 10-1 in the areas I hunt. Young bucks shot consistently to 'get my buck' is heard over and over. I was living in Winona county MN when the DNR installed a 4 pts on at least one antler restriction. Since that time the number of mature bucks has increased significantly and the deer heard health / numbers has increased. Thank you,
Since the adoption of the crossbow season option for any hunter I have seen a tremendous rise in the number of hunters in the woods during the crossbow season. I have also seen more wounded deer that I speculate is from crossbow archers taking marginal shots and shooting deer at longer ranges. I think that the state should revert back to the way it used to be—only older and medically permitted individuals can use crossbows. Incidentally, I am 62 years old and still use the conventional bow I have used for decades.

I have a recommendation about antlerless tags. As of right now Antlerless permits are valid based on county. I hunt on the Polk/St.Croix County line on public and private land in both counties. Because both of these counties are in the "Central Farmland Zone" I am not sure why my antlerless tag is only good in the county I designate, it should be valid throughout the entire "Central Farmland Zone". With St.Croix county proposing an "Antlerless only" season, I think this could help manage the quota as well.

As a resident of clam Falls Township I am very concerned that the numbers of the deer population in the southern part of the County are vastly different from that of the northern half of the county. When the county was divided in half by State Highway 48 I believe that each Zone was more accurately Managed. My friends hunting in the Amery area say a great number more deer than those of us hunting up here. I believe we need to go back to managing Polk County with two separate management programs for North and South.

There are plenty of deer in the county so nice job setting a quota that will help manage a reasonable population if it is achieved. There needs to be more methods to harvest enough deer and i wish they would bring back Earn-A-Buck and the October hunt. Those would help. I am concerned there is no way to harvest enough deer with the existing season framework and I am concerned about forest regeneration and vehicle accidents. Also, with CWD knocking on the door the population needs to be reeled in.

Do not shorten the Cross Bow season. More folks are using them because that is what they want; why take it away? If there is concern about buck population/success, consider a one buck per hunter/any means per season. Who the heck needs to shoot more than one buck per season with all the does available? This would improve the quality of the buck heard too. Late hunts should only be considered IF snowmobiling is not interrupted. Hunters can adjust to the limited trail activity that would occur.

I believe that having a unit that goes across the state is not at all a correct estimate in addresses deer numbers. What happens in the Eau CLaire area or further East is in no way representative of our area here. I own 200 acres of land next to 1500 acres of state wildlife land. In the last few years our deer sightings have dropped to where last year five guys saw three deer in the first two days of season. Our deer population is decreasing markedly up here and we need to do something now.

You need to abolish all early season hunts and extend the rifle season if you feel the need to take more deer. How ever hunters like myself and many others will always oppose Wisconsin’s over hunting and early kill seasons. Never needed and early season 20 hrs ago- and the seasons always went great- I will teach my kids that the early season is not right to allow the meaningless slaughter of deer- it’s a wasteful practice that Wisconsin should be ashamed of- I have no issue with the youth hunt.

There are not enough deer in the county to support your harvest recommendations. If you want to save hunting make sure there are opportunities for new hunters. Kill every deer in the county is not helping. The counting of deer shouldn't come down to one guy making a drive in February where the deer historically winter. Those are not accurate numbers. If every deer in in a section it doesn't mean they are 2 miles away. Please stop with all the tags. Only you can make the hunting better.

Every year we see fewer deer. We feel that this is due to increased numbers of trespassors on our property who harvest deer and run away. Every year it gets a little worse with fewer deer being seen by us. How do we know this? We find the gut piles in front of our hunting stands. We can't be here 24/7 to watch for trespassors who ignore the no hunting and private property signs. We also feel that we aren't the only ones having trouble. These may also be harvests that go unreported.
DNR should offer at least two free antlers tags for non resident land owners. Or at least set our cost the same as residents. We support the local economy in many ways. Gas, food and materials to name a few. Also have wolfs starting to show up on our trail cams in recent years. How can I prevent bear hunters dogs from coming onto my land? I purchased an archery and gun tag with an additional antlerless tag. I log in at least 80 hours combined and harvested one fawn.

Hunt in this area for 60 years--last year was the worst I have experienced. Not being able to see any deer makes hunting something very hard for young hunters to enjoy. I am worried that at this pace we will not have any hunters. Too cold for older hunter and no deer does not look good for future of hunting. I do not think Polk County should be Central farming almost every section as some woods and the north has mostly wooded land. Not seeing any deer suggests to many permits!

No doe seasons leave Polk county a normal hunting season. Give everyone there 1 or 2 doe tags and they will be happy. Or leave the public land alone and set it up so the holiday hunt doesn’t involve the public land then a guy can still bow hunt if he or she want to target a buck. Most guys shoot there does ny then anyway. That's dosent mean an early doe hunt earther. Just leave it alone. Look at face book and the other wis hunting pages nobody's on board for any of this. Thanks

In the last couple years I’ve seen more wolf than deer while deer hunting. I used to see 10-20 deer on opening day and the last two years I’ve seen over 15 wolves and one deer. I have discussed this with neighbors and friends who also hunt the general area and almost everyone is experiencing similar hunting. I hope for my kids this problem is addressed because they don’t enjoy hunting without seeing any deer and it won’t take long for them to not want to do it anymore.

On private land in Polk county the deer population I believe is strong. However on public lands west of the river road from St. Croix falls to county road o in grantsburg, the deer population is very low. I believe this area should adapt a bucks only status just like Burnett county just to the north. I have hunted this area for 29 years and I see fewer deer every year. We need to allow the doe population to expand in this area with a bucks only season for multiple years.

Go back to physical tags and stop giving out all these doe tags like it’s doing nothing to the population. You work for us. You may think you know the population of the deer but you have no idea when you know there were 100s if not 100s of people that didn’t even register their deer because of your lazy way of registering deer. Do what we’re paying you for and listen. Buck only for as many years as you been handing out for for tags like nothing.

Do not allow the proposed 19 day gun season. This will NOT help hunting as a whole. It will overlap MN seasons and fewer non-residents will come. The weather has not been good for gun season, that’s a primary contributor as to decline in numbers...along with mis-management of deer herds, introduction of wolves, over populated bear numbers all playing significant roles in fewer deer and as such, unfavorable experiences in the woods.

I have heard of other things that have been talked about in the area. Extending the gun season? I am apposed to this. The gun season is long enough. Have a four point or higher rule for taking bucks in our area. Let our herd of bucks mature before harvesting them. I have also heard that some have wanted to decrease the bow season or cross bow access. I don't agree. I think you have things pretty much running well in Polk County.

Holiday hunt is just plain stupid. What little deer are slaughtered it isn’t worth it. Snowmobile trails will be open. The gun hunters will have 23 days already. 9 days of rifle, 10 days of muzzle loading and 4 days of doe slaughter. Let’s also remember that crossbow is from the middle of September to the end of bow season. In my opinion crossbows are just like a rifle. Should not be included in archery season. No holiday hunt

Holiday hunt didn't work in polk county last time and actually deterred people from late season bow hunting since there can be no harvest of bucks. This "tool" for management is terrible and should not be an option. And why so many tags? There is not that many deer north of hwy 8, possibly south of 8 where there is bigger agriculture fields there could be but not in northern polk county. Possibility to split the zone?
2 bonus tags oer payron license only. Then you will sell more doe tags or, hopefully, more patron licenses. All youth must have hunter safety. Should be age 12 to carry weapon and be accompanied by adult until age 16. CWD is not spread by baiting deer. The small amount of bait used doesn't bring in hoardes of deer. Phase out tiny little deer farms, such as south of Osceola where runoff goes into creek into the woods!!

I always liked to go out with my bow during the holidays after the hubbub of the gun season has died down. This is one of my favorite parts of the season. Still fairly warm and plenty of time off to hunt. But because I can only harvest an antlerless deer I have no interest in hunting. Ruins it for me. Other than that, I think you folks have done a good job managing the white tail herd. Keep up the good work.

Listening to the information provided was helpful to know how your stats are figured. One that peaked my interest is the 9% of public land or DNR controlled land in Polk. So my comment is if that's the only amount of land the DNR can control then you need to now the deer herds on those lands have been absolutely decimated over the past years so please don't give out many or any doe tags for those lands. Thank you...

The biggest problem with all the units I have hunting in wi is people getting a doe and buck tag for rifle season. This makes it so the hunter does feel they have to positively identify the deer before shooting. It creates a lot of wounded deer that are never recovered. There should be some thought about only giving buck tags and having to apply for doe tags for rifle and make a bow/crossbow tag an either sex tag.

Protect young bucks. The mortality on 1.5 year old bucks is atrocious. 4 points on one side tends to increase pressure on does and off of young bucks. I hunt Missouri and we harvest nice bucks every year with the 4 pt rule. We don't shoot young bucks in Polk co and we are usually not rewarded with decent older bucks because most get killed by another hunter. We have the perfect land to do something in Polk. And burnett

I am against baiting. It should be banned statewide in my opinion. I would welcome an extended gun season. Traditional archery and now crossbows are a wonderful option for hunters but I feel those constituents have too much influence on decision making as regards Wisconsin deer season. I understand historically traditional archery groups were very effective lobbyists and my hats off to them, but enough already.

I've been hunting on private land in Polk county for 32 years and I have seen the deer herd go from plentiful to scarce in the matter of 2 years. This drastic change occurred approximately 6 years ago. The herd numbers have stayed scarce ever since then, so I'm not in favor of any extra tags, holiday hunts, or extended seasons for 2020. Let's let the herd actually maintain and replenish itself a bit this year.

When I was a teenager(25-29 years ago) hunting in this unit I saw 20+ deer opening weekend. Now when I take my children hunting We are lucky to see 3 deer opening weekend. I understand there are many competing interests but this difference is just not right! I used to get one tag and was happy with that. Now I get three tags plus three to four for each kid. The quality of the hunt has gone down significantly!

I think there is potential for surveys like this to enhance reliability of deer populations. If possible I would suggest that this survey be a little more specific as to where within the county these sightings occurred. This then would create an idea of where to focus management needs to enhance or reduce deer populations. This may also reinforce understanding of neighboring county deer population trends.

Something has to change, I have never seen deer populations this large in southern polk county. Way to many deer going into spring fawning season which means even more deer in 2020. Need to extend all seasons and amount of tags. Let crossbows hunt from start of archery season until January 31. It seems like its the most attractive way to harvest deer and the only way to draw in new hunters or keep them.

Without a different season structure decreasing or even maintaining our growing deer herd is not possible. There are too many deer for healthy habitat in most areas. Give hunters as many opportunities as possible. You can not overshoot whitetail deer in this area. Private land hunters will only shoot what they want, regardless of the number of tags given, so don't be shy about available tags.
Please consider moving muzzle load gun early November before Rifle. One full week or if too high impact then Thursday through Sunday? More Game wardens in Barrons and River Road to keep things under control and safe. Discourage large groups drinking and driving deer to shooters in Barrons can be dangerous. I don’t dare take my kids in most public areas and that’s a shame.

The early gun seasons make the deer more nocturnal. I’m ok with youth and handicap early hunts. I love the traditional gun season and would not want it changed - tail end of the rut and 9 days is enough - many people don’t hunt after opening weekend. The doe/buck tag per license is enough - chance to harvest 4 animals - why have bonus tags - how many deer does one person need to take per year?

For the county I see they want to add the holiday hunt until Jan 1st. The amount of people that actually do these hunts are very slim. While doing a holiday hunt in other counties I rarely ever see anyone else participating. Also there are bucks that drop antlers during that time of the year resulting in bucks with potential to be mature and support a healthy herd being killed due to no antlers.

Quit harming/ the old hunters. Your stupid position on deer feeding when there has been no cwd in the county only a neighborhood deer farm. Keep adding more rules and you will accelerate the old hunters quitting. You survey question are bias gun hunter against bow hunter. I may not hunt this year--I have a handicapped permit but your complex rules. I am thinking about moving to Florida.

I think Polk county and there area around it should implement an antler point restriction/trophy manage rule such as south eastern MN has. I think the overall population is health but the number of mature bucks is very low. Conversely I think the doe population is quite high. I think WI would greatly benefit from an Antler Point Restriction in areas where the deer population is high as has MN.

Who decides nuisance tags? There seems to be abuse by some landowners using said tags for group hunting and in some locals a decimation of the herd to the detriment of their neighbors. The same people shoot deer and leave the carcasses in the field. Really sad that this is done to save popple trees in one case. Where can we see who and how many tags are out there?

It would be ideal if natural and native predators were allowed to thrive and help manage the deer population. Also, deer activity on the private land I hunted was extremely low after opening weekend. It’s hard for me to imagine that there’s nearly enough deer in this unit to justify the current quota numbers that are several times higher than the actual used tags.

I feel one of the biggest problems with Wisconsin gun deer season is when it occurs. The rut is typically over long before gun deer season starts. This causes 2 problems. First, the harvest levels are reduced, with the 2nd being less hunter satisfaction. I feel this is why so many hunters have moved to crossbow to allow for a more satisfying season.
I would like to see Polk divided into two units. Governor Knolls Forest is a lot different than the farm country to the east. The Dnr has got the deer population in governor Knolls forest pretty much wiped out. If your goal was to eliminate all deer from that area, you are doing a great job. If you had any other intentions you have failed miserably.

I strongly oppose an anterless only format for all 2020 deer seasons. One of the primary motivations and fun factors in deer hunting for most people is the opportunity to harvest a buck. If there is an anterless only format for all 2020 deer seasons, most, if not all, hunters I know will be incredibly displeased, and some would not even hunt.

I like the "two- antlerless- per -license" proposal for the simple reason that it may reduce the obvious violations of group-hunting regulations. (i.e. non-hunting family member buys a license with no intention of going afield.) Unfortunately, from the state's perspective that might reduce the number of licenses sold. A quandary indeed.

Let people use crossbows, don’t lengthen the seasons. We’re losing hunters at an alarming rate so don’t try to put gun hunters versus long bow versus crossbow. Why don’t people see deer? No one pushing them around. Private lands hold deer and with no one hunting them, there’s why we don’t see the same numbers as in the late 2000’s.

The party I hunted with last year did well. 7 in our group and everyone took home venison. Did notice that most of the antlerless in that section were button bucks. Of the 12 deer we harvested there was only 2 doe taken. 5 bucks were harvested. And most of them were young. Of the deer we harvested WE tested 3 none were positive for CWD.

I think it would be good to bring back the program of registration stations... It is a cultural thing. It also helps to drive the business to the small rural businesses. It would also make it easier to CWD test the population and give people reassurance that their meat is safe. I was sick this deer season and missed out on the hunt.

We wouldn’t have as many deer kills if people would learn how to drive and pay attention and if the county would keep the ditches clean. In our area neighbors don’t let people hunt like they used to in earlier years so you can move the deer and people from out of state buy up the land and post it not allowing for the deer to move about.

In our area - people from out-of-state have bought up the land and post it. Land that we used to hunt is no longer available. Car-deer related accidents occur because the ditches are not cleaned out by the county or townships so the deer aren’t seen until they pop out of the over grown ditches or run into your vehicle.

With that storm that went through our area last summer, it was tough seeing deer as they were so well hidden with all the trees down and little snow. It would be nice to see the ratio get a little closer than it is now. It is getting better in our area every year but still has a ways to go. Thanks for your time.

Management needs to improve...ie deer numbers are way down.. 45 years I have hunted this area...I saw 3 deer in 3 days of hunting in 2019...our camp has been shut out 2 years in a row. Never happened before. To many doe tags...back off, let the numbers increase...2 doe tags per a licence is a joke.

We must raise prices on out of state tags, including antlerless. There is no reason for giving out tags for next to nothing to absolutely destroy the deer population. Also bring back age limits, people buying tags for infants is ridiculous, its just allowing people to desimate the deer population.

Living north of Hwy 8 is a lot different than the southern part of the county. I believe the majority of the deer harvested are in the southern part of the county. Since living in the same place for the past 27 years I have seen a significant reduction in deer, to the point of not hunting here.

Main concerns are CWD and to a lesser degree I am concerned that gun season will be extended. CWD: All feeding of deer should be banned. Deer farms should be shut down and outlawed. Gun season should not be extended. It effectively shuts everyone else and all other activities out of the woods.
The northwest area of Polk county should not be considered farm land as I know many people see more BEAR than they do deer during the full 9 day gun season. This area is NOT farmland and there is too many doe tags being given out for public land when too many people come to this area to hunt.

The Holiday Hunt and extending archery would be a great move for the county. There needs to be more antlerless deer harvested. Also, you should be able to archery hunt for bucks during the antlerless only gun special hunts. Thanks for all that you do to manage the deer population.

More and easier methods for CWD testing in Polk county. Education on the topic. Carcass disposal sites to safely and ethically dispose of butchered carcasses. I'm tired of seeing them dumped in ditches and fields (they are not car-deer killed either). Education about CWD!!!

We had about the same amount of deer right til the rut ended, but our hunting season was as late as it could possible. The rut was long over during the gun season and the deer were not moving as well as the later season brought very cold weather so not as many hunters out.

Doe only deer season is ridiculous. I think antler point restrictions with added doe permits will help with the buck to doe ratio that has noticeably changed in the last couple of years. I wouldn't spend 800$ And drive 12 hours to family deer camp to shoot a 120# doe.

I hunted in the Deer Park, Little Falls area last year like I've done for 38 years and I saw one deer on public land. To have only a doe season would lower my chances to harvest a deer. I might only see 1 deer and if that is a buck then I might not get a deer at all.

The Polk County CDAC should end the distribution of antlerless tags specific to public or private lands and make them viable on all lands in Polk County. Tring to manage smaller parcels of public lands separately is a waste of time and limits hunters options.

I have been hunting in Polk county since I was 13 with my dad and uncle. I am happy you take our concerns seriously and appreciate the work that you do. I would recommend extending the bow hunting season and would not support an antlerless season. Thank you!

why would you allow 1 person to kill 6 deer in one season (gun-1 antler, 2 antlerless) (bow- 1 antler, 2 antlerless) when every year they’re seems to be lees deer. The new generation of hunters lose interest quickly when they don't see any deer out hunting!

I personally can not understand a doe only holiday hunt. I hunted countless bow hunting this year and hardly seen any deer. I am lucking I did get one. And also hunted 7 days of the gun season and never seen a deer. Every year we see less and less deer.

When are the kill numbers going to be revisited/revised to a more realistic level? The kill NUMBERS of antlerless are WAY TOO HIGH!!! Do something beneficial in producing BIGGER BUCKS...!!! That can't happen by killing off all the young deer and does!!!

There are not as many deer on public land in Polk County as you think. The quality of public land habitat has significantly eroded over the years and the logging keeps increasing. I feel sometimes that one day there will be nowhere to hunt anymore.

My only comment is STOP this rule of only using copper bullets . To many wounded deer will result from it . This is not California, this state is known for its lead mining . I've eaten deer shot with bullets for over 50 years !!

The only thing you might want to adjust is. Where you have an abundant deer in a CWD areas. Stop or limit the number of predators/coyotes taken in these areas. They will naturally thin down there herd. Just a thought. Good day.
my concern is have 90-120 der hunting. i am opposed to that long of adeer hunting season my opinionis the natural rut has been interrupted. i base this on the fawn sitings into late august into sept with fawns still having spots

I would like to change the deer license back to a BIG GAME license and let a few more people hunt bears , and try to reduce the population of bears. You could harvest an antlered buck, or a bear. Bow, Crossbow, or rifle.

I hunt the area off of county road E south of 48 and north of big round lake. the deer population in our area has gone down significantly to the point that we do not see or harvest hardly anything at all the last 5 years.

I am strongly opposed to my neighbor getting a outrageous number of nuisance tags every season to kill large numbers of deer in the name of wildlife Management, When he actually just likes to kill things.

Crossbow season should not be the same as vertical now season. Vertical bow hunters have a huge disadvantage in harvesting a deer compared to a crossbow that is much similar to using a rifle in the field.

We have a hard enough time keeping hunters involved. Making the refs more difficult to understand and pushing people to different units to shoot bucks will only contribute to a decline in hunters.

Polk county is not the same in north portion to south portion. It needs a split zone of north south. The north has much less deer and carrying capacity then the south which is actually farm land.

The crossbow season should be shortened as it has become too efficient of a weapon to use during the rut. End the crossbow season on October 31 and reopen it after the firearm season is complete.

I think it should be how it always has been. Extended gun seasons and all that will not bring in more people if anything it will hurt the people that actually buy both archery and gun licenses

With the large amounts of private land in Polk county that do not allow hunting except for a few family members,maintaining the deer population and crop damage will always be an uphill battle!!

I think we need to reduce our doe population to maintain a healthier herd overall. Proper management and a decrease of the existing heard will mean healthier deer an a better long term herd.

Currently, the greatest threat to the deer herd and our hunting traditions is the high deer population. They are eating themselves out of house and home. The Holiday Hunt is a good idea.

I live for bow hunting and my brother in-law cross bow hunts so please let us continue during the Rut, no gun hunting during that time. Also you could extend the season until end of January.

You should push the muzzleloader season back a week after the firearm season. That would give the deer a break from the hunting pressure. That would increase the muzzleloader success rate.

I think tour trying to change to many things at once. Also some wolf control throughout the state needs to happen before they kill every deer! How come we don’t hear anything about that?

I believe deer numbers in polk county are already too low,based on the #of deer I see while hunting. Especially on public land where the kill’em all mentality has been in place too long.

I’m in northern Polk county and I don’t think we have as many deer here as there are in the southern portions where there is more agriculture. Please take that into consideration.

This system works, look how close to the goals we are. In my opinion the goals are realistic as well. Give yourselves a pat on the back. Kevin Wallenfang is the best ever!

Deer observations last season were much lower than previous year. Suspect it related to timing is season as trail camera observations were at least as high as previous years

If the DNR is that considered about forest regrowth why aren't they doing more about Buck thorn and why did they cut down almost all of the public forest in southern Polk co
Concerned about some mention I have heard about eliminating bow hunting the week before gun season. I am in favor of continuing bow hunting right up until the gun season.

My family and I are all avid snowmobilers and oppose any late deer seasons, and we are all hunters. There is plenty of time from Sep. to Mid Dec. to harvest deer. Thanks

Please make CWD testing and management a priority! I am disappointed in how Wisconsin has addressed this issue. More needs to be done to slow the spread of this disease.

With public land around me that is heavily hunted and Wolfs in our area we see very few deer. Had to get my Grandchildren interested in hunting when seeing so few deer.

The county should consider a 4 point per side rule for antlered deer to lower the number of antlered deer harvest, gain more desire to hunt and see more antlered deer.

I live in the area where the tornadoes went through last summer so our hunting party saw a significant drop in the amount of deer we saw during rifle and bow seasons.

I would like townships and/or the county to establish buck management practices. Let the little young bucks grow a couple years so we can see bigger ones later on.

stop giving out doe tags, and go back to when it was a lottery draw like back in the 80's!! if things don't change, I will stop buying licenses to support the dnr.

Best analogy: Q: How many deer pull Santa's sleigh? A: 8? Q: Does that include Rudolf? A: I'm not sure!
Summary: I'm not sure either, but the DNR estimages 243.

Include a 4 point buck restriction on buck harvesting. This would allow bucks to mature and provide more bucks in general and allow more bucks to reach potential.

Last year we seen more wolves than deer. Even taking my son during the youth hunt we never seen a deer. We had a pack of wolves come by making us very nervous!

I do not like the Holiday hunt. I think with the variety of hunting options that we have today we should not have to hunt deer after the middle of December.

I live along side of us highway 63 in polk county, the traffic is so heavy many deer are killed so on my property where i hunt the deer count is way down.

Seeing less mature bucks. Makes me wonder if getting away from physically having to check in harvested deer is causing people to kill more than 1 buck.

If you are only selling a fraction of the tags that are allotted, then small adjustments to the # of tags allotted won't really impact on harvest totals

Significantly increase the fees for non resident licenses. The majority will still purchase and we certainly won't miss the ones that choose not to.

There is a lot of land been clear cut now and I rarely seen least number dead deer from car crashes in polk county not like 20yrs ago or even 10.

I liked the information on public hunting land percentage to private hunting land and then the comparison of deer killed on public vs private

We need this holiday hunt! There are deer everywhere and this provides a great late season opportunity to fill tags and hit the CDAC quota.

Leave the deer seasons alone we dont need no 18 day rifle season for 99 percent of the people hunt two days and whine they dont see any deer!
I don't think we have a real problem with CWD in Polk county. Taking away baiting is not the problem the deer farms are the big problem.

To many timber wolves, went from not even seeing a sign of them to lots of tracks and seeing them while hunting and seeing kills from them.

I'd like to see the county divided in two units, north and south with Hwy 8 the line. Totally different numbers in these two areas.

I think you guys are doing a great job and I REALLY hope we get the Holiday Hunt back.

Allow crossbows, which are really guns that fire arrows, to be used from October 1 to October 31 and then after the firearms season.

Don't see any big bucks in this unit, might want to put an antler restriction on bucks. Maybe 6 points or more. My opinion.

Instead of having all of these doe tags and you need money maybe you should consider raising the price of the licenses.

- Concerned about forest maturation on both public and private property.
- Also question deer population numbers.

My god... please stop permitting... the killing of female deer. Have you people lost your minds? For $ ????

We need a registration system to get accurate kill counts. Bow season is too long. Leave gun season 9 days.

Adopt an fork horn or better buck requirement to raise age class and encourage more does to be harvested.

Too many wolves. In the past two deer seasons I have seen a wolf each year. One was within 30 feet of me!

Stop the holiday hunt. You have a 9 day gun season to shoot does. We don’t need another season for it.

Would like to see more aggressive CWD testing along with increased enforcement on the use of baiting.

No antlerless season and keep the length of the season 9 days. We have too many deer seasons!

You can only control the 10% public lands so your recommendations don’t mean a whole lot.

Hunting on public land where I hunt has drastically gone down hill in the past few years.

Deer numbers are far too low in Polk County. Less tags need to be given and not more.

Ban all feeding, even though it wasn't allowed there was a lot of baiting going on.

I believe the 2020 deer season should stay the course with regards to past seasons.

I am 66 years old and crossbow hunt. I would like to see longer crossbow seasons.

I can only hunt a few days during the nine day so the holiday hunt is awesome.

Consider 4 point side for antlered deer and one antlerless deer tag per season.

Leave the season alone don’t need a 20 day season it’s just fine the way it is.

Allow baiting, yet another scan from the Dnr of Cwd found to prohibit baiting.

Just think there is too many tags giving out... and wolves need to be reduced.

Why fix it if it’s not broken, in Polk and St. Croix counties all is good.

Longer muzzleloader season Separate licenses for muzzleloader season

I support the holiday hunt. Maintain healthy and stable deer numbers.

Please discontinue all baiting for deer on public and private land.
Although the harvest numbers are low here, so are deer numbers.
Please keep the holiday hunt and 2 Farmland tags per license.
Extending the 2020 gun season by a week is my only thought.
Time to increase bear permits and establish a wolf a season.
Some farmland areas have too many antlerless deer on them.
Polk county should be split into 2 zones, a north and south.
Let's try antler restrictions or go back to earn a buck.
A lot of vehicle deer kills through out the county of Polk.
Do not change the 9 day season from the present. Thanks.
Large predators are a problem in Northern Polk County.
Have buck be 8 point or above and only 1-2 doe per tag.
Saw very few deer last year in northern Polk County.
Ban deer baiting state wide and also ban food plots.
If it went to antlerless only I wouldn't hunt.
Love the idea of an extended archery season.
Allow baiting in Polk County please.
There are way to many wolves.
Open season on timber wolves.
Earn a Buck should be used.
Too many bears.
Earn a Buck.
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

544 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 320
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 107
   - I hunt in this unit: 501
   - General interest in this unit: 103

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 475
   - Bow: 279
   - Crossbow: 191
   - Muzzleloader: 180

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.68
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 307
   - Mostly Private Land: 89
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 36
   - Mostly Public Land: 14
   - Exclusively Public Land: 51
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 27
   - Not too crowded: 56
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 43
   - Somewhat crowded: 35
   - Very crowded: 18
   - Not applicable: 11

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 84
   - Fewer: 177
   - Same: 210
   - More: 48
   - Many More: 13
   - Unsure: 12

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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<th>Rating</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>215</th>
<th>185</th>
<th>97</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
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<th>About Right</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>166</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>42</td>
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</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<td>284</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT : Support 185  Oppose 302  Unsure 57

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 250  Oppose 256  Unsure 38

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 64  Oppose 437  Unsure 43

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

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<thead>
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<th>Concern</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.61</td>
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Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020  Portage, Central Farmland
Comments for  Portage, Central Farmland

Note: the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.
First off I really do not think any of this will be read. I’ve written this after discussions with many other hunters. There should be a crossbow season. Keep the traditional archery season alone. Make crossbows have a two week season prior to the traditional firearm season. After rifle season open crossbow up again. I think this would be very beneficial to the deer herd but not the major issue. The traditional rifle season should be kept to nine days. This season had record lows because there was an abundance of crops available for deer to hide in. The rut was extremely early this year. In past years the rut was mid November. This last fall the rut was late October and early November. The rifle opener happened to fall very late. Most serious hunters predicted, prior to rifle season that the deer numbers were going to be down. There was one instance where I saw a small buck that was sleeping and I was able to walk past with spooking it because it was so exhausted. Keep traditional rifle the same and keep the following season for muzzle-loader hunters. This ensures tradition that many people follow. According to DNR numbers, the mid 1990’s had record years for deer killed, while this current decade has had record lows. Part of that reason is likely attributed to many years earlier having buck only season. Most old timers remember the days of buck only or party tag for does. Implementing a buck only season and eliminating holiday hunts may help the deer herd. Areas that commit to QDMA type practices typically have a better deer herd or deer population. I also realize that having buck only hunts is not always good for a population and that doe populations need to be managed as well. So one way to help the deer population would be by selling doe tags every other year or every two years. Another possibility could be antler restrictions on bucks. For example 3 or 4 point per side. This practice has been very successful in neighboring states. It also draws in out of state hunters. Have a 5 year trial on public land. If people like it keep it, if people dislike eliminate it. If people like the changes that are occurring make it statewide. Many areas in the state that practice QDMA ideas are already seeing the benefits of doing this. Another issue that countless people dislike is that there are not registration stations. People are not registering their deer anymore. Many are not even buying tags. How can the DNR get an accurate numbers if people are no longer registering their deer. Having registration stations at local gas stations, taverns or restaurants considerably helps the economy and camaraderie. People buy items at these local establishments. People also get together and share stories. These stories have a psychological impact. If people hear these stories about deer killed or see people with successful hunts, they are more likely to want to hunt. This idea has been studied by French psychologists Serge Moscovici and Marisa Zavalloni. They found that people can be influenced based off of their peers. Thus if people are able to see & hear about others in their community hunting they are more likely to hunt themselves. Another comparison that registration stations have is towards school and jobs. If an employee tells their boss they completed a job but there is no proof how does the boss know what is true? How can teachers see what students are learning if students don’t show teachers their completed work? Registration stations is the way the DNR gets proof. One minor thing that annoys and aggravates hunters is having tags by county. Have 4-5 zones instead. This could save confusion for many hunters. What does a hunter do if they shoot a deer in one county but the deer runs into another county where that hunter does not have a tag? I understand this a hypothetical question, but it happens. Most hunters acknowledge that different areas have different requirements for the amount of deer tags available or that can be sold. Wisconsin hunters also recognize that public land needs to be managed differently than private land. A solution that could be to continue the statewide archery and rifle buck tags, but make doe tags into 4 or 5 zones and not county. Also sell public and private doe tags because they need to be managed slightly different. A significant reason for this change is because there areas where people own land in two neighboring counties. Public land goes through multiple counties state wide. Create zones to sell tags so specific public parcels do not get split up. Doing this would also help prevent many private parcels from being split up. There may be several properties that are split into separate zones the number of private land hunters this may happen too will drastically drop. If you made it this far and read everything, thank you.
While I believe the existing deer population is healthy, I believe there are serious flaws in your population projection model. I hunt multiple locations throughout the county and state, and have run game cameras at multiple locations throughout the state. In all cases you seem to overestimate the deer population. This is consistent with your projected buck harvest numbers vs actual buck harvest numbers, likewise with the declining deer collisions. I was disappointed to hear the speaker try to justify this (with the intent of defending the population estimate) by saying this could be due to safer cars, or accidents not being reported or differences in how agencies treat and report collisions. I don’t mean to be inflammatory, but that’s extremely biased. You have a lot of indicators in front of you that suggest your baseline population estimate is too high. Additionally, I believe you are grossly underpredicting the influence predators have on population. In 38 years hunting Portage County, I’ve noticed a significant increase in predators. 10 yrs ago, I had never seen a bear, now frequently on camera and 5 interactions while bow hunting last year alone and sow with 3 cubs on camera 4x last year. I’ve had numerous wolf photo’s and one sighting in person. I live in wolf country in northern MN now and find it insulting when DNR folks keep trying to tell me they are coyote over the past 10 yrs. Most hunters are outdoorsman and know wildlife and their surroundings. Simmilarly, I've seen a lot of lion sign in northern WI and you keep telling us they are passing through. They are illusive and wouldn't leave that much sign if they were just passing through. Anyhow, your survey only provides for input on how we would like to proceed with increasing the deer harvest. I think the better question is how can we improve our data and closer improve our estimate, heard health and Hunter success/satisfaction. You already have declining Hunter numbers... if you ever conduct an antlerless only season, you will inevitably see a huge decrease in Hunter participation and part of that loss won’t likely come back... so rather than bringing that up as a management tool threat, you’d be more productive to not bring that up at all.

I bowhunt only, and on public land entirely, exclusively on The Mead Wildlife Area. Area private landowners get the "PUBLIC" land choice on their authorizations for for doe harvests. Why, because they prefer to save/stockpile the does on their private land, and rape the public lands for does. When I can bowhunt 9 different days and not even see a deer, it gets pretty disgusting. Doe harvest on public land should not be allowed, PERIOD? Did that statement get anyone's attention? Most likely not. Also, public land is overcrowded for the prime time period of mid Oct up until the gun season opener. I try to get away from the parking lots at least one mile, and sometimes further, and I still cannot find area(s) that that does not show signs of other hunters. Gun Season overcrowding is just UNREAL. Predator load? I rec'd this email from my local DNR employee (12.29.2019): "Mead is home to at least one wolf pack. As far as numbers go, we can only estimate the number of wolves on the property based on track surveys and personal observations. In years past, we have had reports of anywhere from 4 to 12 wolves in that area. Winter track surveys suggest that number is on the lower end. So while I can’t give you an actual number, my best guess would be 5-7 individuals on the east side of the property." Just add bears, bobcats, and coyotes to the Deer Consumer list, too. I had a trail cam out on east end of The Mead this past winter. I have 3 different wolves on my camera alone, and this is after the killing of what I heard was 2 wolves during gun season. My opinion is there are ALOT more wolves on The Mead than you people realize. FWIW I turned 65 years old last month (March 2020), so I have been a bowhunter somewhat longer than some of you people have been alive. Do I think ANYTHING will change in regards to the over harvest of does? No, but at least I got my opinion added to the discussion, hopefully. Where you people come up with these population estimates you put out, is beyond me. I suppose most of your members are farmers, that would just as soon see the whitetail deer eradicated from the landscape. Not a happy camper, and if this keeps up I won’t be buying a deer license in Wisconsin any longer!
I’ve been hunting in the Portage County farmland zone for approximately 6 years. I’ve seen some major changes in that time alone. I’ve seen an abundance of over-crowding on public land to which during the gun season I stay away from normal hunting spots that I visit frequently during bow season. Last year I didn’t make it out as much as I had hoped for the archery season but the few times I did I was not let down by the bucks I saw! I think the population is healthy and are very few issues in that regard. I’m also hunting in the lower part of Portage County. The issue I’m seeing more of is out of state hunters. I know they bring in good revenue but when these hunters are buying land and houses in Wisconsin and then hunting the public land it’s over-crowding a lot of areas. Some hunters I’ve known for quite a few years really depend on meat to fill the freezer and when they lose out on spots due to over-crowding due to out of staters it gets frustrating! I would propose a season or timeline of some sort for residents. For example in South Dakota during the pheasant season residents get to hunt the very first part of the season I believe it’s like the first week of the season. Then non residents are able to hunt after that. To me that would give residents a fighting chance to provide for there families and bring back the hunting heritage. I grew up that hunting was more than just going out and killing a deer or that big buck, but more of looking forward to hearing all the stories from years past about the big one that got away. In my opinion that’s gone. It’s now all about who can get the biggest buck and doing whatever it takes even if that means pushing a guy out of his spot to get it. Bow hunting has always been a pleasure in this unit. With each year though I see more people out with crossbows and I see numbers climbing. That’s a good thing don’t get me wrong people are getting out there but for the people who don’t want to use a crossbow, we are at a disadvantage. Maybe shortening up the crossbow season would help hunters that aren’t using crossbows get back out and help keep the deer numbers in a good spot. Thank you for your time!

Wisconsin could be the best trophy whitetail state to go to. Right now we are close to the bottom and a lot of hunters are thinking about quitting including me. I am a die-hard hunter and love to hunt but want to hunt for a trophy and that chance is little to none in WI. Please see the following factors: 1. Need to kill the wolves. We need to eliminate wolves- which are eating all the deer. Just taking a few wolves will not help. 2. Stop shooting all the small bucks. We need a size limit or drawing system to increase the size of bucks. They just need time and they are getting killed before the develop in to a trophy. 3. Stop the large gang deer drives on public land. They are raping our land and those who hunt public land are not seeing any deer because a group of 30 guys come through and shoot everything. 4. Stop shooting the does. We need the deer production. Especially if those guys keep shooting the small bucks. Years ago there was so many more deer more bucks would just be born. Now without the does the buck population can’t grow large enough to keep up. 5. Plant good deer plots and food trees on public land. Deer are leaving public land to go on the private and eat because they want the good food. If you have to choose between good clover or dry sticks what would you choose? Make those changes and everyone will be happy. It might take a year or two and the difference will be noticed. The wait will be worth it and the state will make so much money and hunting will grow instead of dying. If you don’t change you will continue to lose hunters including me.........
In my area there are less gun hunters in woods then ever. Bow hunting used to be a time if piece and quiet in the woods. Now I watch 6 of my neighbors go out and fill there tags before rifle season with cross bows. Less hunters in the woods in rifle season means less people to move deer around for others to see. I highly protest the cross bow season to all. Iv always like it for people that don't have the ability to pull back a bow or maybe for tax paying landowners but not my neighbors buddy from Illinois sitting on my property lines. I also believe that they should be aware that cross bows are not rifles I've found 5 dead deer in my hunting property, 2 with the bolts still in them. People are taking to long of shots at walking running deer because they don't understand archery concepts but given the privilege to be wound animals. I have hunted this property for 25 years and there's plenty of deer but no actual hunters left come rifle season. I also believe that Wisconsin residents should have the right to feed there families with venison before the non residents overpopulate and scare the deer away. I used to hunt with alot if people that have given up now because the opportunities are poor even with high deer numbers in my area. The cross bow season is ruining tradition in wisconsin. Every year beginners get the chance to learn the easy warm way they will never want to go out and sit in the cold to find deer. The DNR might as well force us to all go buy a cross bow now. In 10 years no one will choose to gun hunt.

If numbers are high, you need to kill doe and leave buck alone...otherwise no one except meat hunters will shoot a doe. Many young hunters are turning to big horns or nothing...not fans of the meat flavor. This over populates doe. If you do a doe only hunt for a few years it will make horn hunters happy long term with bigger number of bigger racks and meat hunters and population numbers happy by limiting overall mouths. Earn a buck is a slower alternative to doe only. Unless you get really creative: No buck hunting except Oct to Dec...that way doe are in the field and more vulnerable Sept and winter. Or due youth hunt in September...with current timing the leaves are all orange so in my opinion it's harder to be safe. I only bow hunt the rut and horn hunt both gun and bow due to time. I get meat from my gun hunt...lots of brown its down... they want to shoot but don't eat it or horn hunt. So if it's not a big rack I know I'll get my meat later ( I love the meat, but dont like wasting a life for nothing) example- 16 deer last yr with 15 hunters (youth, bow, gun) and over half don't like it so I was able to take my buck and another deer...I'm likely going to grab more from the groups stock pile of left over roasts. Nothing outside of antlerless only or earn a buck will make me shoot a doe and I'll never shoot a small rack unless injured...I'm sure there are a lot of hunters like me out there too. Just a suggestion

A 9 day gun season, 10 muzzleloader, 4 day antlerless only and a Holiday hunt is far too much gun season. The later hunts further pressure deer and decrease opportunities for an late season bow hunters. Even with an archery extension, success rates on even seeing deer is very low. If harvesting more does or creating more revenue is the ultimate goal. I feel removing the holiday hunt and replacing it with an unused gun buck tag is valid for late season archery. To increase the amount of doe harvest, you could require to harvest one doe prior to being qualified for that authorization. To increase revenue, you could require a fee to use your unused gun tag for late season archery. For example: before season, you have an option to purchase a authorization to use your unused gun buck tag for late season archery. For example: before season, you have an option to purchase a authorization to use your unused gun buck tag for late season archery for $10 (or whatever fee you feel necessary) Along with that you will receive a antlerless tag that you are require to fill prior to the end of gun season. (Could fill with archery or gun). Sales for this authorization would end prior to the start of gun season. (I believe you would sell more on anticipation rather than, buying one after you don’t harvest). I know myself and many other hunters would pay a fee and harvest a doe if had the opportunity to use my gun tag for late bow. And many of us would harvest a doe we would normally wouldn’t.
I hunt on the Emmons Creek Fishery Area and Pickerel Lake SNA when I hunt in Portage County. I have hunted deer in the same geographical area for 30 years. In Fall 2019 I spent 11 days in the field for purposes of gun hunting (two days prior for final scouting and I hunted all 9 days during the regular, nine day gun season) and over 45 days in the field for small game and bow hunting. I have NEVER seen fewer deer than this last season/fall and heard fewer shots during the nine day season. In the recent past (2014-2017) I have seen hunters harvesting 3-5 does per hunter in this area which is decimating the herd. I would be strongly in favor of having an application for a single "hunter's choice" tag (one deer, buck or doe) per season per hunter. Like the seasons used to be when I was a youth. I also hike on the Ice Age Trail and around the Emmons Creek Fishery Area during the off-season from hunting and found the same lack of sign and lack of visual sightings for deer throughout most of last year. At one point in February 2019 I hiked the perimeter of the Emmons Creek Fishery Area and quartered it when there was fresh snow. I encountered only 4 sets of deer tracks. Quite the stark contrast from even 10 years ago. Please strongly consider reducing the antlerless harvest. Go back to "hunter's choice".

In general, I think there is a great deal of thought put into the overall deer management process. However, I do think there are a couple things that should always be considered as part of the CDAC Recommendations and when putting things in place for deer management. 1) Consider dropping all the different "hunts", antlerless only, holiday antlerless hunts, etc. Just open archery/crossbow season mid September and let it run though January 31st of the following year. You get one buck tag and your antlerless tags based on population. 2) Open Gun deer season the Saturday closests to the 15th of November (I think this is a recommendation) and let it run through the Sunday following the 15th of December. But do not close Archery/crossbow and during the gun season you can use a Muzzleloader if you choose. This extends the season overall for gun. You are still only allowed 1 Gun buck tag and your antlerless tags based on population. Extending gun season and starting gun season closer to the rut timing will most likely achieve better success results overall. You can then control populations simple based on tag distributions.

My comments are based on talking to neighbors who are fellow land owners, hunters who have permission to hunt these same private lands, and just friends and coworkers who hunt other private properties all over the county. No one I've talked likes anything to do with extending the gun season a 2nd week, the antlerless holiday hunt, creating a separate xbow season excluding Nov, extending the archery/xbow seasons though Jan. Thanks to the mismanagement of the DNR's mandatory EAB practices of years past the majority of hunters I know have developed their own personal management of their local deer herds. It's not going matter much how many tags you hand out or how many antlerless seasons you have, hunters of private lands will manage appropriately for their area. Implementing a antlerless only season will only make some land owners sit out the season causing large parcels of land for deer to hide where the hunters that are participating wont be able harvest. I hope the DNR considers all the possible ramifications of any future antlerless only or EAB season.

Do the members on the CDAC committee really represent there role? Seems like their comments are directly related to their own experiences. I am able to hunt varies parts of the county on mostly private lands and take walks on the public lands as well. I am amazed at the lack or new tree growth / establishment. Seems DNR has the science to back deer browse issues but yet over the years the committee members vote to maintain. Based on the committees roles there should be at least one vote to reduce the deer populations based on browse. If you study the numbers over the last few years the concept of maintaining the deer populations is actually increasing the deer population. What is the starting base population compared to now? Cities and villages are contracting to lower the deer populations in their communities so again i would assume there should be 1 vote to lower the population based on this. Vehicle kills are quite evident on the landscape and farmers are alway talking about crop damage. Seems there should be even more votes to lower based on this.
One thing I would like to see is to address the logistical issues associated with the distributing of antler less tags. As of now, we have to indicate the county and whether or not we will harvest that antler less deer on private or public property. As someone who is frequently hunting in multiple counties and interchanging between public and private this has immensely complicated my ability to harvest an antler less deer during both the gun and bow season. There has been many many occasions that I held an antler less deer tag but because it wasn't the right county, or the right land preference I had to pass the deer. I believe developing a system that allows at least one antler less tag to transcend counties and also can be taken on public or private would elevate a lot of frustration. I can't imagine that I am the only one feeling this frustration. Thanks for your hard work and consideration to all involved in managing and preserving our natural resources for the future!

Previous 3 year recommendation was to maintain, population went up. Current 3 year recommendation is to maintain and again it is going up. What percentage has it gone up since 2014? Do you always just try to maintain for the current 3 year period or is it compared to its original base? If maintain is considered to stay within 20% of the current 3 year period then the committee will for the most part always meet its 20% goal, which has increased in each 3 year period, and then get another 3 years to let it go up another 20%. The percentage should be compared to the original base year to compare what they really wanted to maintain the numbers at. I would really like to know in one of your power point presentation slides what percent the population has gone up from the original goal in 2014 of maintain. If you really want to maintain and/or harvest more deer then earn a buck needs to be used every so often. Not popular but quite effective.

Opposed to issuing antlerless permits or extending the season. If we are going to maintain the deer population, the continued killing of antlerless deer must stop. This is evidenced by the reduced deer population and much reduced interest in hunting in the Northwoods area of Wisconsin. I own property in Oneida County and the interest in deer hunting during the gun season has dropped dramatically because (I believe) the much reduced deer population caused by harsh winters, predators (destructive wolves) and issuing too many licenses. I am a big proponent of the DNR but often believe there is too much emphasis placed on license sales. It is obvious the wolf population is out of control and they are destroying the deer population. I realize this is a Federal issue but it does need to be contained if the deer population is going to return to something more normal.

There is no need to have this many antlerless tags in our unit. I only saw 1 deer the last 2 seasons! I won't allow my kids to take that many does on our land in order to maintain an adequate population. When I first started hunting, I could see 10-12 deer in a day for opening weekend. Now, I'm lucky to see 1 for the entire season! It's difficult to engage new young hunters to hunt when they don't see any deer for a season! I would say 1 buck and 1 doe per hunter with no bonus tags. We need to get back too the way the population used to be. With fewer hunters in our land and surrounding lands, and no baiting, it's extremely difficult to see deer moving on our stands. Hunters will be happy to help manage the deer, but not if we don't see any. If things don't change shortly, I fear that we will continue to lose many hunters young and old.

Over hunting of trophy bucks has led to a weaker, smaller bodied and more shy whitetail herd. Deer yard up in protected areas by day and nocturnally over-browse young forest vegetation. The longer cross-bow season, not registering deer taken along with multiple buck tag opportunities is wrecking the sport. People always take the path of least resistance and when it comes to buck harvest in Portage county, many violate to save their tags. I've heard lot's of boasting about shooting more than 4 bucks in a single deer season. Taking of excessive antler-less is imperative to the health of the herd and responsible hunters will harvest mature does if they see them. It is clear that hunters in this county do not prioritize shooting does no matter how many days are made available to do it.
Thank you for the survey, I live and hunt Portage County. The white deer, that are not albino, because do not have red eyes are illegal to harvest. However, their population continues to grow. In 2020 prior to gas drop I am counting over 21 different white deer in driving around a 2 square mile stretch of land in the evenings. Also, there are a significant amount of them between point and rapids. Could you please consider an extra drawing for harvest of some of these deer? Also, if you would not consider harvest of these deer could you consider offering the college or Dnr the opportunity to do a census on the deer or genetic makeup so we can understand the long term impact on our deer herd without a harvest allowed? Thank you for the great work and seeking public opinions.

The number of actual bonus purchases compared to offered is a good indicator of Maybe a better option is to lower the cost of licences for residents which may have more people go back to hunting and harvesting. At the same time raise cost of non-residents which may incent them that if paying that much there may be greater tendenancy to shoot antlerless (besides rediculously low compared to WI residents purchasing in other states) The current zone structure is messed up - way too large to manage properly, plus requiring hunters to designate private or public, or purchase both, has a lot of people fed up and think it is hurting the numbers and harvest. Suggestion to simplify structure by making units smaller (similar to old structure) and eliminate the public/private thing.

I have seen two deer total on the Mead in three seasons. I feel like this willy nilly giving of tags is useless. My daughter won't even hunt with me anymore because she hasn't seen deer at all. Something has to be done and giving away more tags isn't it. The herd in our area is NOT as big as you say. The idea to give up wearing back tags is dumb. It gives poachers basically free reign to kill. No one can report anyone anymore if you see someone poaching without approaching them. Most won't approach a poacher because of possible dangers. Things NEED to go back the way they used to be 15 or 20 years ago. Get a buck tag, or apply for hunters choice. How about earn a DOE for a few years. Too much to say in this format and I doubt anything I say will make a difference.

I own a crossbow and bow. I've hunted with both. I would support a state wide archery only, no crossbow early season through at least the fall youth hunt. Then the remainder of the season would be crossbow or archery. I feel the crossbow hunting is putting too much pressure in the woods throughout the entire archery season and making the bow/crossbow levels of deer pressure similar to gun season. I hunt in an area with high deer density and high hunter density. I appreciate the ability to lethally and effectively harvest antlerless deer with the crossbow, but I think we've lost the solitude and peacefulness bow hunting used to provide. There needs to be some portion of the season still reserved for that slower paced, peaceful, more primal form of deer hunting.

I have been hunting many years and think that the harvest numbers are OK. However I have noticed that for the most part I am only getting deer with the crossbow. I do put in many hours but enjoy the other wildlife I see and the fall weather. As far as the gun deer harvest the deer are there but being there are so many hunting seasons that if I do not bag a deer opening weekend they are running at distances that would not make sense to shoot at. The deer have become more elusive and more nocturnal than even 10 years ago. Also if there is an issue with too many deer taken with crossbows change the age to say 50 plus years old or similar. I was not in favor of crossbow to all as I knew there would be backlash from bow hunters. Thank you.

I think there’s way to many tags available. Should be a buck and a doe tag for each license, gun, bow. When I started hunting a little over 20 years ago We received one buck tag for each license or apply for a either or tag and we were all just fine with that. Two deer in the freezer is plenty of meat for a small family. At that time we could sit and watch deer all day on private and public land. Actually be able to choose which deer we wanted to harvest. Now we can sit almost all season before we even see a deer and that might be the only one we see. I use to be as excited as a kid on Christmas morning for deer season. Now I don’t even want to buy a tag or maybe go to a different state and hunt. Very poor management around here.
Way less deer being seen in this unit and way more hunters being pushed into this unit due to the surrounding units low numbers as well! Especially after the dnr ruined a large piece of public in neighboring Adam's county by pasturing cattle on it and then ruined another in portage county only a few miles away. I dont know why the dnr needs to pasture cattle on public land... oh wait yes I do ... just another way to make money while ruining something for the hunters who you guys say you need our input on... I call baloney because everyone in our area that hunts these areas is extremely mad about the deer numbers and the dnr lands being used to pasture cattle. Thanks for ruining what land we did have by doing this!

I oppose the crossbow season, and think it is time for the DNR to reevaluate this approach to hunting. It was passed in 2014 with the caveat that it would be reviewed. Far too many deer are killed and wounded by crossbow hunters, and it is a clear license revenue grab by the DNR. Go back to the original age/handicap rules that were intended with this crossbow weapon. Please go back to back tags. Please do not extend the 9-day gun season. Keep your rules simple and consistent. Yearly change is getting ridiculous and confusing. With all the changes, crossbow rules, and indecisiveness from the DNR I am contemplating giving up hunting, and selling my land. Something I never would have thought I would consider.

Provide one free tag and the number of purchased tags will probably go up. if you buy a tag you more likely to harvest one which should increase harvests. with two free tags there is no incentive to shoot more deer, I'm not out anything if i don't shoot the second deer. just driving through the county after snow melt revealed how many car kills there were, its unbelievable there everywhere. we have done harvesting in our woods with little new growth, to much browse. bow season is long enough no need to extend it. over last several years deer population has seemed to go up considerably, maintain seems to have increased the population. earn a buck is better than an antlerless season.

Live on and own 60 acres in SE Portage County. We have hunted here since 1991. I have not noticed a great variance in the deer population over the years. Obviously this is based only on my observations and hunting success. Setting a quota/goal of 6000 antlerless deer permits is equal to the entire 2019 deer harvest in Portage. It seems unrealistic as last years quota of 5200 was just over half realized. How people hunt has also greatly influenced deer harvest. For the most part gone are the days of the deer drive. Where many antlerless deer were taken. Simply providing more permits I feel will not significantly increase the harvest of antlerless deer. Thanx

I have personally seen more wolf sign than ever before in this hunting unit. Your number of estimated wolves is too low in this area. They kill more deer than u think they do and need to be eliminated. It is a shame that you turn you head every time somebody brings up this issue. There is no benefit in having active population of wolves around. Without wolves you would be able to offer more licenses to hunters. A 9 deer gun season is more than long enough...in those 9 days deer are ran ragged especially on the public lands. Your greed for selling more licenses disgusts me...your detatchment from what is actually happening in the hunting woods is alarming.

Take a driving tour of the South-Eastern area of the county. There are hundreds of deer than you can see by a one-hour drive in the late afternoon, right now. It's extremely impressive how they are very visible until the start of the gun-deer season. Some of my highest deer counts in the field have been on the second weekend. I believe that they are very sensitive to the pressure and field reports are probably less than accurate. We have more deer down here than most people think. I love deer and deer hunting, but I believe we are beyond carrying capacity. A hasta plant will not make it in my front yard :). Thank you for addressing these issues!

I have had the opportunity to become a hunter as an educated natural resources student and learn about CWD, wolves, elk properly. This was my first year hunting, and the amount of deer I saw during the season as to offseason was extremely high. As I drove from Stevens Point to Green Bay this past winter/springtime I saw fields of deer...I saw fields with 50+ deer browsing. I would suggest and urge a spring hunt if possible around the turkey season. Both of these species are growing at a high rate, but perhaps providing an alternative season with better weather that the animals can not predict or are used to could increase the harvest rate.
I would like to see the inclusion of hunting pistols and single shot rifles during muzzleloader seasons. Modern muzzleloaders are as accurate as more modern firearm designs. Other than ease of reloading there is no disadvantage for muzzleloaders over pistols or single shot rifles. The added challenge of hunting with a pistol or a single shot rifle is something I enjoy during Wisconsin's gun deer season. Considering the use of crossbows during archery season is already allowed I can only wonder why other "primitive" firearms such as revolvers, single shot pistols and single shot rifles would not be permitted during muzzleloader seasons.

I think definitely charge more for out of state hunters. Grit ride of crossbows. Strop wasting money on CWD. Never will get rid of it. Buy CWD resistance deer. That way you are pleasing everyone. I agree on that in certain area numbers of deer could be shot but the high CWD areas have the biggest n best deer herd and shooting the biggest bucks in the state year after year. I have lots of friends and family that all quit hunting northern Wisconsin, wolves cleared out the deer. They don't hunt anymore. They would see 10 times the wolf's then deer. I know of 20 friends n family members that all quit hunting for that reason.

You have to take into consideration all the deer that are not being registered. If you make an incentive to register your deer, you will get better numbers. Wolves in the northern zones have significantly decreased the population and a majority of our MN and IL hunters hunt there. If you are worried about dollars, kill the wolves and get more deer where non-resident hunters hunt. Also, increase the non-resident tag amount. Lastly, farmland/private land is consistently being converted to subdivisions or smaller parcels, if you incentivize landowners with tax breaks or other financial gains, you would see more deer habitat.

I would like to see just one buck harvest tag issued to hunter per season. So if I harvest a buck during bow season my only option for gun season is to harvest a doe. Deer are hunted way too long in Wisconsin compared to other states almost 4 months adding holiday hunts is not needed. If you are looking for extra revenue increase non resident tags. I pay more for to hunt upload birds in South Dakota then a non resident pays to hunt deer here. Get rid of the Youth hunt it is not teaching our kids to hunt and it is not keeping them in the sport. Just look at license sales since the youth hunt started.

I am a private land owner in Portage County (own 40 acres of wooded land). I do not reside on the land but I do maintain it and am paying full taxes on the property. I strongly object to any type of bow hunting since I repeatedly find dead deer on our property which have been wounded by bow hunting and not found. I would like to find a way to prevent bow hunters from coming onto our property but "no hunting" signs are ineffective...bow hunters seem to increasingly ignore such signs. Do you have any suggestions on how I can keep bow hunters off of our property?

Unfortunately I feel that you are making decisions on false numbers of deer. I have heard numerous people in the area talk about shooting three four even five deer, both buck and doe’s but do not register them. I own 152 acres and had four people hunting it. My next-door neighbor owns 60 acres with two people hunting it. None of us saw a deer last year where deer have been plentiful in the past years. I don't feel that you will be able to manage the deer properly until you go back to taking the deer and taking them into a registration station.

My private land experience has indicated an uptick in the amount of coyote deer kills during the last 2 years. That is disturbing to me as I was not aware that coyotes could take down a mature healthy deer. I also know that my private land has black bear taking advantage of fawn births, but my deer cams do not indicate other than what appears to be normal bear - deer interaction. The deer numbers I have seen in conjunction with neighbor comments suggest the deer population on our land has remained stable during the last few years.

I have been hunting deer in Portage county for the past 26 years. The amount of deer I see in the woods has steadily declined since 2008. I have lived in Portage county for 52 years. Every day when I drive through Portage county I see less and less deer in ditches and fields. Bring the herd population back to what it was in 1994 -2008. I am considering quitting deer hunting because of seeing less deer. From 1994-2008 I would see 40-50 deer on opening weekend. Now I am lucky if I see 3 deer. This goes for the rest of my family too.
7510 I think crossbow season should stay the way it is. back tags are stupid waste of money, keep registration format the way it is. I think bucks should not be allowed to be harvested during the youth hunt. If crossbows are not allowed during the rut then ALL methods of hunting should not be allowed, including bows of all types it should be easier to have a harvested deer tested maybe a free test kit included with a license purchase, to check for CWD. All deer farms/pens should be banned in Wisconsin immediately until CWD is under control.

7511 Why no report or numbers of wolf/bear kills. Wolf and bears numbers are out of control. As a kid I never had to worry about these animals in central Wis. My grandchildren can’t roam the woods like I did. Not funny when you run into these animals. Find remains of their kills way to often. Don’t like finding this. Does the dnr actually listen to hunters or just people who have no idea of reality. Been on dnr surveys. Not what I saw in their reports. Very opinion slighted. Too bad this is how most hunters view the dnr.

7512 What really irritates me is those individuals who over harvest deer using the various extra tags available to fill their garages with carcuses. Many other hunters go the season without seeing or being able to harvest a single deer. Place a limit on individuals purchasing extra tags. Cut backs of wardens ability to travel\enforce by previous administration has also caused much damage. Hunters shouldn’t have to go to other states to harvest deer. Predation by wolves and coyotes have also taken a toll.

7513 I think, at some point in the future, going to a 4-point on 1-side restriction would really help stimulate the number of mature bucks in Wisconsin (especially central Wisconsin). It seems to me that private land owners/hunters need to do a better job of taking anterless (mostly doe) deer. Upping the amount of public land anterless tags is just going to create more hunting pressure on public lands while limiting the amount of quality deer sightings on those public lands. Thanks for what you do!

1698 In a 5-10 mile radius from my home I am able to see upwards of 30 deer on a given field/visual sighting from one point. I am surrounded by an overabundance of deer of different populations. And am sickened by the lack of undergrowth around my home, on the private and public land I hunt within minutes of my home. The browsing on the undergrowth is too much. My observation and that of a forester that surveyed the private land I hunt. UWSP Natural Resources Management graduate.

1699 I believe the presentation for Portage county was focused too much on the overall number (which is obviously important) of the herd in this county. I think in the future we should start considering the quality of the deer in our county and impose an antler restriction to give more people a higher probability of shooting a quality deer. This proposal may not go over well but I think at least talking about it will generate ideas as to how to improve the quality deer.

1700 No antlerless season - bring back earn a buck. don’t give out two free tags. that’s to many free tags. what is my incentive to buy the bonus tags. two deer are enough to eat. lot of car kills on landscape. this alone shows population is steadily increasing, not maintaining. based on this alone there should not be a unanimous vote to maintain. there should be one if not several other lower votes based on what the cdac representatives are suppose to be representing.

1701 I believe that with the current Covid-19 situation that there will be more hunters wanting to participate this fall. My rationale for this is that a lot of people that stayed at home have used up a lot of there food reserves in their freezers to avoid going out to get groceries and that more people will want to restock their freezers with venison. Therefore this would allow more people the opportunity to hunt that otherwise would not participate in the past.

1702 Need to open gun deer season earlier every year and lengthen the gun deer season. The current length of our regular gun deer season is too short, especially when compared to the cost of the license. Also, look at other states. Another reason why we are losing more hunters each year. It usually opens after the rut and the bow hunters have taken many, many of the bucks. Only does are left for gun hunters. Another reason for fewer hunters.
A hunter should be no younger than 14 to harvest a deer, 5 year old children do not harvest the deer, their parents shoot the deer for them. Crossbows need to go back to elderly and handicapped hunters, once again 5 year old children do not harvest their deer, the parents shoot them with crossbows. I think too many antlerless deer tags are being given out in this unit. Please only give one antlerless deer tag to each hunter not two.

Deer count is way down from what I’m seeing in my woods. Shooting more does will never help I saw 11 deer this whole 9 day season. Terrible by my standards. I understand maybe the deer had different patterns weather etc. I enjoy deer hunting especially with my dad on our 80 acres but the deer hunting really isn’t that good and hasn’t been in recent years. We don’t shoot does or small bucks. It’s really not rewarding or exciting to us.

Deer drives on public land create unsafe situations. I have set up several times and had to leave the woods when a drive sets up to comb the woods. The timing of the gun season did not line up well with the rut and the crossbow hunters had the advantage. Local land owners plant deer food plots and draw deer from miles around and we see fewer deer on public land. Crop damage permits also take a lot of deer before the season starts.

The deer population numbers in Portage County west of the Wisconsin river are extremely low. I hunted all 9 days of the gun season and saw a total of 4 deer. If the DNR wants to retain hunter numbers and improve recruitment especially with youth, the deer population must be increased. There is no way I will be able to introduce my young grandson to deer hunting if opportunity to see deer continue to erode.

ANTLER Restrictions like PA did. More draw to the state for better herd/ bucks. Higher number of mature bucks Stop all these extra holiday/ youth, early hunts... they've truly destroyed the anticipation/mystique of opening day and the tradition that WI used to be known for. The deer population is stressed non stop because of this which has resulted in less success rates and in turn less interest. Thanks

I’m concerned about CWD and disease within our herd. I support more aggressive deer harvest. My fear is that nature will control the herd, not hunters. With CWD closing in around portage county, I feel it is important that we stay aggressive and promote more opportunity across the board. Hunters need to stop bickering about what weapon kills a deer. Hunt, have fun, and enjoy yourself. Thank you

Limit the use of crossbow during bow season. You may as well open up gun hunting during the entire bow season. Crossbow doesn’t take anywhere near the amount of skill and ruins bow season for many bow hunters. I personally had trophy deer taken out from underneath me by a person with a crossbow that didn’t put the time and effort in that I did trying to harvest a trophy. Crossbows suck!

Need to realize there are pockets of deer. Don’t rely on you seeing 20 deer on private land in one area. Many of us didn’t see a deer in the month of November, even though I hunted with a crossbow, which to many is “unfair”. Hard to shoot them if you don’t see them. I’ve shot plenty of deer in the past so skill is not a factor. Quit giving away so many for tags for free!

I think there should be only one buck tag an one doetag per license To many deer are taken with gun bow youth hunts an car kills know extra time should be added on to this But thats just what i think

Stop all the extra tags for the youth hunts. Let the kids hunt when it is regular season like it was always before. There is no reason the youth go out and shoot all the large deer (bucks) and chase all the deer around before the season starts. And lets be fair the parents end up shooting these massive bucks half these kids shoot anyway. Its not right.
1. I think Wisconsin should charge the same for out of state license as the state the hunter lives in.  
2. To make Wisconsin more attractive to other hunters to want to come and hunt, we should raise the buck tag to at least 3 points on one side of rack. This would cause more bucks to make it through the season and bigger bucks through out the state.

Please get ride if the private, public and county to choose your antler less permit. I hunt three county’s private and public hard to decide where to pick where u want to use your tag. Go back to 4 or 5 sections reduce tags where deer herd is low. Please change this. Wolves are not helping our herd but that is a whole different story.

Having a reasonable chance of harvesting a nice buck or a large doe in the last 3 years in my opinion is due to the pouching happening at night. I hear alot of shots at night seeing as I have to smoke outside, and people shinning at 1,2,3 in the AM. Suddenly the big bucks that people have been watching for months are gone.

I have lived in this area since 1985. this past summer in my farm fields I saw zero to very few fawns. I think the coyote an wolf have cut down the fawn numbers drastically. Also you need to allow some shooting of the white deer. Their numbers are increasing every year. The only bucks I saw during the gun season were white.

Since the start of electronically registering deer instead of paper tagging the amount of poaching and reckless shooting of deer has sky rocketed. People are tagging only the biggest deer and leaving the others or cutting them up before they go back out. That is why harvest numbers are down but more deer are getting shot.

I believe hunters need to ban together. It doesn't matter what kind of weapon you use (compound or cross bow, muzzleloader or rifle etc.....) as long as you love to hunt. When I was younger I couldn't sleep the night before opening day of gun deer season, because it was tradition. Seems now days we get away from that.

I hunt only on my private property (150 acres). Family and two close friends are invited. Good repour with neighbors. We do not use deer management with trying to save the big bucks. You can't eat horns! Checking the gut shows the animals eating like cattle. The winter of 2019/20 was good with no known deer kill.

I would strongly support antler point restrictions for the buck harvest. Three legal points on the main beam of one antler (not counting brow tines) should be a minimum. I believe this would both improve the overall health of the herd and hunter safety (by increasing focus/caution when identifying a target).

Due to the over harvest of deer in Portage County there are very few deer on private and public ground during the normal Deer Hunting Season. Due to the lack of game I may not be hunting in Wisconsin for the next few years and you loose an out of state hunting license and local businesses lose my business.

We wish that shining deer would be stopped completely. Very Invasive to our private property. Feel that the deer can be easily poached by the use of crossbow by unlawful people. Also, hard to get a license number of a shiner after hours as asked for by law officers when they shine our house and buildings.

I live on my property and use trail cameras. The deer population in my area of southeast Portage county is down significantly from the early 2000’s. Id suggest it resembles the car deer collision metric. I am not suggesting this is true in all of Portage county but it is true in my neck of the woods.

We need to limit the crossbow season. This is similar to hunting with a gun or muzzleloader, so this season should be only a week or two also. With the improved bow technologies, I think we should reduce the length of the season, or limit each person to one deer for either the bow or gun seasons.

I have NOT harvested a deer in this county since 2008. I have not seen the the same numbers of deer that I did in 1995. Creeks drying up when irrigation wheels are activated. Deer tracks are fewer, bear tracks and wolf tracks are present at times. We’ve always had coyotes so I know the difference.

The amount of small bucks harvested needs to be addresses. I would support a point restriction ! The amount of private land tags used to harvest antlerless deer on public land also needs to be addressed. The lack of Game Wardens is also enabling poaching to increase. Especially illegal baiting.
Portage County farmers reap the benefits of the crop damage program. As far as I know, the hunter pays for the program and gets nothing in return, unless they are the hunter! Be fair to all involved. If they get a bunch of tags, please force them to allow outsider hunting on their land!!!

The amount of deer being killed by auto is much much higher than your graphs have shown I hunt in the area along highway 66 well searching for sheds this spring I personally found three dead carcasses bones in this reoccurs year after year and it's only a 20-acre stretch...

Ever since baiting was eliminated, people have given up on deer hunting. No one is going to spend the money and time to hunt if they are going to see few or no deer. CWD is never going to be eliminated and I see deer in groups browsing on the same plants and areas anyway

Why change things all you are doing is making the hunters mad. The harvest is controlled by the hunters and the weather. Two things that the DNR can't control. By changing the season all you are going to do is drive hunters away. That mean DNR is only worried about money

No separate crossbow season. Keep the 9 day gun deer season no need for longer one same amount of deer would be killed just have weekend warriors out hunting with potentially endangering other hunters. Have the 5 day break before the gun deer season of no hunting

the present season length is fine, I see less and less deer each year, but I think that is because of a lack of hunters in some areas, I also do not like the on-line registration process I think there are 20% more deer taken than are registered in some areas?

The DNR and people as a whole should fight for a wolf hunting season to cut down the predator-prey kill rate and increase the deer population. Also the antlerless tags should be limited so more deer have the opportunity to breed and increase the population.

I have property in the eastern part of Portage county. Numbers of deer have drastically reduced the last several years. We are in a woods of several hundred acres and are lucky to see a couple of deer opening weekend. We are 1/2 mile from Waupaca county.

The deer predators seen in this area has increased tremendously. During turkey hunting, there were coyotes and wolves spotted. All within the hunting fields available to open hunting. The open hunting lands are becoming less and less in this area.

Instead of “antlerless only” seasons, bring back earn-a-buck where needed. But let people earn it the previous year. i.e. If I shoot two does this 2020, and my DMU goes to earn a buck for 2021, I’m all set for opening day 2021.

I’m fine with the authorizations. However, I strongly oppose the Holiday Hunt. There are too many seasons and they are too long already. Let’s let some other outdoor users have their time as well. No Holiday Hunt! Thanks.

I’m become concerned with the wolf population growing in Portage county. The estimated number of wolves in Portage is grossly underestimated. Without some sort of control I fear the numbers will continue to increase.

I would strongly support an extended archery season in Portage County. This may help with declining harvest numbers in archery. Additionally, it would also enable hunters to reach the larger proposed quota for 2020.

The deer count is a lot lower than you think in my area! No longer seasons!!! The deer just move at night when there is a lot of human activity in the woods. I’m tired of sitting all day to see one or 0 deer!

Why is there even any consideration being given in increasing antlerless tags and having a Holiday hunt, when so many hunters did not harvest or see many deer last year? It makes absolutely no sense.

The wolves and private land permits are devastating the herd in Portage County. May stop all hunting and fishing due to low public land availability of deer while land owners devastate the herd.
My property is next to public land. I would like to see public land be logged a little bit more for cover and food. I did not hear a lot of gunshots during the time I hunted Portage county.

I think they should leave rifle 9 days, get rid of antlerless only hunts, and only let elderly and disable use a cross bow, i believe the deer are pressured way to much! Have a great day

I don't support an anterless only season, but would consider a framework for earn a buck, or even a framework that would require more mature bucks be taken (age/antler size considerations).

I would eliminate free tags. If some one wanted a doe they wouldn't have a problem paying 12dollars. Dnr gets money needed. People shoot deer they don't want or need with a free tag

The whole state of Wisconsin should have a points or antler system like other states have. So there will be bigger bucks and the young ones have a chance to possibly reach maturity.

I feel the deer numbers are stable in my area, have to put more time in to fill tags the last 3 or 4 years then in the past.... over all I feel a good job is being done .

If a Holiday Hunt is conducted only residents or land owners of that DMU/County should be able to hunt and deer registration should be in required in person, not on line.

4 points on one side is how we can get buck growth and future revenue from people wanting to hunt for trophy whitetails. Its simple and alot of other states do it.

2019 Gun deer hunt was the first that I had seen Coyote, I attribute the Coyote population to the fact that no Deer were seen in our 120 acre wooded private land.

require having a permit in the field. I feel that people harvest deer and do not report it so the harvest numbers are low but the actual harvest is about the same

NOT ENOUGH PERMITS TO PUBLIC LAND HUNTERS. SAW FEWER DEER THAN EVER BUT IN TALKING TO PRIVATE LAND OWNERS THEY KILLER MORE THAN EVER. TIME TO STOP HUNT, PERIOD.

Worst browse damage noticed in our 30 yrs here occurred last winter. Between deer damage and invasives the next generation will not know the beauty of what was.

Access to hunting land is a major problem. if private land recieves government money for crop damage they should also allow public access to their land.

I don't think gun season should be extended which would cause bow hunting to be shortened numbers seem to be rising for bow hunters keep them happy

Do not want to see an earn-a-buck gun season in 2020 DNR Should make bow hunting a doe only hunt in 2020 if they need to lower the deer population

Please leave the bow season alone.. if you bye an archery tag it should not matter whether it's a bow or crossbow.. stop micromanaging hunters!

I do NOT support deer hunting in Hartman Creek State Park. Hunters pose a risk to the majority of the park's users (hikers, campers, bikers).

There is a problem with your deer numbers. There is a lot fewer deer then you think and handing out doe tags like candy is killing the sport.

Only other comment i have is to leave the season dates/framework alone...leave archery/crossbow season as is and leave 9 day gun hunt as is.

I would like to see the muzzle loader season not start for a week after the 9 day gun season. Give the woods a chance to settle back down.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7534</td>
<td>Would sure like a better chance for a buck with a muzzleloader. Maybe a traditional muzzle loader right around the rut. Just a thought.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7535</td>
<td>Normal deer seasons, don’t mess with separating bow and crossbow (keep them linked/the same). Very little shooting heard last season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7536</td>
<td>Please consider 1 buck tag per hunter. I feel it will eliminate all the bickering between bow and cross bow hunters once and for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7537</td>
<td>College educated .......... will do what they Do are educated to do an get payed to do  So I feel this means nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7538</td>
<td>No earn a buck! I hunt next public land. The last time you had that stupid rule we didn't see a deer for 5 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7539</td>
<td>Say what you want there are not the deer numbers in portage county compared to surrounding counties. Just aren’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7540</td>
<td>Too many antlerless tags going out. Each person should only be allowed 1 and not be able to purchase anymore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7541</td>
<td>How can the proposed allocation of antlerless permits be up when last years harvest was way down?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7542</td>
<td>During bow season I 5 does 2 fawn and 2 small bucks. I didn't see anything during gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7543</td>
<td>Any extra hunts should be considered only after the regular gun deer seasons numbers are in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7544</td>
<td>Please do not extend gun season. Encourage more gun hunters to bow/crossbow hunt instead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7545</td>
<td>I oppose any reduction in the crossbow season over concerns of buck harvest distribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7546</td>
<td>Thank you for asking my input. Thank you for the good job that you do. County and State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7547</td>
<td>Could we try an antler restriction to a minimum of 4 pets per side in portage county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7548</td>
<td>We need to extend the regular gun season in general. Everyone around has 15 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7549</td>
<td>There are NOT enough deer in Portage (or statewide)!!!! Stop the overharvest!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7550</td>
<td>We seen the least amount of deer ever, but we had the best season ever!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7551</td>
<td>keep the seasons the same do not lengthen the gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7552</td>
<td>If you have the holiday hunt, remove the antlerless only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7553</td>
<td>Need to reduce the amount of coyotes and wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7554</td>
<td>wolves are out of control. Have a wolf season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7555</td>
<td>What has been happening should be continuing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7556</td>
<td>Seeing less and less 3+ yr old bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7557</td>
<td>Thank you for doing a great job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7558</td>
<td>Raise out of state tag prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7559</td>
<td>thanks for the holiday hunt!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7560</td>
<td>Keep up the good work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7561</td>
<td>very important</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  **Friday, May 01, 2020**  
*Portage, Central Farmland*
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 204
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 170
   - I hunt in this unit: 581
   - General interest in this unit: 91

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 550
   - Bow: 286
   - Crossbow: 240
   - Muzzleloader: 206

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 24.78
   - Maximum: 69

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 268
   - Mostly Private Land: 81
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 94
   - Mostly Public Land: 62
   - Exclusively Public Land: 67
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 9

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 12
   - Not too crowded: 40
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 54
   - Somewhat crowded: 87
   - Very crowded: 103
   - Not applicable: 8

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 135
   - Fewer: 186
   - Same: 182
   - More: 73
   - Many More: 35
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

- **If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...**
  - Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

- **If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...**
  - EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

- **If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...**
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 56 517 47

- **If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...**
  - ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? 297 259 64

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deer hunting in Price county is a joke compared to what it once was and what it could be. Years ago, it was a top destination for quality deer hunting. Years of mismanagement and over predation have caught up. Unfortunately, the CDAC and the DNR continue to pat themselves on the back. Take a drive through some of the vast public forests during the 9 day deer season and you can witness the lack of hunter presence in areas that formerly flourished with hunters. Opening day you may see a few vehicles parked on the side of the road but after that there is next to nobody. They don't hunt the same lands anymore because the deer hunting is terrible. I've been lucky enough to hunt many parts of the state and several other states and I can honestly say of all the areas I hunted in the last 10 years I consider Price county the worst. I truly hope for the next generations things improve because we are losing numbers as hunters and a tradition. I'm proud to call Price county my home and have many great deer hunting memories here. We used to be a big buck mecca and now we have very few mature bucks. We have an over abundance of wolves and bears now. I saw as many wolves as deer on public land last fall. Bears continue to be a nuisance to most rural residences and are undoubtedly having an effect on fawn survival. Take a drive on a summer evening and notice how many does have only one fawn or none. Something is killing them. The hunting format changes in the last 10 years are also part of the reason for poor hunting. When the hunting was good, we didn't have early youth seasons, we didn't have holiday hunts, and we didn't have continued pressure on the deer for 4 months! Native Americans were not allowed to legally shoot deer with the aid of spotlight. Looking at the crossbow harvest is very disappointing. It is unfair to vertical bow hunters to have to share a season with crossbows. By allowing crossbows during the rut, a large portion of young bucks are taken from the herd. I am not anti-crossbow (I have one) but I think they need to be regulated to a shorter season. The fact that the DNR would even consider extending and/or moving the gun deer season earlier is a total disgrace to the hunters of Wisconsin. You've wrecked enough tradition and quality already, it's time to start going back to the way things were. Sadly, this letter doesn't mean much and I'd be surprised if it gets read to the finish. Politicians (I consider CDAC members politicians also) have their own agendas and will do as they please or what the special interest groups that fund them tell them to do. Sincerely, a concerned hunter. The DNR and CDAC should be ashamed of their lack of results.
Deer kill numbers have had a down trend for more than 1 year, this is a fact! Deer numbers are still very spotty. Yes, areas like west of Ogemav have more deer. But, overall price county is STILL NOT there as far as numbers. Winter severity was 53, this is a JOKE! The area around Prentice was over 18 inches since Thanksgiving week. Get out of the office and look at facts! This a CDAC, that stands for County Deer Advisory Committee not Ogemav, not farm land deer committee. If you are going to continue to play that argument, then you have to give equal credit to the Forestry. How many deer are there? You cannot have it both ways. I believe there are about 10 deer per square mile in most areas. Half of Price county was managed to 15 per square mile prior to the new units, the rest of the county was managed to over 20. LOOK AT WHAT THE KILL WAS THEN VERSUS NOW! You guys talk about driving around and seeing deer on fields when the snow melts early, wow...where do you think the deer will be? Do you then think when they disperse there are that many in every square mile? No there are not. Every year there is an excuse for the low deer kill, like, too warm, too cold, too much snow, late start to season, rut ended early, too rainy, it’s always something. But, never, gee, maybe there are not as many deer as we keep saying. The crossbows are slamming deer at a record pace, this is a fact. As for tourism, it will NEVER come back if the herd is not close to what it once was. No, we dont need 35 deer per square mile, however we need more than are there now. Last year, I argued to ALL OF YOU, that the 2019 deer kill would be low. You all looked at me like I had 3 heads. I stated, if I am wrong, then I am wrong, but, if the deer kill ends up being low again I was going to remind all of you about that moment in last years meeting this year. DID YOU ALL FORGET? I had over 2 dozen deer cameras spread out from our family private land, to the federal and in 3 different county land blocks and can prove what I am writing to, can you ? I am still stating that at best there are 10 to 12 deer per square mile. And, I believe it is closer to 8 to 10. You guys cannot back up the fact there are so many deer yet. We have a huntable herd, not a maintain herd. Meaning, with winter kill, crossbow and predation, this herd is still very vulnerable. Again, you all will do what you do. I look forward to next years meetings where we all argue where we go from here! Be prepared with facts to back up your decisions. As, I will as well. Oh, spending 4 to 6 months a year in the actual woods would help as well.

When it was discussed around something happening around Nov 12th for deer activity. I have noticed the past few years the deer have been conditioned to know when the gun season is starting. The increase in people at cabins, people in the woods the week before doing last minute scouting. They know and reflects their movement. I am lucky enough to have a good chunk of private land that I am able to monitor what is there and such and did see a decrease in deer activity. They were there but they bed down lay low until after thanksgiving. Another topic that is brought up about season structure in 2020. My wife I have just introduced to hunting. She fully enjoys being out through the first couple weeks of November before it gets too cold. She isn’t a fan of firearms kick, noise, etc. she loves going out sitting with the crossbow. I feel with this season structure change with that you will lose a hunter. I was fortunate enough to be able to mentor her. Best program ever. She tried it out, no success. Saw deer but she completed the hunter safety program because of the time she spent. I think the state is losing the younger generation to hunting and outdoors. This crossbow season going through the rut with normal archery is the best thing to happen to introduce new hunters. It’s nice out. They don’t freeze. It’s a good environment for us to teach the next generation to hunt and outdoors. This crossbow season going through the rut with normal archery is the best thing to happen to introduce new hunters. It’s nice out. They don’t freeze. It’s a good environment for us to teach the next generation to hunt. The animal is close and you have quicker more humane kills on the animal. Isn’t that what hunting in Wisconsin is all about. Getting together with friends and family. Spending time outdoors and if you are lucky enough to get a chance to harvest and animal, use the quickest and most humane resources we have to do so? I hope this is considered. Also with the extended gun season, the deer in northern Wisconsin are stressed and hunted year round by the large population of predators and then September to January from humans. They need a break also. The 15 day proposed gun season is going to cause more people trying to sneak on private land and you won’t see the increase of deer kill either. Like I said before, the seer know when gun season is. Keep it traditional. We have done it how long this way with no issues. It comes down to trying to get more licenses sold. If you keep the crossbow and rifle seasons the same there will be no issue. In fact my nephew is going to start hunting next year under the mentoring program. It’s working and the crossbows are the best tools to help get women and youth in the outdoors doing so.
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment. I appreciate your time given to this important deer management council. I believe the CDAC is on the right pathway of maintaining the herd numbers. I would like to see more deer on public land if possible. Unfortunately I was not successful at harvesting anything, let alone seeing any deer during my sits on public land. On opening day a hunting group did a deer drive pushing all deer out of public land on to their private land. I would like to propose banning deer drives on public land for the first opening weekend. So the DNR also has another set of proposed rules pitting gun hunters against bow hunters. Mainly not allowing the bow hunter to hunt during gun season. I'm not a bow hunter, but I really don't mind anyone bowhunting during gun season. As for the possible adding days to the gun season. I would much rather the gun season be a whole lot earlier. Say last week of October thru first week of November. My private land and surrounding area was hit hard by that group of high school kids poaching and didn't have as many deer around this last deer season, which pushed me to hunt public land to try and let my property rebound from the slaughter. I hunted public and didn't see a single deer or a lot of deer sign. That leads me to believe it's been over hunted, which is the case for many years on public land all around the state. How can we manage public land better to allow for more population growth? I see there is a concern with over browsing in forests, which I didn't see that as an issue with how many seeds are put out by mature trees and new shoots sprouting up all over after a select cut/clear cut. I would like to propose something similar to Michigan gun hunt. Have an antler point requirement. 3 on one side, or 4 on one side. Let the young bucks live another day. I also recommend doing away with the youth hunt, that’s what the regular gun seasons are for. This program has been abused one to many times it seems. I seen a possibility of banning bait statewide. This would impact a lot of locals selling bait to hunters. Not sure that would be the best option for small town USA where a lot of places depend on these sales. Will ATV's be allowed to drive on public lands ever again? I see the roads are being gated off. Thank you.

The wolves are an issue weather you want to admit it or not! I am in the woods a fair amount and can honestly tell you, the wolf population needs to be address. Also what we have done as a state is increase every predator that we possibly can have. More bear (hard on the fawns) more Bobcat (hard on the Fawns) Fischer, some mountain lions-don't try to say they are not hear they are! Coyotes and so on. But most of all the WOLVES!!! They are not good and I also hunt in the UP of Michigan and they are not good there and deer herds have taken it on the chin there also. Plus we are loosing hunters and it is only going to get worse, our camp is full opening day (19) a few hunt all opening weekend and then most of the young hunters (Under 30) go home. I want to thank you for what you try to do, but no matter what anyone wants to tell me as a hunter of almost 50 years there are less hunters and less deer, small game ect and it is do to the predators that have been allowed to get out of control! Most people up here feel the same way if they are from here and have been here for a while. I believe it is only going to get worse until we can stop the killers that live in the woods 24/7/365 days a year. Good luck if you are like the DNR people I talk to in the UP you want a season to keep Wolves under control but we have Judges stopping it. I wish you luck a few more down years and even less people will hunt. By the way the hunters are seeing deer by the roads and homes not in the middle of the woods, that is because the wolves have them chased out to other areas. I hunt public land and hardly ever see anyone back off the roads more than a few hundred feet. I am sorry to rant I have never done it before, but what I am seeing in the woods makes me sad and sick. Wolves are BAD, my 2019 hunt was the worse ever and are group of 19 hunters say the fewest deer and most Wolf sign in our history. Thank You for your time. Good luck and please help us before its to late!! P.S. You are going to see more deer hunting and less gun hunters- More time to do it when they feel like it rather than a chance to be in a group for a set week.
Wisconsin could be the best trophy buck state in the union. We could have great hunting for all who want to shoot a trophy on public or private. These are the keys: 1. Kill the wolves. There is more of a predation problem than you know. Wolves move up to 50 miles a day to feed on their primary food source which is deer. They also kill deer just for fun. Wolves were exterminated years ago by our forefathers who knew why they needed to be eliminated. Wolves are killing our hunting especially in the North. Most of the hunters moved down south in WI to find deer and won’t even hunt their own land. The family tradition of deer hunting in the north has been lost. 2. Stop shooting the does on public land. Start to put deer plots in on public land to draw the deer off private land. Burn and manage the forests for good new growth. Plant food trees and crops on public land. 3. Stop shooting small bucks- put in a size limit or make buck tag drawings. Let em go so they can grow. The North used to be the trophy buck place to go in the world. Now it is a laugh. The deer are gone and everyone wants to sell their land because the wolves are eating everything. There used to be a lot of hunters because their were trophy deer. Now it is like a ghost town. 4. I used to sit in the woods in the 70’s and 80’s and see 50 plus deer a day with trophies a good potential. Now if I sit all day I might see three deer. Two fawns and maybe a doe if I’m lucky. I baited and the bait rotted- no deer to eat it. You will loose me too soon if you don’t make the changes suggested. If you do make the changes you won’t believe the large bucks you will see and all the hunters will apply for a tag and come back. Wisconsin will again be the state to trophy hunt. If not you will continue to ruin it and I and others will stop hunting.... 5. Use wolf tags to take the place of deer hunting until the deer come back. They will come back if the wolves are eliminated. If not deer hunting is finished, especially in the North. Please listen and make those changes..... Thank you

We have watched the decline of the deer herd in Price county over the past 10 years with predator increase and bad winters. Finally the last two years there has been a small increase but with adding antlerless hunting and not knowing next winters weather we could drop back down to seeing very low numbers again. I understand your wanting to keep a controlled herd number but why cut it so close that if we have bad weather in winter we see no deer at all? How can you go from no antlerless tags too 3000 in one to two years? You are always either one extreme or another. You also speak of the deer herd numbers coming back after a drop but you never speak of quality of the deer. Why not focus on quality instead of quantity for Wisconsin? We have so many hunters leaving Wisconsin to other states who manage there herds for quality when Wisconsin could be one of the best. Almost all our deer shot are under two years of age a managed herd with antler restrictions would help greatly within a couple years. Its hard enough getting new hunters or keeping past hunters interested but we have had in our area in the past 5 years 45 plus hunters covering thousands of acres only kill one spike horn all gun season. That would be fine if everyone was at least seeing deer but that isn’t the case, most see nothing. Please help our future deer herds, stop anterless hunts for now and allow the herd to grow and mature. Then If we need small adjustments we can have anterless hunts at intervals not to overkill in case of bad weather or increase of predator kills. Allow the Bucks to reach potential and make Wisconsin a big buck great hunting state again.
I agree with the proposed recommendations. In 2019 I observed the most deer in a very long time in the spring, during the summer and in the fall in many places in the county. I felt that the fawns were a bit down though. In August I observed a group of bucks in velvet head-butting and pushing around during the month. Several days before the gun opener the deer were not moving around at all. But on the opening weekend of gun season, when it was very pleasant weather, the deer were moving. I saw does and fawns on Saturday. A lot of people were saying that the deer were not rutting anymore and the opener was too late. On Sunday mid-morning I observed a doe feeding in an overgrown field. After several minutes a spike buck was following her. I kept watching and a few minutes later came a large-bodied forkhorn also following her, which I harvested. During the gun season the last 3-4 years it seems there are not many large bucks. I think the long crossbow season before the gun season is a factor. I read in the Wisconsin Outdoor News that the bucks dropped their antlers really early this year. On March 15th I observed a spike and a forkhorn with both antlers. The next day I saw that the spike had dropped both antlers and the forkhorn had dropped one. On April 2nd the spike still had his one antler and he was head-butting another deer. I don't believe that the winter conditions had much of an impact on the deer herd as there are now, in the middle of April, a lot of deer appearing and the fawns will add to that.

I think the idea of shooting does in this area should be heavily frowned on due to the extreme predation in this area, at least the areas I hunt (Price, Rusk, Sawyer County). There are way to many wolves, bear, and cats that are killing deer. An adult doe has 1, maybe 2 fawns in this area. A wolf can have up to 8 pups in one litter. More recently now the Eagles are preying on the fawns-I've seen it first hand. There are days when I hunt the state forest that I will sit all day long, and not see a single deer. If I see 5, that's a good day. It makes it difficult to get my kid interested in this sport. I have many encounters with wolves, and they also frequent my trail cameras. While shed hunting this spring, I found 7 deer skulls/bones. I do not know why they died, but being that the winter was relatively mild, I can only assume predators. I also own private land, and I feel that the herd in this area is much better, but it's because myself and my neighbors are not killing all the does. I feel it wouldn't take much to deplete this heard as well, and then it would really be tough to get my kid to go. Hunting in the Northwoods is much different than in Southern WI. I feel that the talk about extending the rifle season is a bad idea for our area as well. There are MANY people that hunt our area that are from out of town. Making a 2 week rifle season would only mean more dead deer, fewer sightings, and less interest yet. Thank you for considering my input.

We continue to set harvest numbers based on deer harvest numbers from the previous year. I dont think members are actually putting boots on the ground nor is the biologist. This animal management should be looked at the same as a farm does in there herd. I am in the woods alot yes winter logging (this last winter 3 dead on the job in Feb so another month went by due weather moved off job), I enjoy nature I spring shed hunt, Turkey hunt, bear hunt. So on time off I am in the forest. Our biologist doesnt understand wildlife, sorry but it is fact. Bear was shot by a cabin in Sept in a brush pile field dressing there was grass plug in rectum he had no clue why. Yes our biologist!! So why would it be different for whitetail it is!! Does abort and eat the fetus not absorb! A farm would cull out cows to maintain there herd. So why would it be done to the deer herd? Not sure how the number for severity was attained also, as above mentioned I am in the forest, there was 18 of snow gun deer season it never went below that depth until the end of March. We didn't have many days below zero this also added to the stress factor. Example Derek weighs let's say 250 pounds, myself 150. Who will tird faster walking the distance from one end of Phillip's to the other end, not done now put 50 pounds one and walk back to the other end. Time limit 45 minutes added. Now you get it!!! This is how our deer herd should be looked at, not only deer all wildlife!!
HI there, I believe that there is absolutely no reason there should not be antlerless tags available. I think that the number for public is about right but the number for private is excessive. My main concern is baiting. I believe that especially in the northwoods, baiting needs to be open. When hunting public land which is thousands of dense acres, baiting in all honesty is what gives you any chance at harvesting an animal. CWD as primarily (and 0 in Price Count) been a "wild issue" in the northwoods and has instead originated at deer farms which should be help responsible. I have also seen the elimination of baiting destroy small businesses in other areas and counties such as Oneida and Vilas. I also find it somewhat funny that you cant put bait down but can have a food plot to attract deer. Also, I am concerned that the votes within DNR meetings is not separated between public land and private land. I know MANY people in Price county that would be against baiting. Thank is easy for them to say considering they have 100 acres each to hunt with multiple food plots to attract deer. And many of the food plots are not that large at all. So you are telling me that corn sprinkled over a small area is any different than a 10 by 10 foot area of standing corn? I disagree. Thank you for your time and I hope we can keep hunting in the northwoods fun, successful, and beneficial for all including public and private land owners.

I understand the justifications the county biologist provided for the drop in deer harvest in the 2019 season and I understand people are anecdotally seeing more deer in the fields as they drive around, but the people I hunt with are still not seeing many deer. Perhaps the primary reason for the excessive drop in harvest is that the deer population in Price county is simply not as high as the DNR says it is. I've been hunting in Price County for 40 years but did not hunt in 2019 because the hunting has been so poor in my area. I may try it again in 2020, but I can't get excited about having a positive experience especially after such poor harvest numbers in 2019. I have studied the metrics (car accidents, hunter success rates, etc...) from the surrounding counties and it is difficult to see any distinctly clear pattern (e.g. car-deer accidents are all over the place). This inconsistent data is borne out by the population goals of the counties surrounding Price County. The counties to the north and south of Price County are trying to increase their populations, while the counties to the east and west are trying to maintain. I would like to see the CDAC vote to increase the deer population in Price County.

The mentored hunt giving youth hunters a tag to harvest a doe gave my son an excitement for the sport and was greatly appreciated. I strongly oppose the proposed change of the crossbow season. Crossbow is a much more accurate and humane way to hunt especially for youth as opposed to bow. It would also be disappointing considering the amount of money invested for a nice accurate crossbow after the law was changed in favor of crossbows. I would be in favor to the proposed 16 day gun deer season, however I am opposed to the extension of the gun season through muzzle loader season. This would greatly take away from the special tradition of the muzzleloader hunt. I am in favor of eliminating the antlerless season and especially the holiday hunt in the lower units. I do not hunt these seasons as I would prefer to hunt with the opportunity of harvesting a buck. On these same lines I strongly oppose an earn a buck system. When this was previously instituted, it was the most sitting in my stand opening day and not being able to shoot a trophy should one walk by was the worst hunting experience I've ever had. Thank you for your consideration on my thoughts.

Predators -- The impact of predators is not adequately taken into account with deer numbers. Wolves are endangered species, bear population is too high and fur prices at all time low make the deer harvest for hunters very limited. Studies have shown that wolves harvested more deer than hunters in 2019. Baiting -- The area of Northern Forest is unlike the rest of the state. Baiting is a hunting option needed to maintain the hunting experience. Current baiting regulations must be enforced. Food plots are baiting. Do not treat this issue as identical for the entire state. Forest is much different than agricultural. CWD -- The impact of CWD is from high concentrations of deer, especially in high fence deer farms. In the wild in the Northern Forest area, there is not the heavy concentrations of deer. Not the same situation as Southern WI. Deer management -- Please consider selling deer licenses per region. We need to track revenue and deer numbers per deer management unit. This is a practice done in the western big game states for years. Preference point quotas is a sound management tool. If animals not in sufficient numbers, don't over harvest.
I am still trying to find out why the public/private permit designation exists and has not been done away with. I know the CDAC has no control over that but if enough of us and the CDAC support going back to doe permits there is a better chance. With a little over 40% of the unit open to the public, per presentation, I would think that would be used to split the number of permits for public and private land. Instead the proposal is for 75% going to private land and that does not include the number of crop damage permits they get. Now this year the verbal recommendation is if we increase the number of permits they all go to private land owners. Yes I do own land in Price County but there is a lot more public land for me to wander around on. I have been told, do not have proof, that the first thing the people that have access to private land do is buy up public land permits because there are so few they go fast and can always get the private permit the next time. If you increase the public land permits to at least 1/3 of the permits this would help more people getting one and not have to “Buck only” hunt.

The population in the Northeast part of the county(national Forest) is the lowest I’ve seen in the 25 years of hunting. Not sure where your numbers are coming from. Where were the deer during the bow season? I come from Waupaca county where there are many deer but limited places to hunt. Hunting up in price years ago was damn good. Many deer sightings and a good chance to shoot a nice buck. Not anymore. It's very sad that the DNR doesn't see this, so called professionals. Talk to people that only hunt this area and your ideas on your numbers will change. No does should be shot until the wolf population gets under control would be a start. They are taking way to many deer. I see the tracks and the outcome from them. It's getting so poor up here hunting wise you might lose another group of hunters. Me and my family. To get youth to want to hunt you need them to see deer period! Not all these special hunts. I want to see deer too. We need to make this county, at least the national Forest, fun to hunt again.

I do not know how it can be estimated that that there are 28 deer per square mile in price county, that's ridiculous. When you do a deer drive covering just under a square mile and do not see a deer or any tracks or droppings from within the last week there aren't any deer there. The national Forest should not allow doe tags. There is a huge difference from private to public land in the county that they should be managed if they were separate units. I could understand allowing every other year doe tags. I hear excuses why the deer kill was down, the snow, the storms, late start to the season. Never admitting the deer count is down. Our group of 16 harvested 7 bucks, we do not shoot does. We had a great year compared to others. Counting the 7 we harvested we saw a total of 23 deer. 2 other bucks that we missed and 14 does and fawns. This is being in the woods the first 8 days. I wish numbers weren't blown up just to make hunters who spend less time in the woods feel as though there are more deer in the woods than there actually are.

My husband and I have hit 3 deer in 2 months costing us $1500. One in particular hit my drivers door and if it would have been only a few inches higher it would have gone thru my window! Luckily it did not (this time) and I am able to tell you about it. I'm scared that one of these times we won't be so lucky with just some damage to our vehicles. Not only the money factor but the time spent getting repairs done is an issue. I'm tired of them grazing on my plants, again that has cost me hundreds of dollars and shear frustration. One morning on my way to work last week I saw (10) ten deer in 3 different groups along the side and on the road in which I had to slow down for. County Highway W is treacherous and filled with deer. When it's hunting season we don't see any bucks but I did have 8 does in my back yard on opening morning!! We never see any bucks, the bow hunters always get them. Please take this into consideration and or take a couple of rides out on Hwy W towards Sawyer County. You'll see for yourself.
There are too many bears killing fawns...please restore spring & fall hunts. There are too many wolves killing fawns and adults...please reduce their numbers substantially. They've decimated our area. There are too many coyotes killing fawns and adults...they shouldn't have been protected just to protect wolves...please reduce their numbers. There are too many bobcats killing fawns and adults...and ruffed grouse...please reduce their numbers. There are too many "weekend hunters" shooting too many fawns, half of which are "button bucks"...better to watch and take larger does with no fawns...also a lot more meat. Not sure I like the cross-bow rule for everyone.....how many are wounded and die from bad shots when raining, or no snow for tracking? Bad or too long shots and bad hunting tactics by too many uneducated or unethical hunters that wound and kill too many deer that are not tracked and found. How many wound 2 to 4 deer that get away to die for every 1 deer they actually get? way too many!

The use of baiting should still be allowed in Price County. Deer numbers from the time I started hunting to now are substantially lower. On average I would see 5-15 different deer every sit, now myself and the others I hunt with are lucky to see 1-3 deer per sit, and they are usually the same ones. I know the DNR cannot control the wolf issue, but we have had a pack move onto our hunting land for the last 9 years, and our herd has taken a big hit. We have a gun season hunting crew of 12-14 guys, and since the wolves moved in, we have averaged 2-3 bucks a year, compared to 10-12 bucks and 4 does before wolves. Morale is getting incredibly low in deer camp nowadays, and talks of selling the square mile of land we own are always happening. "The good old days" of deer camp are fading away as we put in numerous hours of hunting, but hardly anyone gets to take home any meat. Until the wolves can be managed by the state, the northern zone is in a world of hurt for deer hunting.

The northern forest has grown up and there is less room for deer and other wildlife. What I mean is that it has changed a lot since I was first hunting. I just don't see the DNR changing. I really don't see a need to kill any antlerless deer in Price county. I don't think the farmer are complaining and you can deal with those issues one at a time. He is a story for you. About 15 years ago we had a hunting season with no snow until the last Saturday of the season. Our gang of 6 of us had not seem much at all for deer sign and even less deer. So on Sunday Morning of the last day we had some snow and I told my brother that we instead of hunting we should drive around and look for fresh tracks to see where the deer are. W travels through the federal forest east of Park Falls and drove for eleven miles and say only 7 fresh deer tracks. Should have seem hundreds as in the past. And Yet the DNR was still selling antlerless tags in this area for 12 bucks. Stupid.

My 160 acres borders a lot of public land with large hunt groups that put out a lot of very large corn piles under the balsams and use ATV/UTV on Price County, WI State, & Federal land. We are successful at harvesting deer on our land and the public land that adjoins our land every year. I work with the Federal and State wildlife managers to establish habitat and food plots for all wildlife not just deer. Every year I notice a substantial drop in daylight buck and antlerless deer movement once these groups start baiting heavily which is usually 2-3 weeks before fun season. In 2019 we did notice very little deer movement during the gun season. I was lucky to harvest a mature buck on the last day of fun season right after the heavy snowstorm subsided. The large hunting groups were gone then as well since they headed south on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Did the corn piles dry up by Sunday and get the deer moving in daylight again?

I only bowhunt, no crossbow, no gun. The last couple of years. more people are crossbow hunting during the rut and they are not gun hunting. For what ever reason when you should see more buck movement in the prerut and rut you dont. In 2019 I hunted for 3 week during the rut. I seen 1 buck every 7 days and none of them where mature. I do not bait. Guys that never bowhunted before are now crossbow hunting. I found 4 dead deer on my property after the rut. I don't know if guys are poaching them or if the new crossbow hunters don't know how to hunt. The game wardens are not enforcing the baiting laws as they have in the past, and all the slobs know it. Illegal baiting is almost as bad as it was 20 years ago. Need to ban baiting and get the cross bow hunters out of our bow season. Bow hunting should not be easy, it should be a challenge. The DNR has ruined the quality of our Bow season. Crossbow hunting is a poachers dream.
Basically all my answers are about the size and shape of Price county. It is a very long county north to south. More farming to the south. Below Hwy 70 and more so below Hwy 8. I hunt and spend considerable time north of Hwy 70 and for several miles south of Hwy 70. I think it is much different then below. We no longer have the old zones. But it should be controlled differently. Deer population much less to the north and should have less doe permits. Never have liked the new way of controlling deer county wide. Large population of wolf’s below 70 Sailor lake area. Hardly any deer. I hunt mostly between Pike lake and SpringStead. Deer have been coming back in the area. But many don’t want does shot. Last year friends said might as well get doe tags, somebody is going to shot them. Many of the people (locals ) I know got doe tags. Saw some and still didn’t shoot one. Including myself. Just didn’t feel right.

The last several years have been extremely disappointing in deer hunting. Price county used to be one of the best counties in the state to harvest deer and large bucks in a matter of fact. With the increase of antler-less deer kills and predators it has taken a major toll on the deer population. We have a total of 14 trail cameras on our land and through out the last 5 years we can tell the deer population has decreased by a lot. One of the largest factors that we have since is in the wolf population. The wolf population has increased immensely and we are our neighbors have proof of it. We have seen several wolves kill fawns in the spring and summer, and thats just the ones we have witnessed. Our neighbors have seen the same thing. The biggest thing i think that would help the deer population in price county is to remove all wolves and the decrease the amount of antler-less deer permits.

The deer herd in price county as far as I can see is not any where near where it was ten years ago. The deer population is less than half what it was. The wolf population is triple or more. And we can’t even hunt them. We need to be able to hunt the wolves and have buck only season for about four years. This is what was discussed and decided upon about six years ago and the buck only season lasted two years and then the DNR started handing out doe tags. We want the deer population back to where it was. Also the logging that is taking place in the National forest is a good thing, but the loggers need to be held responsible for putting the tree tops in wind rows instead of just leaving them lay on the ground. Let’s make the public lands accessible for everyone. Even the handicapped!!!!! Thanks for your time and hopefully we can make these suggestions work. The forest is for all of us.

The deer population has dwindled from great to hardly any at all. We used to see and harvest a large number of deer. In recent years we have seen few and gotten even less. We only hunt bucks. From the 80’s and 90’s we had about a 90% harvest rate now it is less than 5%. I have gone from seeing 30 deer in a season to seeing 5 or 6. The predators are, in my opinion, the primary reason. The number of wolf, bobcat, coyote, and bear kills are increasing significantly. The amount of sign in the woods has changed dramatically - the deer sign is way down and the predator sign is way up. Something has to be done to decrease the predator population and increase the deer, that is why I am in favor of decreased harvest quotas for at least a few years. We need to build up the deer herd. Between the weather and the predators the deer are suffering in a significantly negative environment.

I guess for Price County I hope they limit the amount of anterless tags just because of the extreme winters in that area that take a toll in the deer herd and the amount of predators that take a hit on the herd. Last year in particular we saw very few deer during the gun season, but a large part of that was the season was so late in the year. I know this is an issue that is out of the DNR’s hands, but I really wish they would push for a wolf season in Wisconsin. Wolves are fascinating animals and have their place in the ecosystem, but I feel at this point they shouldn't be classified as an endangered animal and should be managed, even if very conservatively. There are many wolves in Price County and data suggests they make almost more of an impact on the deer herd than hunters considering price county is one of the lowest in the state for annual deer harvests by hunters.
I live in north-eastern Price co we don’t have crop damage to deal with but I understand that the southern part of the county does our county is geographically unique in that we can go from a rural farm setting to vast forest wilderness in a matter of a few miles unfortunately I have the opinion that you have managed this county as a whole based upon what goes on in the southern portion please consider managing our county from the south border of the national forest to the north county line as a unit of its own our deer herd depends on it predation over harvest on public land which is what the majority of this land mass consists of night hunting from tribal members and three hard winters in a row are some of the things are deer deal with that deer in the southern part of the county might not be subjected to as severely just my humble opinion

I feel that the numbers the DNR are working with are very inaccurate. Besides large tracts of agriculture land in Price county, the deer population is at a record lows in Price county. I bow hunt, gun hunt and muzzleload hunt Price county. I have seen the good bad and now ugly. My 15 trail camera’s don’t lie. My countless hours in the woods from July-Jan don’t lie. The only reason the Kill hasn't gotten to embarrassing levels is because of the efficiency of the modern hunter. Please stop comparing harvest trends of todays hunters to that of the 80-90’s hunters. Crossbows, trail cams, HD scopes, food plots, have saved the overall harvest for this state. Until we can manage the wolf population we will never get our northern herd back. Until that day, we need to at least try and help the population the best we can.

The northern forest deer herd goals should be set at or below 50% of biological carrying capacity (overwinter deer density at or below 15 deer per square mile). This will require harvesting a quarter of the population every hunting season with at least half of the harvest consisting of does. This would allow for maximum sustained yield while maintaining a stable, sustainable population. As a hunter, gardener, commuter AND someone concerned about the long term conservation of Wisconsin’s northern forest, I support harvesting MORE and BIGGER deer rather than SEEING an over abundance of “wood rats” (which is currently the case under the existing management regime). In the near term, the proposed CDAC anterless quota needs to be adjusted upward to at least insure ZERO population growth on both public AND private land.

I am 70 years of age and have been a Price county land owner for nearly 40 years. I shot a decent number of deer throughout the years. Since 2009, just seeing a deer, either buck or doe, is a rarity. I have a crew of 4 seasoned hunters/people who have shot deer) as my party. I will hunt the entire season, over 100 hours in the stands, and seldom see a deer at all. I know you said predation is taken in consideration, but we see wolf tracks nearly each day. The deer have become nocturnal for some reason. Could it be from wolf pressure? My hunters aren’t as willing to buy licenses any more, let alone hunt. I have 5 grandsons that might hunt someday. There had better be something to see or their interest won’t last. Looking at trees all day long won’t cut it in the future for myself and the younger population.

Personally, I’ve been hunting up north with my dad since 2008. The first two years were unreal as we saw many deer and it was a fun sit. Then the $3 unlimited doe tags came along. Steady the deer population decreased. Then the introduction of wolves came along. That put the deer population 6 feet under the ground. Due to the non-action of the management the deer population has stayed the same. I actually laughed out loud when I saw that in 2017 the goal was to MAINTAIN the deer population..... THERE WAS 0 SO MAINTAINING 0 MEANS IT STAYS AT 0! There are still no deer! Myself along with my peers and neighbors that I’ve talked to would like to see a buck only for a while. We would also like to see an increased number of predator tags. The deer need a lot of work in the northern part of the state, please help us out!
Stop with the antlerless seasons, T zones the stupid youth hunt (do you realize the numbers of folks that are abusing this, i mean seriously) or what ever other BS you guys scheme up for additional funds. There are not any deer in the woods. I dont know where you guys are finding your numbers from but there are no deer in the woods. I spent the 7 straight days hunting gun season and saw 4 deer in Skinner Creek area in Price County. And everyone I know up there and I grew up there so i know tons of folks, nobody is seeing the deer you guys are. I also spend countless hours in the woods in the fall. There are no deer, no trails, no rubs nothing. Go back to the basics or bow/gun, hunting at 12 like we all had to do and leave it be...you can very easily over manage things you know?.

I agree with the 1200 quota, but why are you recommending more tags than last year if you want to kill 300 less deer? Wouldn’t it make sense if you wanted less deer killed you would give out less tags? The winter severity index is interesting. By the end of gun season I had 2 feet of snow by my house in central Price County. In the video it stated we had 12"-16" by the end of gun season? Not sure who does the measuring, but my ruler must be different from theirs? I took a ruler at the end of February and still had over 20" of snow. If my math is correct that would be around 90 days with more than 18" of snow. So wouldn’t that mean the winter severity index should be over 90? I will have to go the the hardware store to buy an updated ruler.

I’ve been hunting price county for over 20 years and living here on and off over the last decade... The drastic decrease in deer after the early 2000's slaughter turned alot of folks I know who used to come here annually for the gun deer season off (including folks who own land here) I’m finally living here again and would like to say I whole heatedly want to see Price county economy thrive from the influx of tourism generated by the gun hunt. That said I also want to see a sustainable deer herd. I think the antlerless harvest needs to be kept within tags used during a traditional archery season and gun season. Throwing all the additional doe only seasons in there has only driven away hunters who hunt public lands and kept landowners out of the woods.

For the DMU’s in the Northern Forest, serious consideration should be given to having a deer harvest duration over 3 weekends(starting 1 weekend sooner) instead of over the standard 2 weekends. Under the current season timeline several factors deter hunters from deer hunting the Northern Forests. The weather generally limits hunting 1/3 to 1/2 of the available days, and the rut is typically completed, lending to many inactive antlered deer, and therefore less deer sightings. I believe a 16 day period provides hunters greater flexibility for time and travel to the Northern Forests, and greater potential to see and/or harvest deer. I also believe this would provide a much needed boost to license purchases. Thanks,

My recommendations for an increased number of antlerless doe tags being issued is based on my observation of too many deer in close proximity to humans. I am sure the DNR population numbers are accurate but with more and more deer being fed and drawn towards human populations it may be that the DNR should consider a smaller herd in general. I would like to stress the increase in vehicle accidents from unnaturally tame deer, the damage to people's yards, and the possibility of disease from unnatural gatherings of deer to feed from humans rather than foraging in the wild. If the DNR wants to keep a high population of deer then they may have to regulate the people who are taming & feeding the deer.

2019 herd level reminded me of the old days. I consistently saw at least 4 deer on every sit in the morning or evening. (Bow, October and early November). This was one of the largest acorn crops I've seen in years. The Wednesday before gun opener the deer disappeared. Our cameras showed they had gone nocturnal. Probably from gun hunters scouting and setting up stands. Your harvest numbers look correct. The possible drop in harvest is consistent nationally as there are less hunters. During my bow hunt this was one of the least amount of hunters I've seen in years. Gun was even less pressure in the National forest. Hence lower numbers harvested. You're doing a great job!
There are plenty of deer in the area of mostly private land where I hunt. The problem is with the low number of alter less permits the people who are meat hunters continue to shoot most of the little bucks just to make sure they get their meat. This has been going on for at least 5 years. The number of mature buck I get on camera has steadily declined. I let little bucks go only to have other people hunting nearby shoot them. My suggestion is to put a size limit of 4 points on one side for about 3 or 4 years to allow bucks to grow to maturity. I believe people are not hunting as much because of the lack of worth while bucks and therefore the drop in harvest numbers.

I've always seen a lot of deer of both sex during bow and gun season during legal hunting times last year for some reason I didn't and I never even seen a buck last year with is something I've never encountered before though I did see some on the trail cameras traveling at night of all the time I spent in the woods for bow and gun last year I would say that the amount of deer I saw all of last year was about the same amount I would see in one day during 2018. When we go around the last week of October and that first week of November I could go out in the afternoon and see 25 to 30 deer a day for some reason last year I would see 5 or less and I don't know why that was.

Its time to seriously address the impacts of deer on the future of our forests. Northwoods economies are dependent upon healthy forests (recreation, tourism, logging, etc). Deer browsing is having a profound impact on tree regeneration and other essential processes of a healthy forest. We simply cannot allow the this further degradation of the forests. In the face of so many threats to forests (pest, pathogens, changing climate, etc) the most important thing we can do is ensure a diversity of species. What is the limiting factor for tree species diversity? deer. What can we do about this? We need more antler-less permits on private and PUBLIC lands.

I own 100 acres in park falls wi. I have owned this land for 10 years however this land has been in my family for over 100 years. Gone are the years of seeing deer and hunters having success. Now we find carcasses around the fields and the "friendly" wolf stalks us around our own woods. If the dnr is not going to make this a priority the landowners will take herd control into our own hands. Between the harsh winters of the past few years and the t zone hunts of a few years ago the wolves just add to the problem. People are not traveling up north to hunt anymore. Local business are suffering and people are fed up. Thank you for reading my rant.

I hunt 2-3 weeks during bow and gun season. Wolves are very abundant, as evidenced by direct sightings and sign. I have had multiple direct close range encounters with them over the last 10-15 years. While it's understood that wolf management (ie, authorizing a hunting/trapping season) is out of the state's hands at the present time, I encourage the DNR to do all it can to promote being able to manage the wolf population at the state level. Bears are also very abundant. I encourage the DNR to increase the number of bear permits for the northern forest - plenty of them out there, and they may be contributing to high fawn depredation.

I’m very concerned about how Price County manages county land with respect to timber sales. It appears to me that a disproportionate amount of the forest consists of pioneer species of trees and plants. Specifically, the areas that were impacted by the storm on July 4, 1977 are now being clear cut. Looks like we are in for another 40 years of popple trees instead of mixed hardwoods. Seems to me that the county gives little or no consideration to the quality of their forest land. Likewise, the DNR needs to recognize what is going on with the forest land and take that into consideration when trying to determine harvest quotas on public land.

I feel the northern part of price county should have different quotas than the southern half. The number of deer in the north is significantly less than the south. In the heavily forested zone it is difficult to even see a deer for several days during both bow and gun season. The experience of our camp over the last 40 years is that the deer are barely able to sustain their population the last several years. Based on our deer sighting experience if we have another bad winter the deer population will be unable to sustain itself!! Question. What are we doing to decrease deer predation from other than hunting predation? Thank you.
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7608 My family has hunted this area for many years. When the wolves came the bottom fell out. During this period it seems that the use of ATVs was abolished on public land. My friends stopped hunting public land. My son and I do not have the privilege of private land. I am at an age where it’s hard to get around. Also an important point for me is being able to leave tree stands up longer. But being able to get back into my hunting area is still cut off. There are many hunters in my age group that are kept out of their areas due to the ATV situation. We need some help if you need to manage our herd.

7609 I have been bow hunting and rifle hunting in this county for the past 20 years. When I first started hunting in this area I did observe more deer than I have in the past 10 years. With the introduction of the grey wolves deer observations decreased dramatically. The last two years I observed more wolves than deer. The black bear population also has exploded and I have seen more bears than deer in the past five hunting seasons. Bears also kill more fawns than either coyotes and bobcats. Until a plan is put into place to control the predators the deer herd in the this northern forest zone will continue to decline.

7610 I just want to mention how ridiculous an antlerless only hunt is. It takes away a week or weekend of archery hunting. A few yrs ago price cnwy was buck only and the wknd I went up to archery hunt I couldn’t because it was an anterless hunt. Explain how that makes sense that a buck only Cnty couldn’t hunt because of an anterless hunt but couldn’t shoot an anterless deer. One last thought which I’m sure you get sick of but wolves, coyotes, bears are taking a bigger toll on t population then you guys let on. Why doesn’t anyone admit there are way more wolves then you guys have any idea there is? The people aren’t dumb.

7611 I think it should be a point system where you can’t shoot unless it meets those guidelines, so that would mean no fawns let new generics come in and try before they get shoot it’s a waste people get trigger happy and the saying if it brown it’s down applies to them. It might help the population with more genetics out there of these deer.... and also raise the out of state licences it's horrible we are the lowest state but yet we have the worst population I would even raise it to were if you reside in a different county but hunt in a different county you have to pay more and out of state raise it even higher.

7612 Just my thought on the issue of deer baiting. A person that has land & the money to put in food plots has a big advantage over the person that has neither but just wants to get out & try & get some venison. A set amount of bait scattered far & wide in a area would at least give a little better advantage to the public land hunter. My father told me years ago that hunting would someday be a rich man’s sport & when you look at the hunting shows on TV that is sure the case. I think that hunter numbers are just going to decline & the ones that have the means will carry on. Just my two cents.

7613 Until someone realizes that this county represents two totally separate ecosystems, (north vs. south) with two totally separate populations of deer, it is very unlikely that either area will ever have the correct population. You numbers show it. (private land success vs. public land success) There are too many deer in the southern part of the county (private/farm land) There are not enough deer in the northern part (public/forest land). There has to be a way to separate the two different areas???

7614 Not sure why but for the 2019 season of which I hunt approximately 6 weeks of, I saw more deer then in previous years but almost no bucks, only a few spikes that were to small to harvest. I believe the area I hunt can sustain a larger herd but the buck to doe ratio has changed to fewer bucks then previous years. The cameras also support this observation. It may be that a few more doe need to harvested. As a note I am not a trophy hunter but would take one if it presents but my preference is for table fare. A young six or four point is fine. It is the hunt, not the horn.
I chose maintain population but was on the fence about choosing increase as the biologist video mentioned part of the reason for deer harvest being lower last year was partially due to a late winter storm and just last week we had another significant winter storm late in the season. I feel while there is room for some antlerless harvest overdoing it will have a negative impact. After last season there has been a great debate on declining buck harvest but as antlerless tags increase many fawn bucks are shot not allowing them to reach legal buck status the next year.

We saw 2 sets of tracks in NE Price Cty, 1 more set than we saw in 2018. There are very few deer in N Price county......I've hunted 46 consecutive years here, this equals our previous low years......I have never seen a DNR biologist, nor have my other 2 friends, in the forest......ya I know, its a big woods......and we are in the woods. Grouse hunting 4-5 days a week !! I know the DNR guys didn't take these jobs to become millionaires, but they have no clue about how many deer are really there. Thanks for the opportunity to give input.

In my area of Price Co. (east central) the population seems to be staying even or going down. We had very few if any deer on the logging jobs in our area, we see very few deer on the farm fields last summer and now this spring. I have a snapshot camera from the dnr and don't get many pictures of deer. Last spring I had a camera on a clover field and had way more pictures of bear and turkeys than deer. I think the predator population is way out of control, in the evening you can here four or more packs of coyotes. Thank You.

The low number of tags is a determent to the deer and the farmers. Please drive around and look at all the deer that are on the landscape in Price County throughout the year. It is normal to see 20-30 deer in fields at dusk. The herds during winter are 5 times that. Just looking from your treestand during the opening weekend of gun season is ridiculous. There are many, many deer that are available for harvest. Now more than ever with folks out of work and the food supply chain disrupted. Let people harvest deer! Strange that this group wants to lower the anterless kill even though the deep population is way more than 3 years ago. I think crossbow hunting has truly hurt the buck kill in the regular gun season. Seem the DNR whines about lower kill but honestly all they truly care about is the almighty dollar and the loss in people hunting, which hurt's the money they squander. But I know your group doesn't care about that.

Since I have moved back to Wisconsin in 1996 I haved seen a steady decline in the number of deer where I hunt in southern Price county. If the trend continues I, along with the 12 others in the group, will hunt in another state. Four have already left and are currently leasing land in Tennessee and Kentucky. I wish we would implement a point restriction in parts of the state to improve the quality which would increase the quantity of bucks. Use Price County south of Hwy 8, or all of Price county as a test site.

Very, very, very few deer; whether Antlerless or not. Although I'm familiar with some of the factors affecting deer populations; e.g. winter severity, predators, harvesting too many does, habitat, myself and my Deer Camp hunters aren't very good -I'm just not educated and knowledgeable enough. What I do know is that I've hunted in Price County for over 25 years and there seems to be fewer and fewer deer for the most part. We do see a few on our Trail Cams; but not a lot. We hunt on 200 Acres of Private land.

I believe the whole state should be 4 point on one side and no less, stop multiple doe permits. Everyone gets one. Go back to register stations. Control this wolf population. More bear permits, go to a 6 year wait and eliminate hunt with dogs. Get a firm grip on guys taking multiple deer with their wife's tag. You should only get one buck. Choose your time of year. Either bow or gun. ONE BUCK. Get the insurance company of your back. I will pay more for a tag if that helps the fight. CWD is BS.

I counted 19 Deer in my Yard this Winter, and of those 19 Deer, 7 were Fawns. I saw One, 4pt Buck during the 9 Day Deer Gun Season on Opening Day, which I didn't shoot. After the weekend, the Deer movements were drastically reduced. Snow wasn't a factor. Neither properties on either side of me Hunted during the 9-Day Gun Season, so pressure wasn't a factor. Including both Bow and Gun Seasons, I only saw 2 Bucks. One, the 4 Pointer (Bow and Gun) and a 7 Pointer during Bow Season only.
Can we bring back the days of Hunters Choice Please? In all my years of hunting, in particular public/paper lands; the Hunters Choice actually (to me) provided the most amount of deer sightings during this program. The management particularly in the "Northwoods" has been less than ideal in most of our opinions and something needs to change as it has been at minimum 10 years since our camp of responsible hunters has harvested a deer. That kindly, is a disgrace given what it once was.

The Price County CDAC preliminary recommendations are much too low considering the information available and my deer sightings from the spring of 2019 to present. Agricultural areas of the county are over crowded with deer. They are causing significant damage to crops and forest land regeneration. The opportunity must be made more available for these deer to be harvested. Private land quota should be increased drastically while the public land quota should be increase mildly.

I understand the DNR cannot manage wolves at this time. But as soon as the courts restore this right that has to be the top priority. Deer hunting in Price County is a mere shadow of what it once (20 years ago) was. I have not harvested a buck in almost 10 years, and it's not for the lack of trying! I see alot of bears and wolves but no deer. I'm mentoring my grandchildren and it's tough when they sit all weekend and see no deer. They lose interest in hunting quickly.

The earn a buck program was an absolute distruction of the Price/Ashland/Sawyer county deer population. Hunters were traveling from the southern farmland area to shoot a doe and then "earning" a buck tag to hunt with down south. This devastated our herd which already was low in numbers due to hunting, hard winters, and the increasing wolf population. Please do NOT bring it back. We should limit the distribution of anterless tags to youth hunters and southern farmland zones.

I understand that the annual overall harvest decreased in 2019, however, I don’t believe this is due to a decrease in Deer population. I saw more deer or at least an equal amount of deer as I have ever year while bow hunting. Weather definitely played a factor in the annual gun hunt that caused hunters to stay out of the woods and deer to stay semi dormant in the late season. I personally believe last years quotas are a good basis to set for this years hunting season.

I've been hunting for 40+ years in Wisconsin and enjoy my time in the woods especially seeing deer and other wildlife. I think there are to many politics & monetary influences that shape decisions for guidelines and rules about wild life in general. The reason most private land owners don't have open land is they are managing wildlife for the DNR, that doesn't work either. Keep the rules simple keep the bag limits fair and the wildlife and outdoorsmen will do just fine.

The number of hunters appears to be dropping during deer gun. WI needs to get back up to its reputation as a great deer hunting state. I have seen it dwindling since 2008 with a definite setback. Maybe this means greater investment into Natural Resources instead of streamlining budgets so tight that the standards for natural resources are watered down. Just not a lot of interest from the hunting crowd anymore. (WI needs to learn you cant cut your way to prosperity).

There is a lot of gated off county land, that was not previously gated off. Older hunters cannot get to their hunting areas, they do not hunt then. Hard to get younger hunters to stay interested if you hike a mile or more, to see nothing, or just have someone privileged enough to have a key, drive by you with a truck full of corn. And if you do hike all the way to your usual hunting areas, what do you do if you do shoot a deer? It's no wonder we are losing hunters.

I think it is a joke that there is so much talk of reducing crossbow season's because something like 6000 more bucks are getting shot. I hunt in portage, price and Waupaca county owning acreage in 2 of the county's spending thousands of dollars per year on hunting and land improvement. The NRB is so out of touch if they think limit d crossbow will bring back bow hunting plus everyone I gun hunt with uses a crossbow to hunt that is the future and it won't change.
The buck to doe ratio in my area of Price County is about 20 does for every buck, and that is from my observations. I believe to help this out a three point on one side limit would help this out. In my area as much as we try any buck seen is taken even when doe tags are possessed. I do not believe more does need to be harvested, but I do believe these younger bucks need to get older which would help in the buck to doe ratio, and the quality of the hunt.

The number of deer on our family owned land and the national forest is down significantly since the wolf packs became prevalent in and around Park Falls Wi. I am not anti wolf but strongly believe the pack has grown too large. I started noticing the decline when the pack passed 300 wolves. With a pack size of 800 in the upper third of the state, the ecosystem has changes along with the ability to leave your pets or young livestock unattended.

I believe there are two many seasons and they run too long. The advances in technology have severely impacted the mature buck populations with the early, late, and rut hunting. Between the cameras, crossbows, compound bows, etc. very few deer make it to full maturity. The excessive harvest of young bucks has taken a heavy toll on buck numbers in general with mature bucks nearly extinct. I find the management of the deer heard very disappointing.

Very disappointed on predator control. The last 6-8 years have been very bad. Most of or group hunt out of state now and are thinking of selling our land. We’ve shot one doe in the last five years and it was a youth hunter. We’re lucky to see a fawn with a doe going into winter with all the predation. When there’s no deer to see are kids get discouraged and they don’t want to hunt. How do you recruit new hunters let alone keep us interested?

No permits for public land should be given. If I had to hunt the Federal Forest, I would quit. There is nothing out there to shoot. My kids have quit hunting here, even though we have a large private property with excellent habitat for deer. The deer are not here. Predators are killing them off. New hunters, young and old need to see deer when hunting, or its over with. Hunting numbers will keep declining without more deer on the land.

This is Wisconsin's Northern forest let's get the population up. I have young hunters who want to see deer. We want to give them experience. Keep myself and my boys wanting to come to the North woods. How many deer can the forests handle, it's much more then we have currently have. If most southern part of price county is throwing the rest of the county off fix that. If predation is the issue let's figure that. Thank you for listening.

I would love to see antler point restrictions put on for counties here in the Northern Forest zones. A 3-5 year trial period would great to see if buck populations grow. All while giving each resident an antlerless tag for "meat hunters". You can drive around fields in the fall in northern Price county and count over 200 deer a night but only one or two would be a buck. Bucks in our area are not reaching maturity like they should.

Since 2008, the deer herd in southern Price on PUBLIC land has eroded where lack of hunters is paramount. No deer equates to no hunters. Need to build the herd and they will come. Get rid of your outdated SAK formula and listen to the hunters for ONCE. The majority of hunter feedback via these surveys has concluded this for many years, and you just don't want to grasp on to this reality. Reduce the antlerless tags on PUBLIC!

Outlaw baiting and feeding wildlife State wide, if you want to feed wildlife, plant a tree or shrub that is edible or fertilize or water mast trees. Extend the "gun" deer season to include all shoulder fired weapons i.e. muzzle loaders and crossbows. Archery season for archers only. Eliminate all captive cervid facilities State wide. Re-instate wolf season. Include bear permit and/or wolf permit with every gun deer license.

1. Deer hunting has become too "competitive" for new and seasoned hunters.  
2. Complexity of hunting regulations and license prices are spoiling the sport.  
3. Lifetime hunters such as myself are not seeing or harvesting deer because of predators who are better at it.  
4. Deer have become 100% nocturnal by evolution, and that does not coincide with hunting "hours". Just a few thoughts.
I really believe we need to start a sound wolf management protocol, they're extremely detrimental on the northern Wisconsin whitetail population. I also feel baiting should be banned. I'm in favor of a total ban. Hunting over a bait pile is not hunting. Deer would be better off being deer, instead of cattle, for many reasons. Look forward to seeing what the overall outcome will be. Thanks for listening.

I have been hunting in Price county since I was 14 years old. Since that first year hunting I have seen the deer population decrease. In my general area the locals have determined there are at least 3 wolf packs in this territory. The wolf population has been increasing and the deer population decreasing. I think we need to keep the wolf population in check so the deer population can grow again.

In 14 years of hunting this area, not only have I seen MY numbers go down, but also those of fellow hunters, decrease in business for local taverns, restaurant, stores, etc. The winters can be hard enough on the deer, without adding all the extra seasons, doe tags, and increase in predators. At this rate the tradition of hunting in Wisconsin will become extinct altogether within a generation.

I hadn't hunted in price county for 6 years. I track bucks and have for 33 years. I check literally 100's of miles of forest Roads daily on fresh snow. In my opinion in the last 20 years the whitetail numbers have dropped 80-90%. The deer are closely grouped to avoid predation. The bear track, a visual sightings are 30-40% higher. The wolves tend to move the groups of deer continually.

The deer population overall appears stable or up a bit. As usual some areas NEVER have large numbers, some area are extremely high. If we do a bit of scouting, we'll find there are opportunities for everyone. Last year was hampered by lack of accessibility due to inclement weather and a post-rut start. Go with the current plan and quota. If hunters can't find deer, it's their own fault.

We just started seeing deer again after four years of you giving 10 doe permits to a neighbor every year !!!!! And now we have a newer neighbor ( same place) that has dogs trained to chase deer and who does not turn on his electric fence to keep his cattle on his property and we end up having to chase his cattle off of our property continually every time we were up last year.

I am afraid you have missed the boat on the number of wolves and predator kills in Price Co. I have recently purchased land in this area and in the last 2 weeks have found 2 fresh wolf kills. The Wolf population is a lot higher than you project. How else can you explain the decline in hunting success in the north woods over the last 10 years. This needs to be addressed.

I don't live in or near the unit, but my family has been hunting successfully and unsuccessfully in the unit for the past 20 years. We use to see very many deer about 5 years ago and has steadily dropped of how many we have seen/harvested. I firmly believe that this unit has a wolf issue, that is negatively impacting the deer herd significantly. Thank you for your time.

the decline in the deer herd in Northern Wisconsin coincides with the increase in the wolf population. If you want to increase the amount of deer, reduce the number of wolves. there have been years when I have seen more predator tracks than deer track. I have gone 2 years in a row and never saw a deer. lately im lucky to see 3 or 4 deer in a season last year I saw 2.

You are considering Price County in the respect of having farm land which is far and few between areas that people of the north actually hunt. The farm land areas can sub stain the hunting of does, the Northwoods this should not be in the cards. Local deer around cabins are what your seeing harvested. Questioning how many are registered is a whole different story.

Rather than an antlerless only season why can we not just combine a antler point restriction and do the doe permits? Price cty has the opportunity to be a "trophy" location for hunters if only we would try a point restriction for 2 years hunters would see more quality bucks if they could gain a year or two to there life and the rest would come naturally after that.
I recommend the CDAC review all data available in making decisions, I'm an avid sportsman and like having a successful hunt but know that deer numbers can impact a healthy forest regrowth that we all are dependent on for economic reasons. There are very few hemlock/cedar seedlings that grow to be adult trees...deer are impacting our forests at current population.

I feel the continued tolerance to baiting has disrupted the daylight activities of the deer population, i.e., has made them much more nocturnal, and hence has greatly decreased opportunities to harvest deer during legal hunting hours, and has substantially increased the risk of CWD in the wild deer herd (which will be a certainty at some time in the future).

Buck harvest of yearling bucks is way too high each year due to baiting. This needs to be eliminated from all seasons. If people had a chance at a decent buck they wouldn't complain about the herd numbers being too low. They think more deer equals a higher chance at a bigger buck but in reality most of them never make it through to see their 2nd birthday.

I believe that when a hunting tag is bought it should be the choice of the hunter as to what they harvest. Buck or doe one deer only. Also from what I'm seeing is that there are hunters out their that don't or won't even register a kill just so they can keep hunting. They skin and butcher their own and no one has a clue as to how many deer are being shot.

My wife and I have personally had 3 deer vehicle accidents in the last 4 years and many near misses. Our trees, plants, flowers are continually under assault and mowed down. So far we have not been injured but only by luck and God's grace. Something needs to be done to drastically reduce this hazard to our safety and our financial burden.

Need to get a wolf season back they are killing of the deer badly. And on top of that shooting does up there is foolish right now when the number of deer is so low. You need to get the numbers back up and that will only happen once you get the wild population under control. And on top of that they are also affecting the Bear population.

The wolves have decimated the deer heard. I put on a ton of miles during deer season and when i see wolf tracks more and more and less deer tracks there is a problem. Our group of 15 guys have gotten 1 or no deer during season the last 10 years. If the wolf pop is not put in check the people will start managing them on their own.

There seems to be an overabundance of anterless dear in this area. By anterless I mean does, not buck fawns as I do not consider them anterless since there is a potential for a buck fawn to become an antlered deer. The buck population is very low, lower than its been since my youth. We need to address this overabundance of does.

Currently have 16 deer on 80 acres of crop ground as of 4/27/2020. With the current COVID situation resulting in claims of impending food shortages from national and international sources (UN) the luxury of hunting outweighing the public need for locally sourced food supply can only be deemed as depraved indifference.

I believe our deer numbers are still too low I believe predators including beer wolf and bobcat while minimal mountain lion are putting a big hurt on our deer numbers , I don’t believe there should be any public land doe tags . While the extensive hunting pressure and long seasons also account for low deer activity.

I have read price county deer outlook and winter severity also bad weather during gun season and amount of crops left in south west part of county.I agree with them.we had a mild winter,herd should slightly be up i feel no need for any changes .hopefully the weather is fair and the coronavirus has no effect.

Please don't have any special seasons or youth hunts etc!! There is plenty of normal season to have an opportunity to harvest a deer for all ages!! The early youth hunts etc just change deer behavior and movement so that when normal season comes around the deer are all spooked and make it harder to harvest.
The wolf population in Price County is out of control. I see more wolf tracks than deer tracks. The last two years I have seen zero deer while gun hunting. In that same amount of time my hunting group has only taken two small bucks. Something needs to be done to address this problem. PLEEEEEEASE!

In all reality it's time for "earn a deer" in Price County. By this I mean quite simply when you kill a wolf and present the carcass you would then become eligible for a deer tag. No this is not a joke, it's high time the DNR has a reality check on wolf numbers in the northern 1/3 of the state.

Before the buck only seasons I've seen mainly doe on property. After the buck only seasons I've seen a good improvement of both, but feel the population could be improved. I would like to see buck only come back to the area for a couple seasons and see if that will improve the population.

The buck to doe ratio is completely upside down. There are many more antlerless deer than buck (maybe 50 doe to 1 buck). Something should done to correct or reverse this issue. Not sure is something could be done, but maybe not shooting spikes bucks or limiting small deer could help???

Keep the youth interested in hunting. Do not stop the youth hunt. I like my dogs - stop releasing wolves because old school farmers won't shoot does. They do not get crop damage anymore then. End all the negativity about crossbows. One buck per year. Season and weapon of choice.

Wolf tracts on every deer trail on our property........5 Grand children, two sons and myself have seen 2 deer over the last 3 years. 4 of these hunters are buying out of state Licenses. We need to reduce the number of Predators in Price County or lose these young hunters.

We hunted public land last gun season and all I saw was orange everyday, no deer! No bucks and very few does in the forest around the land we hunt. The numbers go up around an agricultural area or around any housing where people are feeding in their yards. No deer in the woods.

I spend a great amount of time in the woods of southern Price County,3 winters ago I found around 30 dead deer some were coyote and bobcat kills but close to half of them were starved.I found a lot fewer these last 2 years.still hard to find a deer while hunting,bow and rifle

I have owned land and hunted Price County for several years. always enjoyable but I do think our buck to doe ratio is way off. We see way more does than bucks on our property year in and year out. I do believe our population is stable and/ or up a bit. I hope this helps

Did not see a deer last year and found deer carcasses tore apart from wolves I don’t think keeping the antlerless tags the same or close to the same is right I buy license and would like to see some deer to at least give me a chance to maybe harvest one or the right to

I would like to see a 5 day break from all hunting with the exception of waterfowl for the 5 days leading up to the opener of the gun deer season in November if possible. This will help with overall hunter success and increased participation in the gun deer hunt.

I spend 4 weeks bowhunting and bird hunting every year on public land in SW Price Cty. Mainly the Skinner creek area and the Cheq forest ne of Phillips. In my opinion there should not be any antlerless permits given out on public land for at least a couple of years.

As a landowner and hunter in Price County I am pleased that we have not detected CWD in the deer herd to date. I am however concerned that baiting may be a contributing factor to the spread of CWD. I would like to see the baiting of deer banned in Price County.

I would like to see the muzzle loader season come before the regular rifle season, especially in the northern forest of Wisconsin. Also many fawns are being taken by predators and deer in general are being poached, or so I've heard through the grape vine.
Between the wolves and the winter we have seen a significant decrease in deer populations over the last 3 years. There should not be any antlerless tags handed out at all. There should be wolf tags handed out instead of an antlerless tag to the hunters.

Numbers that you see reported I feel are likely skewed without having the need to tag deer as was required in the past. Without tagging violating potential is much greater, and typically violators are taking more than one deer when they violate.

Being a non-resident hunter the cost of license, housing even on private land is very high pressure on hunting is high in many places would be nice to see a drop in out of state licenses! It's rough to spend $180.00 on an non-resident license!

I own 130 Acres and on my private land I see way too many bear. I would like to see a change on Applications for private land owners with more than a set number of acres. Instead of 7 years for a tag would be nice to drop it to 4 or 5 years.

I drive to cabin often through the National Forest. this past winter I see very few deer tracks so I now the numbers are way down there. I would like to see the number of deer return to our northern part of state for my sons future in hunting.

Baiting needs to end, it is getting ridiculous. I've heard reports of guys buying hundreds of pounds of corn and a couple of reports of guys that where buying thousands of pounds of corn last year. It is time to stop ignoring the problem.

Ban baiting and feeding. Baiting deer is not hunting. I don't see deer during gun season because I don't bait and those all around me do. The deer just hang out close to a bait pile and move late. Baiting disrupts everybody's hunting.

I would like to see the number of antlerless permits split 50/50 between private and public. There is a lot of public land hunters that lose out on the opportunity to harvest a deer due to limited number of public land antlerless permits.

In my opinion the deer population in the big blocks of public that I hunt is a joke. To even suggest a doe harvest in these areas tells me that the cdac/wdnr has no idea how low the actual deer population in these big blocks really is.

Too many private land deer in some areas, I live in the NE part of the county and some people are feeding 30-40 deer on their property. There are virtually no young hardwoods or white pine, red pines or hemlocks coming up in the woods.

Need to concentrate more on regulating the predator populations (ie coyotes, wolves, bear). Deer and deer hunting is HUGE for income in our areas. The predators are not what draw in the tourists and these are hurting our income.

CWD still remains a threat to Price County. We should not let our guard down. With the economic hardship presented by the Covid19 pandemic, I am concerned that there may be a significant increase in poaching violations in 2020.

I would like to see the deer population increase some in the unit. I would support 1 buck harvest permit per hunter for a year or 2 years. This would be able to be filled during archery, rifle, or muzzleloader season.

The deer herd must be healthy for the economy of northern Wisconsin flourish. Please stop making license sales based on DNR budgeting decisions. Crossbows should have the same season as all other archery seasons.
My reasoning of the low kill last year was the late season and the major snow storms. During muzzleloader season the deer were moving again. In fact shot a dandy buck chasing a doe I presume during the second rut.

The antlerless tags should be split more evenly between public and private lands, it should also be a requirement to prove you own private land. Too many private "tags" get filled off public lands.

Too many predators and baiting have changed the experience. Not many deer on public land and, those that are, are not moving during daylight. Get rid of the baiting. It does nothing good for the herd.

I think the deer numbers could improve on public forest lands if the mature forests are harvested on a more regular basis. The state does a good job of this but the national forest could do better.

I hunt on private property. I'm seeing way more does than bucks. However, with that being said, wish it was bucks and doe. Would also like to see all these special hunts gone along with multiple tags.

The proposed quota of 1200 is not sufficient. The quota needs to at least match last year's level, if not surpass it. There should be zero population growth on both public AND private land.

I would never support antlerless deer harvest after the earn a buck last time it wiped the herd out where I hunt and because of that 2 of my 3 adult children will not hunt deer any more.

Always think that bucks should be required to have at least 3 points on one side to be legal. This I believe could bring up the buck/doe ratio and possible more activity during the rut.

Most deer I've seen are in farm areas. Really not seeing much for big buck though. Not sure if it has to do with the number of predators and them getting run down during breeding season?

Wolf population has greatly affected the quantity of deer. It has also had a major impact on the daily activity of the deer on the property that we have been hunting since 1994.

We don't have enough mature bucks, immature bucks are doing a lot of the breeding. There are too many seasons. Online registration is a joke, and it isn't my job to enforce it.

I believe land owners should have the preference for all permits. Land owners should also have to own at least a 40-acre parcel. This parcel must be one continuous unit.

The registration system is poor & I believe some hunters are either not registering deer or falsifying information. Dropping kill numbers may be partially from this !!!!

Reduce the number of doe tags from last year. Make an antler rule where it needs to have at least 4 points on one side. Too many 1 1/2 year old bucks being killed.

Stop all baiting forever. End bear season. Make bear season a part of deer season as it was in the past, with no limit on bear kills during deer season.

Had 5 hunters in camp for 2019. Total number of deer seen was 8 does and fawns. No bucks. Some of the hunters may not hunt in 2020 due to lack of deer.

The deer numbers on public land are incredibly low. I drive thru the National Forest to get to my cabin and see no deer tracks for miles in the snow.

Total deer population in the northwoods is way too low, no where near where it was 15 to 20 years ago. It's basically not where going out in the woods.

Please continue the bonus antlerless tag system, have seen many more deer since 2016 and have seen more antlerless deer than antlered deer.

I have seen many more deer recently then I have in the past. However I will say many more have been younger deer than I have in the past.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7715</td>
<td>low farming activity in sw price co., high predator (bear, coyote) issues! Extensive clear cutting has destroyed much natural habitat!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7716</td>
<td>Predators are still a huge problem in our hunting areas. I don’t believe the DNR has an accurate count of the wolves, bobcat or bear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7717</td>
<td>Would like to see the standard 9 day season state wide Standard muzzle load season Leave cross bow as is Doe hunts only in CWD zones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7718</td>
<td>Deer population in southern Price Co. Is down significantly. Predators are a major problem, when you see wolf tracks all over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7719</td>
<td>Deer population is #1 concern. Too many antlerless tags offered. Entertain baiting and feeding only allowed by local residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7720</td>
<td>Baiting continues to get out of hand in this unit. Would like to see the use of bait for deer hunting banned state wide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7721</td>
<td>In my opinion, Baiting/feeding of deer is the #1 problem with deer population and hunting. I feel it should be banned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7722</td>
<td>Too many WOLVES ! Pretty hard to harvest deer when you hear wolves every night! We need a harvest season for wolves!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7724</td>
<td>Leave the doe alone, some areas still don't even have tracks in them, it's sad how these areas were over harvested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7723</td>
<td>We have seen a decrease in deer population for years. Last year’s early &amp; heavy snowfalls had a significant impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7725</td>
<td>More action and focus needs to be placed on CWD and stopping the spread. Not enough pro active effort to fight it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7726</td>
<td>Give hunters 1 antlerless and 1 antler license and get rid of extra hunts like the youth and holiday hunts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7727</td>
<td>While I saw more deer in 2019 than 2018, I believe the herd is far below the carrying capacity of the land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7728</td>
<td>Please adopt a wolf hunting season. Deer population has been down on our 1000 acres of land since 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7729</td>
<td>I would like to see an early season antlerless hunt proposed. Possibly in October or even September.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7730</td>
<td>I think youth hunters should have to shoot their own antlerless deer rather than anyone in the party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7731</td>
<td>The metrics do not support the recommended quota to maintain the population primarily on public land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7732</td>
<td>1.) Something needs to be done about the indian poaching numbers. 2.) GET RID OF THE WOLVES!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7733</td>
<td>I want to the gun deer season to start on the FIRST Saturday of November and run for 16 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7734</td>
<td>Poaching, and predation by wolves, bears, and coyotes and bobcats are problems in this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7735</td>
<td>Predators are a HUGE challenge in the big forest areas we hunt. Keep pursuing a wolf hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7736</td>
<td>I am not in favor of lengthening the gun season. I am not in favor of limiting crossbows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7737</td>
<td>The deer herd in the area I hunt is greatly influenced by the abundant wolf population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7738</td>
<td>I saw more wolf and coyote kills this winter than total deer seen during the gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7739</td>
<td>Too many predators, bear are getting fawns, coyotes and wolves taking all age brackets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7740</td>
<td>The wolves are way too over populated. What brings in more revenue to this state? DEER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7741</td>
<td>I think that there should be less doe tags. Not enough deer to maintain a population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7742</td>
<td>I don’t feel the deer numbers in price county warrant antlerless permits in 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Comment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7743</td>
<td>Continue Maintain Status/Deer Population Looks Good in Southern Price County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7744</td>
<td>Wolves very abundant, controlling numbers I feel would b very beneficial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7745</td>
<td>Don’t make any changes at all to length or timing of bow/crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7746</td>
<td>To Many Damn Wolves killing off the buck population we need a wolf season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7747</td>
<td>I oppose any changes to the season length or timing of crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7748</td>
<td>I would like the crossbow season to stay the same as it was during 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7749</td>
<td>I oppose any changes to the season length or timing of crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7744</td>
<td>High level of predator presence sign. Very little deer presence sign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7743</td>
<td>Have buck only hunt. There’s not enough does to support doe bonus tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7746</td>
<td>Natural predators are too high. Wolf population is WAY UNDERESTIMATED.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7745</td>
<td>Keep up the great work and thanks for all the information on the video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7747</td>
<td>More deer. Leave season length alone. Stop all the special seasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7748</td>
<td>Keep the gun hunting days the same. Do not change or lengthen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7749</td>
<td>don’t change or mess with in anyway the bow / crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7750</td>
<td>I think you still need to control the wolfs in this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7751</td>
<td>I believe the gun season should have an extra week in it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7752</td>
<td>It would be nice to see an antler restriction of any kind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7753</td>
<td>Please do not ban baiting. I hunt for food not horns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7754</td>
<td>Do we really need all these different hunting seasons?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7755</td>
<td>LEAVE THE DEER SEASON AT THE TRADITIONAL 9DAY HUNT !!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7756</td>
<td>the rifle deer season should be nov. 15 to nov. 30.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7757</td>
<td>Add antler/point restrictions. Less doe tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7758</td>
<td>Bow license should allow a doe or buck kill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7759</td>
<td>to many predators, wolves, yotes, bears ect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7760</td>
<td>Wolf population must be kept within reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7761</td>
<td>Baiting is overdone and way to prevalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7762</td>
<td>open up antler less in Price county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7763</td>
<td>Saw lots of small does last year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7764</td>
<td>One buck tag per hunter per year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7765</td>
<td>Ban baiting state wide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7766</td>
<td>oppose the baiting ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7767</td>
<td>I seen very few deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7768</td>
<td>Antlerless season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7769</td>
<td>STOP the BAITING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7770</td>
<td>Allow baiting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Report Generated:** Friday, May 01, 2020

**Price, Northern Forest**
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

87 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 69
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 10
   - I hunt in this unit: 74
   - General interest in this unit: 15

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 57
   - Bow: 46
   - Crossbow: 31
   - Muzzleloader: 16

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 16.52
   - Maximum: 51

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 46
   - Mostly Private Land: 7
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 9
   - Mostly Public Land: 5
   - Exclusively Public Land: 7
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 6
   - Not too crowded: 12
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 2
   - Somewhat crowded: 3
   - Very crowded: 3
   - Not applicable: 2

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 19
   - Fewer: 19
   - Same: 34
   - More: 7
   - Many More: 4
   - Unsure: 4

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
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<td>20</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

   If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
   Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
   Support | Oppose | Unsure
   22      | 57     | 8

   If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
   EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
   56      | 27     | 4

   If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
   Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
   Not applicable in this DMU

   If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
   ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
   VALID | NOT VALID | Unsure
   Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
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<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
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<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
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<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
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<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
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<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
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<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Racine, Southern Farmland
I know the DNR wonders why hunting participation is going down in Wisconsin. I can give you an example of why that is. Growing up I was an avid hunter. My dad got me interested in hunting at an early age. We hunted deer, pheasant, waterfall, squirrel and rabbit. Now I live in Racine county and hunt on public land. I also hunt with a friend of mine who owns hunting land in Marquette county. My wife’s aunt owns land in Taylor county and encourages family to use her land for deer hunting. Another friend owns land in Barron county (I sold my land there a couple years ago) where we always got together to hunt. I have 3 grandchildren that would love to get into hunting even though their parents don’t hunt. Why in the hell do I have to buy an extra doe permit for each area that I have an opportunity to hunt, plus buy the same for my grandkids when they would like to tag along with me? I would like to try other public hunting areas in Walworth or Washington counties but don’t want the added expense of buying extra doe permits. I would love to include my grandkids in an activity that I thoroughly enjoyed, but I won’t do that with the way costs keep going up. First there are application fees, then buy the license, then pay for more permits or tags. I also noticed on your questionnaire that landowners always get preference (more permits available). I haven’t gotten one of my first two periods for Turkey season in several years. People in the past warned that the DNR was turning hunting into a rich man’s sport. Looks like your goal was accomplished.

I'm very lucky to own private land in the metro sub-unit and I saw deer every day I sat 20+ days and was able to harvest a nice mature buck. That said I'm seeing the same deer time and time again. Seeing deer might be a good metric in Marinette or Dunn county with huge expanses of land, in Racine I'm seeing the same family group or does and the same 5-6 bucks cruising. I believe we need to drastically increase our deer population and we need to eliminate all antlerless harvest for the next 2-3 years. You’re seeing the hunters take matters into their own hands, as you said they are choosing not to harvest antlerless deer. I myself and others I know willingly purchased metro sub unit antlerless tags and tossed them in the trash with no intention of using them. I bought them to prevent others from buying and using them, so did others. While I don't mind contributing $20-30, it would be nicer if our goal is to increase the heard to actually have it reflected in the tags being issued. More does = more deer. We have the habitat, but since our herd was so small to begin with it's taken much longer to recover after the disastrous earn-a-buck fiasco. Also lets stop catering to gun deer hunters if they want to kill deer outside of rifle season let them pick up a bow and stop the terrible early, december, and holiday antlerless hunts.

Thank you for considering limiting the doe harvest in this unit. I have been hunting prime habitat on prime private land in an area that has more than the average amount of deer for this unit and have been frustrated with the ups and downs of the deer population. We are currently in a very low cycle of deer numbers. I also have heard rumors of deer culling in the county parks in Milwaukee county metro during the offseason. I am highly opposed to this. Many of the deer from northern Racine county migrate to the north into these county parks during the winter so what might be perceived as a populated density of deer is only during these winter months. If many antlerless deer are killed during this time in those locations it may be having a disastrous effect rather than a helpful one. It seems like every time the population gets about right the following year there is a huge drop and nearly no fawn production. I would like to see a deer population quite a bit higher every year with a consistent presence rather than an ebb and flow cycle. Thanks
I think we should get away from splitting up all the counties into separate zones. It makes it too challenging to hunt multiple counties for antlerless deer due to the fact you have to pick one county. Does are far more abundant than bucks and when it comes time to fill the freezer I would like the ability to harvest what I want where I want. I believe we should go back to a 1 buck/1 doe tag per license that is good in anywhere in the state. If there are higher quotas in counties sell a set amount of additional antlerless tags for those counties or if the population is too low in a county don’t allow the harvest of does there. To sum it up no more doe tags that are county and public or private specific.

The goal is to increase the herd. Leave the does go for a year and then you will achieve the goal. I know so many that feel when you provide the free tag they can harvest an antlerless because they feel there are to many, hence why they were given the tag. Most of these people do not fill the tag for only one reason. They fail to see a deer. To me this is the reason why we need to lay off the does. Many people hunting in Racine never see a deer. Eliminate the free tags then and sell some tags so that the hunters have some skin in the game.

We live in a forested area with numerous deer. I am a crossbow hunter and have given up gun hunting in Racine Co. as it is too dangerous. We now fear for our lives during the gun season as we have neighbors that continue to shoot towards our home. With high powered rifles is only a matter of time before someone gets killed or injured because of reckless hunters. Please consider eliminating the gun season in Eastern Racine Co. A crossbow with a scope is very deadly and adequate for our region.

Racine county CDAC members thank you for donating your time. There has been a lot of talk about lack of citizen input at CDAC meetings. Public input is mostly driven by dissatisfaction. I believe the CDAC’s including Racine County are doing a good job no news is good news. With that said I would like to see no additional antlerless permits with everyone getting one with every license some people overharvest an area. The west end of the county is still light on deer.

Very Simple stop the Doe harvest... there is not enough deer to have a doe harvest.. can't understand why people don't understand that.. stop all deer hunting by December 20... and if you allowing doe to be killed during the Holiday 3 day antler harvest you are killing doe that have been bred.. might as well open gun season during the rut... stop non antlers for 2 year's build the herd up.... all your doing now is killing more deer and your not letting the doe reproduce...

I primarily hunt Racine county farmland. As well as public and private land in Iowa county. The Wi. Deer herd has declined over the last 20 years. Our seasons are too long. Hunting until the end of January dont give the Deer any rest. Abolish the Holiday Hunt. Stop harvesting DOES. Keep the traditional 9 day hunt. Stop Dec Antlerless. Archery and Crossbow hunt Sept 14- Nov 16. 1 DOE. Muzzleloader Oct 1- Dec 24. Buck only

I am 79 years old and love to bow hunt. I cannot hunt with a vertical bow anymore, so I took up a crossbow last year and harvested a nice, mature doe. I understand that DNR is considering having a crossbow season in Oct. only. This eliminates hunting during the rut. I would like to see the crossbow season be the same timeframe as the bow season. Thank you.

As a landowner in Racine County I am disappointed every year with the recommendation that we do not have a holiday hunt. The CDAC needs to clearly address the reason they don’t support this hunt. If it is pressure from the snowmobile clubs I will no longer host snowmobile trails going through my farm.

Considering the information presented around crossbow numbers. Please consider a restricted crossbow season. Similar to gun or muzzleloader season. A 14 day crossbow season would be preferred. The advantage over vertical bows is much closer to gun hunting than archery hunting.

I would support no holiday antlerless only hunt and extending archery through the end of January. Don't need people home for the holidays running around with guns in the woods.
Biggest reason for not seeing many deer last year where I hunt is that they went nocturnal VERY early. Caught many many on trail cams after hours.

Had my best year ever hunting racine county last year. Keep up the good work.

Predators were high this year. Had way to many close encounters!!!!!!

I would like to see baiting and feeding of deer allowed

No does
**Richland, Southern Farmland**

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

514 forms were submitted for this unit.

### Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 143
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 122
   - I hunt in this unit: 494
   - General interest in this unit: 89

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 466
   - Bow: 296
   - Crossbow: 186
   - Muzzleloader: 127

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 19.37
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 398
   - Mostly Private Land: 57
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 20
   - Mostly Public Land: 6
   - Exclusively Public Land: 9
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 14
   - Not too crowded: 25
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 23
   - Somewhat crowded: 11
   - Very crowded: 11
   - Not applicable: 8

### Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 68
   - Fewer: 129
   - Same: 237
   - More: 54
   - Many More: 15
   - Unsure: 11

### Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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<tr>
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<td>12</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>251</td>
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<td>63</td>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>24</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

   Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Too High</th>
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<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

   If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
   Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
   Support | Oppose | Unsure
   |---------|--------|--------|
   263 | 202 | 49 |

   If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
   EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
   Support | Oppose | Unsure
   |---------|--------|--------|
   325 | 140 | 48 |

   If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
   Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
   Support | Oppose | Unsure
   |---------|--------|--------|
   52 | 438 | 24 |

   If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
   ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
   VALID | NOT VALID | Unsure
   |---------|----------|--------|
   Not applicable in this DMU |              |        |

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

   Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.63</td>
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<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
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Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
I think there is a generalized "cult following" (for lack of a better term) when it comes to us as hunters. We are all talking about the same things all the time when the idea of conservation and deer management are brought up. If we have a bad year seeing deer that means the population has to be down. If all we are seeing is 15 doe per sit we assume that we need all the bonus tags we can get because the populations have to be exploding! I also believe that when it comes to the antlerless seasons, holiday hunts and bonus tags you could have 100 of each and you will still get the same stats and results on the population numbers we continue to see across the state. I believe that is because of the "I DON'T SHOOT DOE'S" mentality that I see and hear all the time in the hunting community. Some of us don't because of a bad experience with a doe and a young fawn. Others simply believe that large doe numbers is a sign of a healthy heard. Still others believe it is more of a trust issue than it is about any moral standard. The WDNR (In my opinion) does not have the trust of the Wisconsin hunting public. I believe the hunting public feels as though the wool has been pulled over their eyes for so many years that they have decided to take matters into their own hands. That is why you could "award" a county 20,000 bonus tags and only see 200 doe taken on them. The hunting public simply will not do what is asked by people who haven't stood on their level or fought for the things that they feel are important too. (That list of things is longer than I time to sit and type) What if I want to shoot my doe at home? What if I want to shoot a doe at home and one in another unit with a friend or group of friends? I think we would be further ahead by allowing the hunting public's views and opinions be implemented more often than organizing a state agenda and having us vote on topics that are nothing more that a "lesser of two evils" crap shoot between topics that we cant relate to and would rather not comment on. It puts the DNR in power and makes the average hunter say. "It doesn't really matter what I say. The DNR is going to do what they want to anyway." Which seems dramatic and somewhat childish but that is where I feel we are as hunters. We follow the general guidelines but until someone starts listening and adapting processes to fit the needs and wants of the hunting community you will continue to see those numbers the way they are.

200,000,000 doe tags issued 10 does harvested. That's my opinion on just a couple of the matters brought up today. I can tell you that even as the time passes as I write this the thought comes into my mind of how much of a waste of time this has been. Will anyone even read this...? If they do how hard will they be laughing at it...? and finally. I know even if they do read it they would have to have some serious pull and then politics would have to be completely removed from the decision to restructure the way things are. So I end by saying: "What a waste of time. I'll just hunt like I always do. I'll follow the guidelines and laws but I certainly won't shoot a doe if I don't want to. If "they" implement a doe only season in my county I'll just hunt in another county. If "they" implement a doe only season statewide I'll just hunt another state or not at all." Hopefully you see where I am coming from. Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions even if they are meaningless and juvenile/inferior to the "greater minds" that make the clock tick.
First of all I'd like to start out saying, I scout whitetails 8 months out of the year, I run a good amount of trail cams throughout the county and I hunt about 3 months out of the year very hard. But being out there all the time I am able to see what's going on. I hunt mostly public because I have better success. I think we should be the first county in this state to set the bar and pass a 3 pt on one side antler restriction. Not to grow trophy bucks but to protect spikes and forks so they have a chance to go through the cycles of life and maybe they will have a chance to mature more. We do not have the quality of bucks like we did in the past. People like seeing a nice buck, it brings business to the area, and when one is harvested the business continues onto the taxidermists, maybe the butcher shops. If muskie fisherman can get a 50” size limit why can't we get something to help deer in the whitetail capitol of the world? We should try it, what's it going to hurt? People will have more success and they will be happy. This should be an option and many of us would like to see this. Otherwise we would like to see one buck per hunter a year. We are losing hunters not because they aren't seeing deer, because they aren't seeing any decent bucks. The extended rifle season will hurt our buck population, and the continuation of crossbows for anyone all archery season is really having an impact on the buck population, I do not agree with either. We need to have a crossbow season and stay with the traditional rifle and muzzleloader season. One way we could make things a lot easier is change the way the seasons begin. This is a suggestion for the whole state. There are years we hear how the season started to late like 2019 so that lowers the harvest of bucks. There is a simple fix, make rifle season open on the same date every year like MI. This is my idea on season structure and I believe it would improve our state and simplify everything; Archery Season - Sep. 15th-Jan. 15th statewide continues Crossbow Season - Nov. 15th-Dec. 15th statewide continues Rifle Season - Nov. 20th-Nov. 30th statewide, weapon of choice Muzzleloader Season - Dec. 1st-Dec. 10th statewide No extended archery hunts, no holiday hunts, no youth hunts, no baiting statewide, no CWD tags, let the counties control their herds as needed. Let's make this the greatest state to hunt whitetails because right now we are falling off the map, losing business and losing hunters.

I personally think we need to go backwards and stop Archery season the Sunday before Gun season to give the deer a break and only have the 9 day gun hunt. Forget all these other season’s. If you want to limit the deer herd which is crazy where I live and hunt because we remain stable and it’s because we have been successful year after year and actually hunt it. Go back to earn a buck and make people get out in the 9 day season like we always did. It was once like a holiday week and people looked forward to it. Too many changes year after year have pushed hunters away and because of all the choices, people hunt different. With less hunters our, the deer do not move as much. Think about it before pushing even more hunters away. If you go to antlerless only, I am done. I have taken many bucks and does and like to have the option of either or both. I am glad that we have not had any confirmed CWD where I hunt and we always have ours tested. It is all around us but so far not here. We manage our herd well by hunting but not over hunting. If I see 5-7 deer in a day, it is a good hunt. I remember when I could see 20-30 deer a day. Please stop ruining the tradition that I had for my kids and grandkids. Management is important but no matter what you do, landowners have the ultimate control and the problems will always remain in certain areas because hunting is not allowed or only one person is allowed to hunt it. There are parts of our zone that are overloaded with deer and you need to figure out how to control it. I do not like being punished because of those areas when we are lucky to see deer every year. I know many hunters that feel the same as me. I have been lucky every year to provide for my family but I hunt hard and spend many hours in the woods. The true problems are localized due to little hunting pressure and no matter what you do, it will not change. Another problem we have at my place is the 60 plus ag tags that a neighbor receives and kills all these deer including bucks that get left to lay and you do nothing about it. Good luck and we do appreciate your efforts but you need to make good decisions and don’t look at our zones as a whole if you want deer hunting to continue. I’m glad that I do not have to make these decisions as I understand they are difficult. Make me proud to live and hunt in this great state of Wisconsin again.
4 doe tags with a license is ridiculous. I Hunt private and public. I try not to shoot any doe on public because of the amount of pressure and i have some opportunities others dont. If you look at the amount of actual acreage in the county vs. The amount of acreage of just public. Its not even close if you used that ratio to differentiate the amount of tags public vs private there would be no tags. The public gets the most pressure on top of that. The private that i can hunt has 4 other hunters on it so 5 total. We each get 4 doe tags and one buck tag for bow and gun. 10 deer tags per person 50 total deer in one group on not much acreage. I feel we have a pretty standard situation. I really dont understand the 50 tags? Are we expecting one group on a small private tract to accomplish that? There isn't 50 deer to shoot. You may have some large tracts of private land with accessory deer #s but 95% of the hunters can't help with that. But it seems to fall onto them to shoot more and more deer. The situation doesn't have an easy fix but maybe some encouragement or kick back for doe only youth hunts on large tracts for youth, veterans, disabled, etc...we need to stop pretending the average hunter or recreational property owner can fo his part on private when 40 to 80 acres is a typical piece. 300 or even more acres with 5 hunters is different than a 40 with 5 hunters. Public lands should almost always be set to maintain or increase the herd. So much more pressure and more deer get shot per acre.

I listened to the CDAC meeting on the telephone. It was mentioned by one individual that it was quite frustrating to be a member and not be able to have input to the tools that they are given. How can we think we are helping when we are restricted to only what is given. How can this be changed so that our input is at least given some thought. I know that is what the Conservation Congress does but look at how long that can take and too much other stuff is tossed into that. I don't think there was enough emphasis on slowing down the impact of CWD. If there was there would be more being done outside the deer seasons. The DNR could be taking some deer out of the large groups in the late winter or spring. As you drive down the back roads in the evening there are groups of deer as large as 75 to 100 deer. What would be wrong with having some of these deer taken for testing and the meat given to food pantries. It would be a great way to lower the numbers in those areas also. Use a form of market hunters that could be regulated and also would do some good. I'm a land owner and would gladly let them take a couple deer for this purpose. I'm also opposed to having the muzzle loader season messed with. We don't need rifle hunters charging around disrupting the deer movement. If they think they need a longer season open it back up again after that week.

If the overall objective is to reduce the deer populations, and with taking into account the information provided in the video program. It would seem a "earn a buck" program would be the most efficient way to decrease deer populations. An "earn a buck" program could have other variables in place like, needing to harvest two or more deer to earn a buck tag, maybe reducing the cost of a deer hunting license if it is "anterless" only. Or, implementing a "earn a buck" program with a option to buy a premium (higher priced) "buck" tag if someone wanted that option. The idea of having multiple tags carries with some factors that seem to make it not very sufficient. A lot of hunters I know don't process their own or have the means too, or maybe don't consume enough for it to be a viable option. If multiple tags is the solution moving forward - maybe promote ways one can have an animal processed or donated to a food bank, etc. Going to a "anterless only" season.. in my opinion will deter a lot of hunters and seems like it would have an adverse effect on the deer populations along with the revenue that is raised from deer hunting. Honestly, this really seems like a step backwards in achieving the goal on reducing deer numbers.
Crossbow seasons should not be changed. If it is the short range and long range goal to cut back on the deer herd, it does not make sense to limit the crossbow season and number of deer harvested to meet said goal. Rifle seasons should not be allowed or overlap into any Archery Season as the methods of hunting deer vary so greatly. As a Bow hunter Crossbow Hunter you obviously need to be more stealthy. Having someone blazing a rifle during the bow season is in direct conflict with how a bow hunter harvests his deer. It would seem that some people that are in a position to talk trash regarding the use of a Cross Bow neither understand the aspects of using the Cross bow or have personnel skin in the game to hamper the use of said Crossbow. These people sell conventional Compound Bows and view themselves as traditionalist in nature. Being almost 70 years of age, I started hunting deer since being of the age of 14. I use a rifle Compound bow and cross bow. I enjoy using all three methods of harvesting deer. I do not impose my ideology onto other folks as to how or what method or device is used to harvest the deer. I feel that cross bow hunters are being targeted.

I've been hunting within 100 miles of my current home for almost 45 years with a bow and rifle. I'm not longing for the good ol' days when I say that I truly believe that we need to get back to the traditional 9 day rifle season and work within that framework. That would have a positive impact on landowner and public perception of deer hunting. I have talked with many landowners that are tiring of the "never-ending" rifle season. I'm also one of them. It would also get more people in the late season woods for small game, trapping and bow deer. Remove the youth hunt, the antlerless only hunt and the holiday hunt and I believe the enthusiasm for the rifle season will improve along with the motivation of hunters during the nine days. I do think that there is still a place for the black powder hunt with a 5 day season beginning the Wednesday following the rifle season close. I am very concerned about the impact of CWD as well, but I feel there are additional options outside of the nine day season that could be used, especially with the help of interested landowners, but those options have to be developed with the involvement of those landowners.

A couple of comments: 1. Increase the price of out of state licenses. The cost of Wisconsin licenses have been way under priced. Our neighboring states make it nearly impossible to get drawn or afford an out of state license. 2. Do not extend the "traditional" nine day hunting season. That tradition is what still brings several families together over the gun hunting season. It is also very beneficial to have the gun season coincide with Thanksgiving. I personally, along with several in my party, be very disappointed if this tradition was tampered with. I think it would have the opposite effect on the licenses sold. I personally would never purchase another Patron's License. I have hunted my whole life, and every time the Department tampers with seasons and regulations they lose more hunters. Please do not change/tamper with the 9 day gun hunting tradition. It is the one thing that keeps several hunters around. 3. Crossbows should be only allowed to hunters over the age of 60 and/or those that have a debilitating condition. (Again, every time the Department tampers with traditions) 4. DO NOT change the 9 gun season.

Bonus antlerless harvest authorization sales in Richland DMU is abysmal. While it's nice to make a high number of authorizations available to reduce the deer population, it's moot if sales do not increase. With roughly 25% of bonus authorizations being sold the problem isn't opportunity for harvest authorizations. It would be interesting to see metrics on the number authorizations used per license sold for both firearm and archery. If authorizations issued with license sales are not being utilized, offering more authorizations isn't going to solve the population problem. Which then suggests focus is on the incorrect side of the coin. Focus should be how to increase utilization of license issued authorizations, which likely means landowners. On my land I saw a ton of deer again in 2019. Being MFL land and almost exclusive closed canopy timber, it's hard to pattern deer to get shot opportunities. Therefore, I'm considering pulling land out of MFL to create opportunities for habitat improvements. What I'm learning as a relatively new landowner is the objectives of MFL contradict the objectives of good wildlife habitat.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I've been hunting public land almost exclusively in Richland County and many other SW Wisconsin Counties for multiple years now. I continue to be impressed with the quality of deer that I'm able to find throughout the county. With that being said, CWD is a very real concern to me. Not only from a consumption stand point but also for my passion for this amazing resource that we're tasked with managing and responsible for protecting. I ask you to please take this disease seriously if not for yourselves but for future generations. I also want to thank you for once again offering the holiday hunt and the extended archery/crossbow season. I'm very appreciative of this season as its a great time to hunt with friends and family. This additional opportunity also allows those weren't previously successful and those who want to harvest more deer the opportunity to do so. With that being said, I fully support and thank you for recommending the holiday hunt and the extended archery season.

I understand the complexity of all this, but to make decisions that equally affect land masses the size of counties is borderline insane. Anyone who spends a reasonable amount of time hunting in this state knows that the distribution of land ownership creates “hot spots”, for lack of a more scientific term. Within the borders of a county, there will certainly be areas where there are land owners who possess hundreds, if not thousands of acres, and either hunt with very few people or even none. Then there are the areas where several square miles consist of nothing but different owners of 40 acre parcels, each with multiple hunters on them. With all due respect to rocket scientists and brain surgeons, even without being one of them, one would know there would be extremely large disparities in deer numbers between the two. To legislate situations where these scenarios are treated equally is not well thought out. Just like life in general, we don’t need equality, we need fairness.

I would like to see it be available to harvest 1 Doe and 1 Buck or 1 Deer either species Statewide. The rest of the antlerless authorizations can stay how they are chosen and distributed now. I hunt to eat venison not horns, although I Hunt and have family ties in this zone I do not live in this zone, thus it is sometimes hard to make it back to hunt in the late season bonus hunts. I also mentor youth hunters both during the youth hunts, regular season and bonus seasons where possible. If this were to be put in effect this would give more opportunities for these and other hunters to harvest a bonus season antlerless deer by giving them the opportunity to hunt someplace other then their chosen county and land type for the traditional 9 day season. I truly believe that if the objective is to either maintain or decrease the population in most counties this would give more hunters the opportunity to harvest a deer over the course of the entire hunting season.

Designate an Earn a Buck bonus to help combat the spread of CWD. Each hunter is issued 1 buck tag along with an antlerless tag and the standard bonus antlerless tags for the farmland unit. Hunters would then have the option to earn a second buck tag (but a maximum of one extra buck tag per hunter). Since bucks are the primary spreaders of CWD, harvesting more bucks could help reduce or control the spread, and this bonus could increase the doe harvest. Archery/Crossbow EAB tags would only be valid for Archery/Crossbow. To verify that does are actually harvested for the EAB authorization, hunters would be required to submit a picture of the doe with the tag validated and attached to the carcass. This would only be required for the bonus EAB tag. All other doe tags would be registered the regular way. EAB tags would only be valid for the year the doe is harvested in. This could also encourage more antlerless harvest per year.

all the info you provide, there is NOTHING mentioned on CWD improvement. Pretty sad, since it's been here 20 yrs. Go back to earn-a-buck, back tags, and in-person registration. We don't need 15 deer hunts per year. We should move the gun season to start earlier in Nov., not run later. Everybody would like to catch a part of the rut,...not just the bow hunters. You want hunters to have their deer tested for cwd, and give 4 antlerless tags per license, BUT YOU CAN'T COME UP WITH A TEST RESULT IN ONE DAY, rather than 10-14 DAYS????? Who in their right mind is going to pay to process all that, or process themselves, freeze it, and then find out 2 wks. later it tested positive??? I kill it now, I want to know now so I can enjoy eating it. DNR needs to wake up now before it's too late.There's pregnancy tests that give instant results..Too much poaching going on. Shutdown all deer farms and ALL baiting.
First off, I am glad that they have kept the statewide Buck Tag, however, it would be nice if one of the bonus antlerless tags that they issue in some areas would also be considered statewide or at least allow you to hunt in an adjoining county. I understand they issue the extras, because they want to reduce in a certain area. However, I live in one county and have land in the adjoining county. I have friends that I hunt with that have land in the county I live in, and it would be nice to be able to hunt antlerless deer together. Our properties are within 10 miles of each other, but because we have to specify the county we cannot hunt together. If we missed something in the way this was set up, please make it more clear in the hunting rules. We would love to be able to give our kids and ourselves more opportunities to harvest deer and hunt together like we did in the earlier years.

The more rules that are changed from year to year will end up in a reduction of hunters. Reducing your hunter numbers will reduce your harvest totals. Why is there this nonsense about changing seasons and weapon type. The system wasn't broke in the past and yet decisions were made to change them. CWD prevention has proven to be a disaster. Too much change to fast is why we are with a broken system. How long has CWD existed in Western States? Are there still elk and deer in those states? Nature will take care of itself and will balance out. If the original hunting structures would still be in place you would have more excitement and participation in the hunt. Now there is no urgency to go out for the 9 day gun deer season. The attitude is: There's plenty of time I'll go out later. Later doesn't happen like a deadline. Fact! More is not always better!

Hunter retention is key therefore I feel like an antlerless only is danger. I would still harvest antlerless, but perhaps some/many may not. Having 4 antlerless tags to each gun and bow seems like a lot, but if that gets people to take animals following the 3 yr goal than OK. Do the people that purchase bonus tags from this county or outside? Would decreasing free tags translate to more bonus tags purchased for DNR revenue? or reduce amount of deer taken, the primary goal? I would like antlered deer to be taken during the extra seasons with bow/crossbow. I like to hunt those seasons, but if I have already taken antlerless during the year I would like to opportunity to take a buck. Again is primary objective reduction of county herd number? Especially because most of the deer taken during this time are by people with limited time to hunt other weekends of the fall.

Here’s my opinion. Again, just my opinion. How many licenses were sold in 2019? Ok, now ask, how many of those harvested deer in 2019? There’s a problem with deer population in RC, and this guy on the video, doesn’t know anything about how to attract deer hunters to Wisconsin. At all! Grant county included! Oh, and now you opened the city limits of Richland Center? I pay taxes and buy licenses from the DNR? I own property in green county too. Both areas have declining deer population. You guys can’t understand what it’s like to raise mature deer just to see them disappear because public hunters don’t know boundaries! So in my opinion, 9 day gun season only, and bow season dates remain till Christmas. That’s it! Get the population up, and omg, you got more hunters. I haven’t seen deer in my area all gun season. Our heard population sucks. Look at your own numbers!

2019 was my first year hunting deer in Wisconsin. I was invited to hunt deer on a farm with crop damage tags and shot 5 doe. I was back for the firearm opener and shot a scruffy, one antlered buck and three doe opening day. I am a meat hunter and left some with the farmer, gave some to needy friends, and brought the rest home to MN. The thing that made it really attractive to me was the farmer’s request to help thin down his deer herd and the fact that the first time buying a Non-Resident tag it was half price. I would be willing to shoot only doe if that would make it possible some way to pay half price for a non-resident license. I’m not a wealthy man, antlers don’t mean a whole lot and that kind of reduced license cost would make it very attractive for me to hunt in WI in 2020. Last year we made three trips to hunt, eight hours drive each way.

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
No mention was made what so ever about the effect of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease. Dozens of dead deer were found in our area last year. EHD seems to be completely ignored by the DNR, the CDACs and the media. However it was/is real and troubling. Instead of extending seasons later in the year, how about allowing land owners some flexibility in harvesting antlerless deer with firearms earlier in the Fall? I know the all mighty bow hunting lobby would get in a snit. Farmers hold many crop damage permits and seem to be able to kill deer without causing huge disruptions. My wife and I would like to hunt our property in October with rifles in nice weather. We don't care to use arrows to kill deer, preferring instead the swift certainty of a rifle. Tell us you want 4 does harvested in Oct. and let us do it however we see fit and we will work with you.

I experienced a very frustrating archery/gun season in 2019 due to crops still standing in the fields. I realize this is out of your power to control. However, it got me thinking about a better season structure for WI in general. Extend rifle season through the traditional muzzleloader season, providing three full weekends of rifle hunting. Additionally, the late bow season should include muzzleloader hunting if you haven't filled your gun buck tag, and/or antlerless tags. I think the late season should extend till the end of January. One big issue is access to private land that is never hunted (sanctuaries). Find some way to provide an incentive that is too good to pass up, so these landowners will start hunting these properties. In counties that are predominantly private, these properties make it impossible to reach herd goals.

As someone who has hunted deer in this area for all my life I feel we have lost some of the enthusiasm for this sport. As an older person it is my opinion that we may be better served with a 9 day gun hunt rather than the many seasons we now have for gun hunting. I strongly believe the tradition was much stronger under this format and wonder if we would see more participation and better harvest results if we returned to this format. I am an avid hunter and want this tradition to carry over to the next generations but it is concerning to see the decline in hunter numbers. I do feel there is a real incentive for all of us to do what is right to protect deer hunting into the future. I do understand we have a major concern with the CWD issue and how to manage this to protect our deer herd going forward.

The deer herd and hunting Richland County have long been underrated with terrific opportunity for a hunter to take to the woods and have a reasonable chance of success. While this still remains the case, the current "decrease" trajectory and over-harvesting of does does not bode well for the future. This war on does needs to end and the recommendation needs to be to maintain or even increase the population when the chance arises. Additionally, while some private land may need additional does harvested, public land deer populations are already taking the biggest hit. With continued aggressive doe harvests, the public land opportunities will continue to decrease along with the quality of the hunting opportunity. Scale back the number of does that we are harvesting before its too late!

4 adult deer harvested in 2019 season 3 of 4 positive for CWD. Population in the area needs to come down, is all private land. Some land owners still of mind set to let the does go mentality and selectively harvest Males. I shot a buck aged by DNR to be 3.5 Years Old weighed 154 lbs. granted harvested at the end of rut(NOV 27) and had lost weight. but believe over population had something to do with lighter body weight. Was also the only deer to test negative for CWD, all Does over 2.5 Years old tested positive. I had a lot of work in the harvest of the meat because of the possibility the test would be positive and just threw it away. May hunt Northern WI for consumable venison and just kill deer in Richland county to reduce population but have considered not hunting at all.
We have too many deer and too few hunters. Grow the hunting tradition by bringing back in-person registration stations. Make hunters accountable with in-person registration, requiring backtags to be worn in the field, and make the minimum hunting age 12 (and require hunter safety). We have too many deer - 68 per square mile in Richland County! Add hunting seasons to reduce the herd: we should have an October antlerless hunt, a December antlerless hunt, and an either-sex holiday hunt. Leave the 9-day gun hunt alone. Don't enact an unnecessary cooling-off period. And don't listen to whiny, greedy, entitled cog-bow hunters when they complain about cross-bows. We need more hunting seasons and more flexibility with hunting tools.

I feel over all that the amount of deer that I see during hunting season is ok. I don't see an over abundance of deer but see enough to keep me happy. One thing I have noticed pertaining to gun deer season is the hunting pressure is down quite a bit compared to 15 to 20 yrs ago, which is why even on Opening Day you may not see that many deer, and I've heard hunters complain that they aren't seeing hardly any deer, it's not from lack of deer but rather the deer aren't being pressured like how they were 15 to 20 yrs ago, so they assume the deer numbers aren't their, when in fact they aren't seeing deer because they are not moving because there is a lack of hunters in the woods to make the deer move.

Regarding increase in price for out of state hunters, I do not believe this is a wise decision. As a resident and of WI until my wife's job took us to Minnesota, I find it very frustrating that I cannot afford to hunt multiple seasons on my own property due to rising license costs. Additionally, a rise in resident costs will result in an increase of non-licensed hunters (poachers). After the in-person registration requirement was removed, I believe many hunters are not registering their deer if they are self-butchering. There is an indicated reduction in deer harvest but part of much of that may be due to inaccurate reporting due to the lack of requirement to register in person.

I am extremely against the proposed lengthening of the 9 day gun season or making it earlier in the season. I am even more extremely against not allowing bow/crossbow hunting a week before the traditional 9 day gun season. I feel we have made some progress in this state segmenting deer management units and getting feedback from hunters localized to each unit they hunt. Just because of one poor gun season which was a bit later last year, had a lot of crops not harvested in most areas, poor weather for hunting conditions etc.. We Should NOT jump to an extreme measure of not allowing bow hunting a week before gun season or making any changes to the gun season format for that matter.

I think that we need to stop having antlerless deer hunting seasons and have earn a buck for the normal gun deer season and bow season. The DNR needs to stop regulating hunters putting out minerals to help deer, CWD will be spread by the deer licking the same branches and drinking from the same watering holes. Also the best way to sell more licenses for deer hunting would be to allow hunters to purchase both bow and gun licenses at the same time and could use there gun buck tag for bow hunting and then not have a gun buck tag if used during bow season. Wisconsin should really offer a life time hunting licenses like many other states already do.

If the concern is to lower the size of the deer herd, it only makes sense to add an "earn a buck" back into the equation. The former rule of being able to take a buck first and then, by harvesting a doe, earn another chance to get another bigger buck seemed reasonable. My hunting companions and I and many other hunters I know work to harvest a "record book size buck". The only way to take that bigger buck now, is to let smaller bucks walk by and thereby missing an opportunity to lower the herd. The way it is now we have to let every buck go by waiting for "the big one", and in many years that means not harvesting any deer. Let's get back to the former rule.

Implement the traditional and simplistic season structure. Nearly every weekend in December is a gun season which doesn't allow time for late-season bow hunting. We find sheds every year starting around New Year's. It'd be irresponsible to extend bow season into January or later. Let the deer recovery and remove all pressures of seasons. The constant season changes are tiresome. Provide full recommendations of how the season should lay out and let people vote on that for Richland County. Quit asking round-about questions and get to the point of the season structures with full plan options for hunters, land owners and farmer to decide on.
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Do not look to Earn-a-Buck (EAB) to reduce deer populations. By increasing the number and age structure of bucks in the population, EAB is a negative when trying to help control the spread of CWD. A Bonus Buck Authorization (either one per person per year or one per license per year) is a better tool to help control the spread of CWD. Another method to reduce the deer herd and help control the spread of CWD would be to have a draw for buck harvest permits with antlerless hunting for those who did not draw a buck harvest permit. Those who did not receive a buck harvest permit would be given a preference point for next year's draw.

If increasing antlerless harvest is top priority, I'd suggest a modified Earn a Buck system as follows: Allow the first deer a hunter kills to be an antlered buck. If the first deer taken is an antlered buck, the second deer must be anterless, which would then allow the taking of another antlered buck, however, if the antlerless deer taken is a buck fawn, no antlered buck tag would be rewarded, requiring another antlerless deer to be taken. This would really help promote the proper identifying of your target while hunting and would allow hunters to take a buck when the first opportunity presents itself.

Year after year of 4 to 6 doe tags has taken it's toll. Taking the kids out gun hunting and we don't even see doe, it's getting frustrating, everybody shooting doe then not registering them is why the numbers are out of whack. Driving to our land we see tons of deer in sauk county why don't they get 6 doe tags per license? Between me bow and gun hunting and my 2 kids we could have have taken 17 doe. Why? People in town complain the deer esting there plants? That will never stop unless someone hunts them. Enough with all the extra hunts and extra tags or there will be 3 less license purchased.

I would love to see crossbow hunting have either it's own season like muzzleloader after the rut because using a crossbow during archery season is about the same as letting people muzzleloader hunt during archery season. Not right and should be changed. But most importantly our farm has had many conversations about wanting an earn-a-buck type structure but limited the buck tags to one for archery and one for gun. Does do need to be decreased but you are going backwards letting each doe kill represent another buck tag. Earn a buck with one buck limit per season (bow and gun).

So watching the clip talking about the deer decreased harvest is going down. Would you think that, after changing the rules in 2018 to do online harvesting, many people would comply to it and actually do it. I would say probably many people are taking advantage of it and shooting more antlered deer with a single tag/ or just not registering their deer online. I support having an online deer harvest registered but I think many people are taking advantage of shooting more deer using 1 tag instead of all their tags. Thats just my saying in how the numbers are decreasing.

1 buck per year per person not per liscense. I would like 1 harvest tag buck or doe statewide. would allow me to hunt with my son in another area of the state and not restrict my chances of harvest. Leave doe tags as they currently are. if you are extending gun season go earlier start. tell bow and crossbow hunters to quit bitching about their 5 month hunting seasons or restrict their seasons. come up with a faster test for cwd. Do not pay for positive tests, replacing tag for following year a good idea on positive tests. I am a meat hunter, rifle season only.

Certain areas have many deer with no one able to access, other area's have very few do to all the tags issued. People living in town complain about deer eating plants, shrubs, and trees have no clue. These deer are living in town never hunted so they complain and want more deer shot in the county. Makes no sense. Let people bow hunt near the outskirt of town might solve the problem. Me and my 2 kids had 13 tags this past season and saw 4 deer in 7 days of hunting. We pay high taxes in Richland county and hope something will be done.

I am in favor of earn a buck. I like the idea of a bonus buck, but would almost like to see two does for the next buck tag... I think you may really see some does hit the ground then... but it takes hunters with the drive to hunt and hunt hard and unfortunately it seems that all the proposed knee jerk reaction proposals (longer gun season) seem to cater to the specific hunters who hunt only a handful of days a year and want the easy way given to them. Hunters who make hunting a priority will have success in Richland county.
Overall, I would like to have a quality hunt. This means seeing deer on the land I hunt which would definitely help bolster the economy in the area as well as getting younger people interested in the sport. I didn’t see that many deer this past year which deflated my ambition to go out. I do realize that the deer numbers fluctuate in different regions in the area I hunt. I am noticing a lot more predators and wonder if the populations are at risk in the future. I think the way the system is set up now for this unit is fine.

I used to see deer in the fields adjacent to my land on a regular basis, this is no longer the case. I have seen & found dead deer with blue tongue/ midges disease as well as others that may have been affected by CWD, so what about all the blood borne pathogens that are being caused by ticks & how will the deer herd be treated or vaccinated to prevent the spread of these diseases, I had anaplasmosis, it was horrible & took a long time to get over & yet I still continue to suffer from the side effects of this disease???

A increase in non resident youth licenses is not unreasonable. If WI provides and continues with lower license cost then its neighboring states they will continue to draw more hunters into the state. My family has owned property and paid taxes in WI for over 45yrs, yet we don't benefit from resident licenses. I do believe in extra doe tags with the licenses, but I am willing to harvest and donate my animal or animals to food banks. Including locations or # to where to donate would be more helpful. Thank you!!

The dnr has to realize that in certain areas the deer population is way to high but it’s all private land with very few hunters. They want large deer herds and who can blame them I would. So please stop crying about the size of the deer herd because the majority of the area is not over populated. I’ve hunted since the early 80’s and the deer population now is a fraction of what it was them all we here is 2 million deer. What a joke. It’s time you listen to sportsman because that’s where the money comes from

Yes, I would really like to see where one who owns or rents the land, that they can harvest a deer when they have a need for one to put in the freezer regardless of "gun season.' The reason being is I don't hunt on Shabbat (Saturday) and by the 1st day of the week (Sunday) the deer are all spooked and gone. I only hunt for the meat not for the sport or the antlers. There are also poor people who could use some deer meat as well. So it would be nice for private landowners to harvest a deer when it is needed.

There are hot spots for Richland county as in alot of deer. But northern part is not so much I hunted all 9 days last year and I can count on both hands the number of deer we saw between 8 hunters.. there is a big decrees in deer and I think the 9 day gun hunt is good for time wise but I think bow needs to be shortened Sept. To Jan seriously why so long if your going to have 4 months for them open a small window so people that just gun hunt can get in the rut to.. we would love to have the hot action to..

If there is a "doe only" hunt I will hunt another deer Unit. We harvest 1 or 2 does for each of our party of 4. Without the ability to hunt bucks we would hunt a different unit. Where we hunt last year there was a deer kill from blue tongue(?) Numbers were down in our area. I think giving a second buck tag after shooting a doe would work better than 4 doe tags. You should always get a buck tag, no earn a buck for first buck tag, then earn another for harvesting another doe.

The deer population estimates year over year always seem too high. As hunters in the woods, at least in my area of Richland County, we are not seeing the a deer increase. We see about the same to less deer. That is for over 1200 acres. Also, folks are not going to shoot 5 deer a year (with the 4 antlerless tags). That is why the your chart on the providing 2 antlerless tags vs 4 antlerless tags shows the harvest is the same. Your population modeling seems suspect in my opinion

I am a gun hunter. I don't have the time or resources to spend hours, weeks, or months bow hunting. If you really want to manage the deer herd, allow me to hunt with a gun in October when the weather is more favorable, and not just antlerless deer. It is hard to hunt in cold weather. I appreciate the history of the November hunt, but the deer herd keeps growing and the hunt is going to have to be adjusted if we really want to
The presenter could of had more energy during the presentation, describing the graphs better to dumb down - some people may have hard reading graph, and informing them what the Y/X axis is will help them process the data. I would consider sharing the screen so that the biologist can use his mouse and point to where he is speaking to. Keeps the viewer engaged a bit more. More pictures of bucks in the area. Youh numbers down, presentation for youth.

The deer population has dropped so bad in the past 5 years is pathetic. 10 years ago i used to see on a average of 15 deer a day. now if i see 3 out of the 9 day gun season I'm doing good. that goes to say that the population has dropped so bad with the over harvesting of these animals so pathetic. that goes also for the crossbow season also. I THINK NO EXTENDED HUNTS, NO HOLIDAY HUNTS, NO BONUS TAGS. 1 BUCK 1DOE PER GUN AND ARCHERY THAT'S IT.

Good presentation. I didn't see any deer opening weekend (one coyote,) but my brother, whose land I was hunting on for the first time, gave me one of the two antlerless he shot. He also got a buck with his crossbow. Later during the Holiday Hunt I shot an adult doe. I plan on hunting with him again this year. We didn't get our deer tested. We plan to test for CWD this year as we are in the NW corner of the county and the prevalence is growing.

If the kill numbers are down its because of lack of hunter participation. Allow all kids under 21 hunt for youth prices. Keep all liscence prices the same. Raising these will definitely keep people from buying them. Especially out of state residents. Make the doe’s an unlimited harvest. One buck tag per gun liscence. One buck tag per bow tag. Make gun season longer. A little earlier than normal and a little later than normal.

If you want to kill more does, quit handing out 4 tags with each license. If you give me... a landowner....8 tags (bow/gun)....I'm sure as hell not going to shoot a doe. Why? Because most are to concerned that their neighbors will actually fill 4 doe tags/license. You will kill more does by just giving each license a doe tag. Don't believe me.....increase it to 10 doe tags/license...and lets see if doe harvest goes up or down.

I do think the muzzleloader season should be moved from right after gun season. To have a muzzleloader season right after gun season makes no sense . I would like to see the season moved to later in the year say Christmas and or an earlier season say weekend hunt in late September or early October. Also non resident license should be raised by a considerable margin. Thank you for considering the above items.

I fully believe that the 9 day rifle season should be extended this year. I hear people talking about crossbow hunters having taken more deer because they can shoot farther and more accurately which is incorrect because most people I know are usually only shooting the same distance and no further than 40 yards so crossbow hunting should not be eliminated. I seen a lot more deer in 2019 than I have in 5 years.

Please consider using the best tool we ever had for decreasing the overpopulation of deer by bring back EARN A BUCK. That tool was the only one that worked and landowners would use it because they would like to have the chance to hold out for a trophy buck after they harvest a buck. When we had EARN A BUCK, I ate tag soup every time but it got me and others to shoot a doe. We need this and it worked.

No need to pay farmers for crop damage. If they want deer killed they should be begging hunters to come and harvest deer. Have the farmers sign up with dnr and dnr regulate/allow so many hunters per farm. Do it from September-December! Great situation for hunters that are having problems with public hunting areas being crowded. This should help fill the 4 tags per hunter for southern farmland areas.

I support an anterless only hunt, for all seasons, including 2020 and future years when needed. I would like to see a reduction in the total number of deer along with an increase in the number of adult bucks. Currently, with all the seasons and hunter preference of harvesting a yearling buck versus an antlerless deer leads to very few bucks making it to the age range of 3 1/2 to 5 1/2.
In an effort to keep CWD prevalence rate as low as possible, I would encourage the CDAC to continue with the 4 antlerless tags per license. If the CDAC is ever given the authority to manage buck harvest, I would recommend the re-implementation of the "Bonus Buck" system. NOT "Earn a Buck". The "Bonus Buck" was an effective management practice to increase doe harvest. Thanks for your consideration.

I am an out of state resident that owns land and hunts that land in this unit. Discounted tags for out of state land owners, and additionally discounted tags allowing the landowner to distribute for the property, would allow myself and additional family & friends more opportunity to hunt and harvest deer. I believe this approach would encourage more hunting and encourage more doe to be harvested.

I support NO CHANGES to the current 9 day gun, archery, crossbow, or muzzle loader seasons. Keep all dates the same as they have been. It is tradition for Thanksgiving to always be during gun season. Bow/crossbow hunters and harvests do not affect gun season. 2019 gun season had low kill numbers. 2020 will be high. It's happened before like it always does with a late gun season. Thank you.

I think earn a buck was the best program for increasing the amount of does being shot. With online registration we don't have that opportunity as readily available but we do have CWD monitoring stations. This would allow for the re starting an earn a buck program while increasing the amount of does being tested. It would also increase business to businesses that have CWD testing sites.

I feel if you can harvest 2 doe by any means then you get an extra buck bow tag. I hunt primarily bow and I harvest does with gun and bow for balance, but I lease my land and drive 3 hours. If I shoot a big buck early it takes away the excitement to get back out in woods and see an even bigger buck. Reward the hunter who takes Does (2-3) and give him the extra buck Bow tag. Thanks

I continue to have my deer test positive for CWD and it is getting costly to process a couple of deer and then find out I can’t eat it. I have even tried to shoot smaller/younger deer in hopes they would be negative. A longer season with more free tags would allow those of us that can only take a day or two during the season to hunt a chance to get out more and help reduce numbers.

If the deer season goes to antlerless framework none of the 4 non-resident hunters in our group will come and only one or two out of 8 in-state hunters will come. The only reason we shoot does is to reduce our deer population and for meat. We are very strict with what we shoot. If you shoot a buck you have to shoot a doe. Plain and simple, we sit in stands to see horns!

I'm a land owner, legacy hunter now living out of state. I have seen opinions to raise out of state license fees for fishing and hunting to raise revenues. This is in my opinion a very bad idea. I can say with some certainty that coupled with the lack of state action concerning CWD raising fees would all but end my deer hunting on my family's farm. David Duren

We see as many bucks as does on the east side of RC. We have taken our does over the years and the population is close to a 2:1 ratio. It makes for an exciting hunt with good competition and an abundance of Rut sign. I think antlerless only would be detrimental to the herd in our location. When hunters were more concentrated with fewer seasons we saw more deer.

I think they should do a doe only hunt or at least do where you have to shoot 2 does before you get a buck tag. We have a over population of deer. And mostly for. We count at least 30 deer in out hay field on a nightly basis. And we shot 5 does last deer season. You can go for a drive for a mile or two and count almost a hundred deer. Something has to be done.

I use a crossbow and if the restrictions are for them to be only used in October I personally will not purchase a bow license this year and every year it is enforced. I know many other crossbow users who are in agreement of not purchasing a license if these rules are finalized. I would agree to a Holiday hunt if bucks were allowed to be harvested as well.
Many years ago the northern WI. counties like Florence had an abundant deer population. Rules were changed to basically kill as many deer as you wanted...doe only, extended seasons etc. Now hunters in that area are lucky to see one deer in a season or more likely none at all. Just don't want to see that happen in Richland County or surrounding areas...

I think deer licenses for out of state should be lowered in price. It’s a pretty exorbitant fee and you are limiting the amount of people that can join their families and friends in the yearly hunt. Please consider at least lowering it for those that hunt private land only. A tiered system of cost would be better with private land being the cheapest.

We try to kill as many deer as possible during the gun seasons, but many times just run out of time/opportunities. A longer gun season might help. Our efforts don't seem to limit deer numbers and CWD keeps increasing. It is very, very disappointing to kill and process an apparently healthy deer only to find out that it is positive for CWD.

We need to bring back earn a buck, our doe population is way to high. Most of the hunters don't use their antler less tags due to the warm weather during the early season and by the time the weather cools we are concentrating on harvesting are bucks, and put the doe harvest on hold as not to interfere with are buck hunting.

We need to bring back Earn‐A‐Buck. The legislature needs to authorize the DNR to use this management tool in areas where the herd needs to be decreased. Simply having an antlerless only year will just reduce the number of hunters. Also I would like to see a return of the holiday hunt be either sex as it was originally.

We have a mountain lion cave on neighbors property and there have been pictures taken with trail cameras of one male one female and two cubs last fall and I do feel I have seen a lot fewer deer because of this reason and it is hard for me to let the bucks become big and manage my herd with the lions doing it for me.

Deer distribution is not equal throughout the county. Decisions regards management are being driven by people who believe they can control CWD. I am not of the belief that killing all the deer will save the deer. Carrying capacity does not seem to be much of a factor in the choices this CDAC has been making.

I think the management unit should be working much more aggressively than proposed to reduce the deer population by any means necessary. The CWD problem won’t be addressed if we can't manage deer density and frankly there are too many deer as is, which is detrimental to other land uses like growing trees.

I don’t expect to get a chance at a deer every year. That would make for boring non sporting hunting. But over the last years I have noticed a severe decline in the amount of deer in the area. I experienced my first year ever not even seeing a deer anywhere at all and I put in much more time this year.

The biggest concern is people are more interested in the big bucks than just the venison, I will shoot a buck or doe because you can’t eat the horns. I don’t see many deer during the hunt and see most of them when hunting season is over. I have been lucky enough to get a deer almost every year.

My sons and I have hunted our woods for 5 Years. North East Richland County. 2018 the 3 of us on 70 acres saw a total of 7 deer during the gun season. 2019 We saw 4 Deer Hunting almost every day 75 % of every day. In discussions with our neighbors very similar results. Extreme disappointment.

It is totally wrong to issue so many antlerless /crop damage tags to the point that neighbors can shoot down an entire herd on opening morning. I also disagree on the same being able to hunt all seasons with bows/crossbows and the assistance of a drone! We need more restrictions on most of this!

I really think when you got rid of back tags and went to calling in harvest, you lost accurate numbers. I strongly feel 20-30% of deer harvested are not called in and registered. Plus, hurt local businesses by lack of registering at bars, gas stations.... poor change in my opinion.

Before times 26 deer would go by in an hour now maybe see 10 in 2 days total maybe never see a deer opening day maybe get a shot on sunday. Not a lot of shooting in area anymore like in past years, don't see as many hunters in area anymore, not sure because of registration change.
I would support an earn a buck approach to shoot a second buck after the harvest of the first buck. This could apply to archery or gun. I feel this is the only way to increase the doe harvest. Where I hunt very few does are shot as most hunters are trophy buck hunters.

You people in the DNR just don't get it if you want to lower the antlerless deer in this unit, you need make every Hunter that wants to shoot a buck shoot at least two antlerless deer, that's the only incentive that will work, look back at your past history of kill!

The archery season should stay the same and crossbow hunting should be allowed during the archery season. The gun hunt should not be extended. The doe only hunts should be taken out completely. The muzzleloader season should be pushed back another week or two.

Regulations should go back to the way they were pre CWD. Also add an option to be able to purchase an additional buck tag for residents of the state. Raise non resident hunting fees. Possibly go back to earn a buck if you have a way to regulate it good.

If you want more doe shot in Richland County make all the out of state folks and people that lease hunting land shoot a doe before they can shoot a buck. The nonresidents should have been banned owning land in Wisconsin then we would have never had this problem.

The deer season in Wisconsin is steeped in tradition and brings an enormous amount of revenue into the state with very little overhead. Stop treating the whitetail as a pest and realize what a gift it is to the citizens of Wisconsin.

I operate a slaughter plant that process deer. If deer seasonIs extended beyond the typical Thanksgiving week I have to quit processing deer. Keep the 9 day season only. Make everyone hunt that week to move deer in the woods.

I would like to re-enact onsite registration and bring back the use of backtags as a form of hunter identification...no holiday hunt anywhere within the unit, a nine (9) day gun season for rifle, shotgun, pistol, or muzzleloader.

One observation I would note is we have found the mortality rate this winter was much higher in years past. We do 100 percent testing and have found that CWD has spread through all age classes of deer not only bucks but also does.

Do not shorten or eliminate the crossbow season keep it the same with traditional archery. Bring back the Back Tags. Mandatory registration stations no more online registration for whitetail. Reopen a season on Wolves.

We took 3 bucks and 5 does off our land this year. With a total of 8 hunters. I have found 2 carcasses so far this spring. Which seems more than normal. Sometimes I see none. We also have a bobcat living on our land now.

I know I'm in the minority but I do feel if you want to lower the population I would put back the earn a buck. Also give hunters more opportunities to donate deer to food pantries. If by going doe only I would not hunt.

We had a lone grey wolf observed on our land in Henrietta township Sunday morning of opening gun season. When we told our neighbors they mentioned they lost a calf to a kill in the spring. We don’t want wolves on our land.

In a seven mile drive I have counted over 300 deer and that is just what I could see from the road. It is nothing to see 50+ in a single field at any given time. This is being reported from north of Richland center.

Most landowners will set there own quota for the number of deer killed on there land. On my 350 acres with 5 hunters all bow hunt and gun hunt so we could kill 40 does and 10 bucks. I would allow each hunter 3 deer.

Too much crop damage because trophy hunters want large numbers of does on their small private acres while the farmer owned land winds up feeding them. I believe in bonus buck tags if antlerless is harvested first.
Although I am not opposed to selling or supplying extra or doe bonus tags I think that issuing four per license in the Richland area was excessive. Maybe a maximum of two per license would be better.

I heard rumors of shortening the crossbow season. I hope that is just a rumor as crossbow hunting is getting more popular it could help hunters/dnr to reach the desired deer harvest quotas. Thank you

I think Earn A Buck (with verification) would be great for 2021- would ensure a whole lot more antlerless deer are shot in this unit to help address the growing deer population and CWD transmission

It seemed to be less deer 2019 rifle hunt than in the past. I feel that the nine day season being a week later then it was in 2018 had a big effect on seeing deer as it was better in years past.

We farm in Richland County Buena Vista township. We have found seven dead deer on our farm land since January 1st. This doesn't include woodland. I believe cwd is. Taking its toll. Thank you

We need to eliminate CWD, For the future of hunting! We don't need large predators like the wolf back! This will open up a hold can of worms that we don't need! Please stop spread of the WOLF!

We keep trying to shoot all the deer off. I have a grape vineyard that gets ag tags every year and dear hunts. I see fewer dear every year. So why would I want to shoot more. I don't see more.

Over recent years- the area where my family farm is located in eastern Richland County and western Sauk County (Willow township) We have seen a lot more poaching. Any statistics about this

I feel we should extend seasons. Either on the back end, or earlier start. Once gun season happens, most deer go nocturnal, in my area. That makes any hunting after much more difficult.

I would prefer the crossbow and bow seasons remain open from September to closing in January. Limiting crossbows in November I heard as a proposal I am completely against.

I would like to see more on the effects of CWD on deer. I would like to hear more information if you eat a positive dear do they have any concerns of human consumption?

Please keep pushing for a change in the law to bring back earn-a-buck. It was the most effective management tool we had and the hunting was still very enjoyable.

I am completely against any lengthening of gun deer season at all no matter when in the hunting season! Deer population has plummeted in this area over past year,

I appreciate the biologist taking the time to make the video. I have a better understanding of the deer management taking place in Richland County. Thank you!!

1984 Richland county...Avg deer herd 200+ animals 2020 Richland county.... Avg deer herd... 2 or more animals. When did Conservation, turn into annihilation?

Make the gun deer season mirror the Michigan season. Start November 15 and run until the end of the month. You would consistently reach the harvest quotas.

Lower out of state non resident license price to attract new hunters into the area along with Increase revenue they would bring in to local businesses.

We need to harvest more antlerless deer if we want to control the population. We should use science and not politics as our guide

recommendations for the entire unit do not take into account differing herd population densities in different areas of the unit.

Why can't we bring back Buck/Doe Holiday hunt? The kids loved hunting during Christmas break to get a chance to shoot a buck.
7871 I would like to see holiday hunt include using your buck tag some people don’t get the chance to go out for the nine day hunt

7872 I think the CDAC should consider going back to a straight 9 day gun hunt and get more hunters in the woods at the same time.

7873 I would like to get the muzzleloader season moved ahead of the 9 day season to encourage more people to use muzzleloaders.

7874 You could give out all the free antler less tags you want, but until you use earn a buck nothing will change.

7875 I would like to see bow and cross bow season start earlier. Give the kids in schools an opportunity to hunt.

7876 I don’t want a separate season for bow and crossbow. Keep them the same. Please and Thank you !!!

7877 Allow harvest of antlered deer during the holiday hunt. That will increase hunter participation.

7878 We have a number of cod deer taken the last several years. Need to get a handle on that problem

7879 Crossbow should only be for people with disabilities or of a older hunter (60+ years of age).

7880 Please dont change any seasons. The lengths of seasons and time is tradition and works fine.

7881 Most does I observed had 1 or less fawns, very rarely 2. I think coyotes get way too many.

7883 Keep the crossbow hunting season the same as the regular bow hunting season.

7882 We have a lot of deer in our area. Numbers more than ever nw Richland county

7884 Leave the bow season and crossbow seasons alone! It’s working just fine!

7885 9 day hunt only for firearms Bow season ends first Sunday in January

7886 Leave all the seasons in Richland County alone! Everything is fine!

7887 I would like deer season to have the same framework as last year.

7888 I would like to see a buck harvest included in the holiday hunt.

7889 if we could bait a little, we would probably shoot more deer

7890 Reconsider the public vs private tag system. Too confusing.

7891 the land I lease is getting ate up from deer theres to many

7892 Shoot buck during holiday hunt, go back to earn a buck

7893 Licenses should be for both private and public land.

7894 Do not close the crossbow hunting season early.

7895 The overall hunting season should be extended.

7896 I would like to see earn a buck for holiday hunt

7897 Thanks for helping with our deer management

7898 Keep CWD testing sites available.

7899 Bring back unlimited EAB

7900 Deer population is high

7901 bring back earn a buck

7902 Decrease Antlerless
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

249 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 193
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 29
   - I hunt in this unit: 220
   - General interest in this unit: 44

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 206
   - Bow: 135
   - Crossbow: 87
   - Muzzleloader: 71

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 20.32
   - Maximum: 62

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 119
   - Mostly Private Land: 45
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 26
   - Mostly Public Land: 12
   - Exclusively Public Land: 18
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 19
   - Not too crowded: 36
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 18
   - Somewhat crowded: 15
   - Very crowded: 9
   - Not applicable: 4

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 39
   - Fewer: 77
   - Same: 88
   - More: 26
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 7

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>35</td>
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Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<td>111</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
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<tr>
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<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 96 Support, 131 Oppose, 22 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 150 Support, 84 Oppose, 15 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 33 Support, 196 Oppose, 20 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID, NOT VALID, Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  
Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
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<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.46</td>
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<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
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<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
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<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
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<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
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<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.42</td>
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</table>
I being a avid bow and gun hunter and completely dissatisfied with this county’s deer numbers and seasons. Running trail cameras on 5 different properties in different areas of the county I can tell you deer numbers are down. The farce put on that this counties deer need multiple doe hunts and extended opportunities is laughable. I am on vacation last week of October and all of November. I did not draw an Iowa tag, and didn’t hunt Illinois 2019 season. In 2016 I also hunted exclusively in Rock county. Numbers are down by 1/3 from 16 referencing my trail cam pics and numbers seen on stand. 2017 and 2018 I hunted Iowa and Illinois so didn’t have 5 weeks of hunting in Rock county. My numbers seen in stand, trail cam pics, and communication with avid hunters such as myself don’t lie. The format you gather deer densities is flawed quite obviously. Perhaps listening to the majority of people whom buy licenses and spend countless hours in stand is needed. Good god several parties whom hunt public only never saw a deer or didn’t harvest anything. If the DNR is really concerned with recruiting youth into the sport look here. I can tell you of numerous parents whom took youth out the last few seasons. Most never saw a deer and few harvested. Quite simply increasing deer numbers is the only way youth recruitment changes. I call for 1 buck 1 antlerless deer per person. Regardless the weapons used that’s it. 1 buck 1 antlerless and you hang it up for the year. Low numbers of deer equal low hunter satisfaction. That means youth lose interest fast. With the amount of things for them to do in today’s times that’s where we need to start.

The deer population is down in my area. Has been for a while. I hunt every day of the gun season. In my stand until 11am. Back in by 1:30. Two years ago I saw 5 deer the entire season. This year (2019) I saw one deer all season. A small fork horn. I let him walk. It’s been 10 years since I have shot a deer. My wife hasn’t got one in 15 years. She is thinking about not going hunting this year. Like she said She can sit in a warm house because she isn’t going to see anything. My opinion is that way to many doe permits are handed out. Both bow and gun seasons. Hunters are shooting fawns because they are lucky to see a deer. I have seen the bad and the good deer hunts over the years. If you don’t get the deer population back up where you are seeing deer more people my age are going to stop going. The DNR is so worried about getting the youth out deer hunting but are forgetting about the middle age and older hunters. I am not saying I need to harvest a deer but it sure would be nice to see some. Sitting in my deer stand for 70 hours and only seeing one deer is not going to keep me buying a license to much longer. We don’t need longer seasons, or more doe hunts. I brought and live on my property since 1993. Didn’t see a lot of deer at 1st then you started seeing more. Now during the year you don’t see many. I watch all the time. Would love to start seeing deer run on my property. Stop with all the doe hunts and get back to the way it use to be otherwise you are going to lose your older hunters. Thanks for your time.
I will say that the last few years it seems that I've seen fewer and fewer deer in Rock County. I have three property's that I hunt that are private property's totaling 178 acres that I generally see decent deer movement, however the 2019 season I seemed to struggle to see a deer. From November 4th through the muzzleloader season I seen 5 deer. 1 buck by himself 1 doe by herself the other 3 were a doe and her fawns. And that was on private land. Seen zero deer on public land after October 30th. I understand that there are some people that probably see an abundance of deer where they hunt but I can't say the same. I think canceling the holiday hunt and maybe moving the muzzleloader season to the last 10 days of the season could be something worth looking into. It's not easy to fill a tag with a muzzleloader when it immediately follows rifle season. Deer are pretty much nocturnal for a while and by the time they start moving in daylight muzzleloader is pretty much over. I think that by moving it to where the normal holiday hunt would be the deer are mostly back to their normal late season feeding patterns, increasing your odds. I also think giving hunters a 25 day (roughly) break from hunting gives them time to rest up and get excited again knowing they could have one last chance to fill that tag, buck or doe with a muzzleloader. Thank you.

Positive feedback. I've hunted here a long time. At one time, I can remember a deer sighting was a rarity, and it was ideal to head "north" to hunt or have a chance at killing a deer. CWD, and the hysteria to harvest and kill all the deer was horrible. When private land owners realized that idea was not an agreeable idea in terms of being able to hunt deer, or see deer, they took matters into their own hands, and decided to heck with that! Since the majority of hunters in Rock County decided they were not going to play into the hysteria, the deer population has bounced back, and honestly, (here's the positive feedback), Rock County, and most of Southern Wisconsin for that matter, is the place to be. I will never have a deer tested, and I harvest 2 to 3 every year. I hunt private land, and that is the equation that makes this county a success. We have learned to manage the herd the way we see fit, because we realize that hunters are the true difference between a quality herd versus one failing. The north is failing, because of over harvest from man, predators, and severe winters. The south is the new North!

Bottom line for me having 72 acres of wooded property with exclusive permission to hunt I can say. There are drastically fewer deer in Rock County than DNR number or tags allocated shows. I am getting tired of the constant doe only seasons. The deer patterns are so drastically changed and turned nocturnal. After gun season we have hade up to 4 different guns seasons. Ruining the quality of the late archery season. The deer left which is few are not moving during a day pattern anymore. It's pretty sad the way deer traditions have been destroyed. No wonder youth are not interested like I was as a child. With the lack of deer these years of unlimited antlerless tags caused. Kids don't want to sit all season and see no deer. Sad to say we have no control over any of it. DNR manages as they see fit regardless the license holders thoughts. No other service provider dictates how the customer experience is like the DNR of Wisconsin does.

To Whom it may concern, The only reason I entered choices on this survey was to get a chance to tell you how much damage the massive amount of deer cause to our farm in Rock Twshp of Rock County. EVERY SINGLE DAY we must check the fence holding in my brothers' cattle because Deer run through it every night and sometimes during the day. I have constructed a fence 40' infield of the actual border fence in order to drive to check it daily. This compacts the soil limiting plant growth of corn & soybeans, not to mention the loss damage to fencing materials & time involved. The biggest problem is that Deer stay in Woods bordering 3 sides of our farm which are in the City Limits. During Deer Season they do NOT come onto our land until after hunting hours. Over the years I have gotten to HATE Deer!
I've hunted this unit for 14+ years and truly believe there should be a year with fewer tags given out to help boost the population. There should NOT be a doe only gun hunt as that is just messing up the deer and making them move more at night instead of during shooting time. Give the deer population (does) a year off and for the next few years we will have more. We went from earn a buck, to getting 4 free tags per day with earn a buck, then earn a buck, then selecting what county and public and private land. To be honest it totally feels like the WI DNR just wants to make money. I’d prefer a system like IL where you can shoot 2 deer (either a buck and a doe/ 2 does/ or 2 bucks). That is a system I could support. Every hunter gets 2 tags a year with no bonus tags. You can shoot what you’d like but after you get 2 deer you’re done. Several people I know would prefer that as well.

Be careful while trying to balance the numbers in your reports cause how factual are they I have heard lots of hunters say for example hey did you register that deer ya I will get to it later season ends hey did you ever get that deer registered? no no big deal wonder how many deer never got registered / not just deer all required game I am sure you are aware. garbage in garbage out. Like I have said I have people making reports I have people reading reports But I truly need someone to implement the reports also when taking deer in for processing no one ever asked me for my lic no info taken just phone # should there be a least a tag/reg/ conf # given to the processor? keeping everyone honest or at least help your reports

Hunters kill deer, and we are very efficient at it. We can kill the necessary deer by giving us more authorizations when necessary to maintain healthy populations and healthy wildlife areas in the shorter more structured hunting seasons of the past. Longer seasons, additional hunts, and added tools for those who don't medically need them is simply allowing us to smother the resources we love to death. Yes from what I have seen in recent years we have more deer, are they back to pre-CWD numbers from what I see, no. Are going back to those number healthy, maybe not but things were working just fine then. Antlerless authorizations and earn-a-buck when NECESSARY are much better tools for controlling populations than extended seasons.

Get rid of all the extra youth and holiday hunts. All good hunters watch the deer go nocturnal and it ruins the regular season hunts. Each county should be managing the hunts as far as baiting, how many deer and what deer can be shot. The zones are too large of areas. Give one anerless and one buck tag that’s it. do not punish the bow hunters whom spend way more time and money on hunting just to satisfy the gun hunters whom don't take hunting nearly as seriously. Bow hunters on average are more educated and dedicated to the sport. Just because gun hunters go put a stand up the day before and spook all the deer out, come in their stand loud, late and hungover, they think it’s the bow hunters fault they don’t see deer!!

Hello, I own private property in Rock county. The issue I see is when issuing doe tags to private land people who own less than 5 acres can shoot as many deer as long as they buy tags. I think if we make minimum for acrage and only allow landowners of that property to buy tags. If you have a trouble maker neighbor he can shoot anything and everything. People in southern Wisconsin pay higher taxes and also have higher populations of people having longer seasons can also be dangerous with rifles. People who have smaller properties cant practice safe hunting if they are always shooting towards roads or other landowners property lines. My opinion on what I’ve seen with my neighbors on smaller pieces. Thanks for your time.

Quit making all these extra seasons! Hunters will shoot more deer if they only have a certain time frame to do so. So , if have a more seasons after the nine day gun season to shoot a doe most will wait or not even hunt as hard if there are extra seasons. Then antlerless season come around and you don’t have time or the weather isn’t great and you just don’t go. There is finally enough deer around so you can take your kids out and see some! If you guys do antlerless only hunt one year, I will quit hunting in Wisconsin forever. You thought the DNR wasn’t liked by landowners like myself now after that CWD slaughter that happened, try a antlerless only hunt. Man oh Man outdoorsman will hate you!
Rock County is over populated with deer! Estimated population is 8900 animals. This equates to more than 56 deer per square mile of habitat. That is 3-4 times more than a healthy habitat can support. Rock County's habitat is not healthy. Try to find a oak seedling anywhere. I have had numerous conversations from property owners, Janesville area, about deer eating their ornamentals. I recommend harvests authorizations should be increased, there should be a Holiday and extended archery season. Metro tags should be doubled and at least one bonus authorization included with a license. City and County governments also need to get there acts together to at least try to address this issue.

Recommend stopping all types of feeding and baiting of deer. If people have bird feeders and deer come to them, they need to change the way they feed deer to stop deer coming. Need to stop all mineral and salt blocks. Stop the sales of all deer feed, salt blocks, etc. Realize this will take education and many will not like. Need to educate land owners that do not let people hunt as see 25+ deer in small areas at multiple locations. I spend much time afield and in woods hunting birds and see many deer. Hunting is called hunting because it should be some work, people like the easy button, it really should not be a person riding 4 wheeler out, sit in a stand 30m and shoot a deer.

I should not have to decide between private and public land when buying my tags. This is one of the dumbest ideas I have ever seen. We should be limited to one buck OR one doe only. Regardless if it's on private or public. When a hunter buys a licence and gets three tags with the option to buy more, that will need to a few hardcore hunters killing 3+ deer a year with most being doe. That doesn't help the population for the rest of us. Next, please end the holiday hunt. There is no need for it. How can you say that you want to increase the success rate for gun deer season and then have a doe only holiday hunt that hurts the population for years to come?

I believe the current tag structure is okay, however, do support dropping the metro harvest authorization so only 2 (or even 1 for that matter) antler-less tags and no extra metro tag. Deer have become noticeably clustered throughout the county (I've seen many herds of 50 or more deer that originated form a single woodline) browsing fields. And it seems every year more fence-rows are being removed or wooded plots developed. An addition of habitat through an increase in state purchase of habitat areas to be managed and cultivated for favorable deer habitat would be something I would support (and probably volunteer for).

I think an extended gun season is a horrible idea, archery season where you can wear camouflage and and harvest a buck are already way to short. I would like to get rid of the holiday hunt as well. Also extending the archery season even longer sounds like a waste of time as well. Due to the short days and often frigid temps it can already be challenging to draw your bow safely and effectively. It seemed like the bubble responses weren't registering so, I oppose the holiday hunt, oppose extending the archery season, oppose extending the regular traditional gun season and oppose a antlerless only season framework.

I have four children, two have been hunting with me and the two youngest will begin hunting deer this year. I would like them to be able to hunt and get a shot at a deer. That is my main goal, more opportunities for them to be able to hunt and take a nice deer. Don’t change the youth hunt and tags. It’s so nice taking my kids hunting on a weekend when it’s only kids hunting deer. Also the statewide either or tag is perfect for kids. I started hunting in the days of "earn a buck." I have probably never seen as many bucks as I did when I could not take a shot. I love that my kids will never have that problem.

The largest issue we have ever had regarding the deer herd in Rock County and the State is CWD and we continue to have a poor, disjointed response that seems to be based more on politics and self serving public opinion (most people like to see a lot of deer). Having a high deer population may appeal to some hunters, but it is not in the best interest of the deer herd today and longer term. We need to do more do address CWD and the least we can do is harvest more deer and reduce the population. Earn a buck was unpopular, but frankly that is the best tool we have ever had and it should be reinstated.
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I have always enjoyed deer hunting in Rock County. It has been tougher harvesting deer on public land. In the past when Rock County was part of the 76a management unit your deer tag was good for private or public. Most of the hunting I do is on public but occasionally get the opportunity to hunt private but I don’t always know that ahead of time. If I get that opportunity during the gun season my harvest tag is not good for private and I have to decline. Has anyone else expressed this? Could we go back to a tag that is good for both? Just something I wanted to put out there. Thank you.

My feeling is that bow hunters put in time all year round to track deer movements to know where to set up a spot. And now gun hunters want more time to hunt. It blows my mind that its considered. After opening weekend must gun hunters done. And after the 9 day hunt go get a muskelaoder to extend your hunt I did. Don't need to extend archery season after the new year. Where are all these deer numbers coming from. More wardens pre county. I would pay more for license if that happens.

I have hunted deer on the same 200 acre farm between Janesville and Evansville for 20 plus years. The number of deer harvested from this farm is increasing each year. Yet The deer population continues to grow, through my observations. The buck to doe ratio is way off from where it was only 10 years ago. Way too many antlerless deer, compared to bucks. And the quality of the existing bucks is way, way down. In my opinion, this unit needs to revisit the earn a buck program.

I am appalled at the fact I have a better chance at winning the lottery than I do at having a chance at harvesting a deer to help my family on public land. If your not a land owner or related your SOL. Harvesting deer in our area has to be tied to farmland access and be done in a positive way for all. Maybe use a lottery system for that? If I don't see some movement in this direction I'll stop hunting. What's the point? I might as well play the lotto. Thanks for listening.

Hello......i would very much like to see the Archery/Crossbow Regulations stay the same. Wisconsin is becoming a dominantly more Archery/crossbow hunting population that i like......i would very much like to see the current Regulations stay the same. If the deer harvests are lower than last years its because hunters are being more choosy on the game they harvest and private land owners have purchased land and dont allow as many hunters as they were in years past.

someone needs to address the deer population on n rock river rd and edgewood shores rd and dalby rds we rent 54 acres of farm land on those rds and in 2019 we had a 30 bu reduction in our bean yields compared to our other bean fields u can go to those fields just before dark and count 50 deer in those fields of that 54 acres there was only about 45 acres with anything left to harvest something needs to be done to lower that population in that area dramatically.
Private lands leased for public needs to be looked at in a way that has more habitat majority of the leased for public are wide open fields with no real hunting experiences. those lands that have no habitat shouldn't be leased and use the money to better the habitat on existing public lands. also farmers that are eliminating tree lines and fence rows should have to pay a fee for the removal of habitat or grow habitat in a different location.

1 buck per hunter per year regardless of weapon choice to help bucks achieve max antler potential. Control population and management goals strictly through doe and fawn harvest creating a state that people want to hunt for "trophy" deer. Enough with killing every 1.5 year old buck every season. Reputation and revenue would skyrocket allowing managers to create and keep season framework beneficial for hunters and healthy herd. Thank you

My personal observations have shown me that the large herds are on private property and that this never use to be the norm in rock county. We have large tracks of public that should hold deer but don’t anymore. The only obvious reasons one can come up with is either baiting or fool plots are holding them there. There should be investigations preformed on these property's that hold large numbers of deer.

If we are truly looking to manage deer why not run the firearms season for three weekends four days each Thursday through Sunday starting the third week in November and then close it completely after this? This would enable more hunters to be in the field for more hours due to having days off work On weekends and the deer would be less pressured and therefore easier to hunt.

Don’t change anything bow,crossbow,gun,seasons,quotas,tagging,etc everything is working fine---issue a car kill tag or tags that can be called in from home for those that do not have a cell phone or can’t get cell service where kill location is, within the same cwd transportation restriction guidelines this has happened many many time to me and you just have to leave them

I was hoping that bow and crossbow hunts could be hunted together because I would like to change back and forth with each weapon every once in a while. If you sell them separately but are able to hunt together you will sell alot of tags. Also, it gives me a chance to hunt with my young nephews who don’t have the ability to pull back a compound bow yet.

I hunt on public land and private land in Rock, Dane, Green, and Jefferson county’s. Having to buy different doe tags for each county and public or private is absolutely ridiculous. All it is, is a money grab by the DNR. You need to at least give hunters 1 or 2 tags that are open to a bigger area than just 1 county public or private.

You are destroying deer hunting culture and allowing way to many antlerless and antlered deer to be killed. Why can’t hunter satisfaction matter the dnr. We lay your wages with license fees. Yet you ignore us and still issue way way to many tags. I’m half tempted to quit hunting all together.

Leave the crossbow season alone! Archery seasons should not favor longbow and compound bows over crossbows. Hunters have invested a lot of money in Crossbows and equipment to have part of the season taken away. The best part of the RUT is not just for longbow and compound bow hunters.

Way to many seasons,and to many does being killed, deer population way to low,can’t give a deer license away,people don’t want to come here and hunt from other states do to over hunting and low deer numbers.face it people do not want to hunt,after hunting and not seeing deer.

I believe the 9 day traditional season is just that..Tradition!! Leave it alone!! If there is to be a holiday hunt make it either sex to entice more hunters. Crossbows have helped with deer harvest and recoveries..keep them an option. Do not try and reinvent the wheel!!

I hunt in rock county see less and less deer every year. Seems like the heard is trying to be wiped out. I would suggest getting rid of doe only and holiday hunts and just have buck and doe tag or archery and gun seasons. No extra tags or seasons
The antlerless seasons are a waste I bet I haven't seen 3 hunters in all the years the DNR has had them. I do love the late season bowhunting. Some of the best hunting of the season if you can stand the cold. No holiday and no doe only seasons.

The holiday Hunt is confusing and if we only harvest a few deer I would not recommend it. Why? Well I don’t bow hunt at that time cause I can’t shoot a buck. I regularly hunt late season and that’s a time lots of people are off of work.

I'd absolutely love to see the regulations go back to how it was 20 years ago. No antlerless only seasons, one bonus tag per weapon statewide, 9 day gun season followed by a week of muzzleloader. Then go back to late season archery.

I have seen less deer in the past two years, than I have in the 28 years I have been hunting. I have not seen a deer to harvest with rifle in the past two gun seasons. I have been very disappointed in the population numbers.

I have seen a significant decrease in the amount of bucks in the last 6 years. Not only in person sightings for me are down. Also less bucks being caught on trail camera. This is a concern to me.

Having an earlier season. No deer moving in 2019 season. Rifle season started too late, well past the rut. I know there was still a lot of fields unharvested which kept the deer out of the woods.

The deer population is obviously higher in my area as compared to recent years. I would prefer an October gun hunt rather than the holiday hunt or the late season archery/xbow extension.

I knock it off with the doe only extra hunts. Limit crossbow season since they are the ones killing all the deer and not gun hunting anymore. Crossbows is not archery and is cheating!

Don’t Know how I keep seeing less and less deer every year but the biologist say more deer need to be harvested and season needs to be longer ...shut the season down early December.

I have noticed more deer along creeks and rivers in metro areas. Specifically in Beloit. What if there was metro sub units for these areas with archery and crossbow only.

Would like to be able to harvest more antlered deer. I.e* normal 1-buck/1-doe permit per each license purchased & then earn a buck tag after each doe harvested.

People 65 and older should be able to use there crossbow to fill there gun buck tag. It is legal now to fill your antlerless gun tags with a bow or crossbow.

I do not like the holiday hunt. I believe the season framework without the dreaded holiday hunt is much better. Like earn a buck this should be scrapped.

Less deer then the last 25 years. You are ruining hunting with these doe hunts. STOP ALL THE DIE HUNTS. Quit ruining deer hunting we are sick of it.

I’m in favor of one buck and one antlerless tag for both archery and firearm. Also to only have the regular nine day gun hunt and no more than that.

1- no holiday hunt 2- early youth season before bow opener 3- muzzleloader season for 2 weeks at the end of December with no other weapons.

I am in support of mass eradication to make sure CWD is controlled. If we don’t take action I fear the future of the animal.

Crossbows need a season similar to muzzleloaders. No extended archery season. The holiday hunt HAS to be eliminated!
Extend the gun hunt by one week, opening the season one week sooner, with same number of authorization.

Please do away with the separate tags for public and private. Gather that info at time of registration.

Urban deer management needs a comprehensive, thorough evaluation for the WI Deer population health.

I’d like to see farmers get kill tags that they Can either use or choose who gets to use them.

The 9 day gun season was traditional..people now are losing interest with seasons for 2 months.

No reason private land owners should not be able to put out reasonable amount of bait.

Close all deer Hunting December 15th. We don't need 4.5 month of deer gHunting.

I believe there should be more bonus tags available for private land.

Rock County metro unit does not include enough Public Access land.

Dont extend the gun hunt and get rid of all of the doe only hunts.

Shorten the season to the original 9day hunt and nothing else.

You should issue refunds to all conservation patrons.

extend gun season 1 week and open 1 week earlier.

Strongly against extending the gun deer season.

don't change crossbow hunting.

Gun season is long enough.

Shorten deer Seasons

Saw no deer
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 120
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 157
   - I hunt in this unit: 469
   - General interest in this unit: 87

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 451
   - Bow: 236
   - Crossbow: 192
   - Muzzleloader: 141

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 23.65
   - Maximum: 72

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 230
   - Mostly Private Land: 88
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 67
   - Mostly Public Land: 38
   - Exclusively Public Land: 42
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 11
   - Not too crowded: 48
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 52
   - Somewhat crowded: 67
   - Very crowded: 47
   - Not applicable: 10

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 109
   - Fewer: 148
   - Same: 159
   - More: 55
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

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Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

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<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
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10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...  Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU
If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU
If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>18</td>
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If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?

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<td></td>
<td>265</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>57</td>
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11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
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</table>
After listening to the CDAC call it is very apparent that none of the members hunt in the Blue Hills. The comments about abundant deer sightings when driving around in the early spring before deer have spread out is a poor way to interpret the deer population. Drive Meadow Dam road, Deer Lake Road, Fire Lane Road and Dejung Road after a snowfall in the fall and count the tracks you see. 2019 was the first year in quite a few years with an acorn crop of any significance. 2019 was also the year of the coyote and wolf. I saw more coyotes in to woods in 2019 than in all my previous years combined. I also saw more wolf tracks than in any years past. Talking to other groups gun season and all they talked about were the # of coyotes or wolves seen and the lack of deer. The comments from the CDAC members about we can't make private land owners shoot does, but dont decrease the private land success rate is contradictory. They do shoot does they just do it on public land where there are fewer deer. When the group's making drives can't move deer on public land that has very little to do with a late season or snow storms. When there is snow on the ground most of the season and you cant find deer that is a pretty good indicator they are not there. The deer camps have all but moved off the public land. The campgrounds at Audie and Perch Lake campgrounds that used to be packed now sit half full at best on opening weekend. Did the camps leave early this year? Absolutely but they do every year now. They head back home to shoot deer.

Hunting in the Blue Hills has deteriorated to the point that you see very few people that don't own land or cabins in the area. I will say that is a perk of the poor hunting though. We have the woods to ourselves every year after Monday of gun season, even the years without snow storms. We hunted the highly pressured public land of Clark county late season and saw many more deer than in Rusk. Didn't have to work near as hard either. If you would like to continue to lose public land hunters and their associated $s keep increasing the tags and lowering the success rate while maintaining or increasing the private land herd where the deer collisions happen and the crop damage $s get spent, because well private landers wont shoot the does anyway right?? Doesn't sound like common sense to me. I happen to be fortunate enough to own private land and will only shoot does there, I must be the minority. The public land needs all the does it can get. I would guess my words are in vain but I will leave with one last observation/question from a group that spends most of the summer 4 wheeling and most fall weekends hunting. Where are the fawns in the Blue Hills? The does you do see summer and fall were lone. Trail camera pics had very few fawn photos. I am not looking to see 15-20 deer a day like the good ol days but even in the days of all the free or $2 doe tags it was easier to find a deer than now. I think your models are missing something. Maybe it's the ability for fawns to avoid the bear, coyotes and wolves?? Maybe 17 and 18 winters wiped out more deer because of no acorns?? Get out of your Ag land hunting areas and come to the Blue Hills hunting for a fall. See if you would want to go back the next year or leave like the rest. If things don't improve I will be the next to leave and it will be a sad day. I grew up hunting the Hills and have a pile of great memories. Unfortunately the # of people that want to hunt up there with me is dwindling and the good deer memories are in the past.
I am a long time hunter of Rusk County and also am a land specialist Real Estate Agent that walks and sells hundreds of acres all over the county. I have seen collectively 7 deer in the last 3 gun seasons and my daughters no longer hunt because we never see any deer. Please understand it is not our ability to hunt as we plant food plots and hunt mostly on private land. I have harvested multiple mature bucks the last couple of years just not in Rusk County. The deer numbers are low and the predation is high, in 2018 we had 8 does old enough to have fawns on the land we hunt. Of those does only one had fawns going into the month of July. In 2019 we had 3 Does old enough to have fawns and going into July there were 2 fawns. The season of 2019 with 10 trail cameras running we had 2 adult does on with fawns and 3 different 1.5 year old bucks through the gun season. Please keep in mind we have harvested 2 adult does by kids over the last 3 seasons and no deer shot during the archery season. There are not as many deer as one thinks in the county. As stated I walk a ton of ground all over the county and the deer numbers affect more than just the hunting season. The low numbers affect the price per acre that Rusk county land brings on a good market. My company sells land all over Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa and Rusk county out of all the counties in three states we sell brings the lease amount per acre and this is partially due to low deer numbers. If Rusk County had better deer numbers and an older class buck structure, I know for a fact that the land sale price per acre would go up. People are willing to pay more money for land that has good deer numbers. More deer means more hunters and more money and is better for the Rusk County economy. Please consider a zero doe harvest for a year in the county and an increased bear harvest during the fall and spring seasons for a couple of years. If I could ask for the pie in the sky wish for the County I would say no does for the first year and minimal in the second and a 4 point one side antler restriction from here on out on Bucks. It would take three years and the deer numbers would be strong and the buck age class would be where it should and hunters would be happy and more hunters would take to the field once again and the land values in the county would go up substantially thus improving the Rusk County Economy.

The two areas that concern me most about Wisconsin deer hunting are how late in the year rifle season seems to be getting and also the amount of wolves that are invading the northern Wisconsin region and moving south each year. I'm sure it's all a monetary issue for the government, which is why they want to increase the quota. To them if you increase the quota, you increase hunting license sales. Basically, increase the quota of licenses and permits available, increase revenue. I don't feel that increasing the deer harvest quota is addressing the actual problem, the actual problem is that the deer population, at least in the area that I hunt is going down. The past 3 years I've seen more wolves, coyotes and bear than I have deer during rifle season. Maybe open a season on wolves while also increasing the bear kill quota will help bring back the deer population and hunters will come back to the woods to hunt deer. Last season we stopped at the deer hide drop off just down the road from our hunting land on Sunday evening of opening rifle weekend. There wasn't one hide in the drop box on opening weekend. The amount of hides dropped off has decreased substantially over the years. When we talk to all of our neighbors after deer season, none of our neighbors even saw a deer during opening weekend in 2019. Our neighbors across the street didn't even come up for rifle season this year. I also have a friend that deer hunts up in the Winter, WI area. He bow-hunts every day during the last week of October thru the first week of November. 15 years ago there were deer all over the place, now only wolves. How long is the WI DNR going to wait before addressing this issue? My guess is when the deer population is all but deceased and nobody wants to hunt anymore. Either that or when there become enough accidents involving cars and wolves that the insurance carriers start complaining. Please, let's address the real issue, not just cover it up.
At current proposed antler-less quotes is in my opinion reckless. I own land in Southeastern Rusk and the number of fawns we had last year was the lowest I have seen since I purchased my land 15 years ago. Deer sightings last summer and fall were terrible. My kids even expressed their dissatisfaction on the season, not because they did not get a deer, but because they sat all season and saw very few. If this keeps up, there interest in hunting may also go which would break my heart. In fact the only thing they expressed about the season was the number of bears they saw. My cameras are showing the same thing, bears & a lot of them along with a fair number of bobcats & now what appears to be wolves moving in. If you want to open the spicket to kill all these does but I am sitting with 9 points & still did not receive a bear permit. You value obviously the predator population more then the deer. Please stop the insane number of antler-less tags being issued. As well please start controlling the number of tags one person can get. Unfortunately there are alot of slob hunters who only care about killing everything in site. I have one neighbor who is like that & it just ticks me off. His comment, well the DNR would not issue all the tags if there were not alot of deer. So lets let him buy 10 tags & his wife 10 tags & his kids the same. These are the same people that throw illegal amounts of corn down & then shoot everything that comes over them. I hope you see the issue with this. People need to be babysitted. There are alot of them that have no common sense. Please stop this madness. The deer deserve that much.

I hunt in Northern Rusk County. Our camp did see a few deer bowhunting during the rut. That got our optimism up, but once again the 9-day gun season was very tough. I hunted dawn to dusk opening day without leaving my tree stand and never saw a single deer. I also hunted Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (we left camp early due to a snow storm) -- and never saw one deer while hunting in Rusk County. I'd estimate our camp of seven hunters saw about 10 deer during the gun hunt. This continues a trend that goes back more than 10 years. We tried placing game cameras this spring, and through three months (one camera for two months and another camera for one month), we had two deer on camera. I walked a straight line across four 40s and never cut a single deer track last month in snow that was at least a few weeks old. I realize that other portions of the county have plenty of deer, but it would make sense to manage northern portions of the county with Sawyer County, rather than with Rusk County. I live and also hunt in Barron County. The difference is night and day as far as deer population. I don't mind hunting without seeing deer -- I shot plenty of deer in my life. However, I fear for the younger generations of hunters. I'm afraid introducing them to hunting in Northern Rusk County, where seeing 3 deer in a season is a success, will lead to both fewer hunters overall and many fewer hunters in this great part of the state. Thank you for working on the Rusk County CDAC. Your time and commitment to deer management is very much appreciated.

You need to go into the woods vs. observing deer in the farm fields along roads. Since the late 1980s I would go from seeing teens and twenties of deer on any given 3-4 hour stint in my stand to now not seeing any deer over multiple days with 8-10 hours in the stand each day. The Rusk County deer population is significantly down in deeper wooded areas. We should not be in a maintain situation, we should be in a grow the herd situation. We have a camp that adjoins a lot of the public land in the NE corner of the county and have been hunting this area since the 1930s. Last year our camp of 8 people were able to harvest two deer. Some people didn't see any deer at all season. The previous two years we were unable to harvest any deer. This was the first time in the history of the camp that we were unsuccessful harvesting deer. No shots were even fired. There are not the deer in the woods that you see out around the farm fields. The population has declined significantly over the years and it is difficult to keep a teenager interested in hunting when they see no deer. It seems like Rusk County has been all over the map with bonus tags, earn-a-buck, etc. In my opinion, the deer herd in this area is not in alignment with what the DNR thinks it is. My opinion is widely held between several neighboring camps in our area who all have been hunting these same woods for 70+ years. Please reduce the number of antlerless tags and bonus tags until the herd is brought up so that you can actually see deer while hunting.
I would like state to go to a 3 point on a beam restriction, NOT including the brow tine. We need to get an opportunity to see a mature buck, not just a 1 and a half to 2 and a half year old buck. This would make the the breeding gene pool better. Also the wolf population reporting is a farce by the state!! The number always stays around 750. This fake number you give is an insult to anyone with a brain! We have zero harvested in a hunting season and very few hit by cars. This means they die of old age and they never have any young pups. You also expect us to believe they won’t breed in a tough condition. What a crock when a female comes into heat, I have yet to see any male not breed her! Why don’t you just put out a more accurate and believable number for the wolf population. By doing simple breeding averages. 750/2 = 375 females. I’ll even give you a brake and multiply first year by 250 x 4 = 1000 and if mortality is 50% is 500 lived to breed the next year. Thats 250 more females plus the year before 250 is now 500 breeding females or 2000 new pups that need to be feed and a lot of deer to feed them. Now you have 1000 breeding females or 4000 new cubs of which 2000 live and now 1000 new females and the previous 1000 is now 2000 breeding females. Do the math and you can see that nobody believes your numbers at all. If I were to guess there are between 3500 to 5000+ wolves around our state. Release some around Dane county and a few high priced pets disappear and I’ll bet you will be forced to tell the truth!!!

I believe the CDAC does a pretty good job at controlling and maintaining the deer herd, but one thing I would like to point out is the mortality of deer not registered, ie wounded deer. I am an avid archery hunter, and in my experiences 80% of all people I talk to (friends and family) are wounding deer and not recovering them with bows, but especially crossbows. If the DNR is allowing anybody to hunt with crossbows, then they might just as well allow everybody to use rifles all fall seasons. At least that way there’ll be a lot less mortally wounded (mature) deer that aren’t recovered. Don’t get me wrong, i’m Not disaying crossbows, i’m disaying unethical people using them ( my own family members included ). One question that should be asked during the registration process is,(did you or anyone you know wound a deer and not recover it). I think you’ll be amazed. And them are the mature deer, because let’s face it people are not filling tags because they didn’t see deer, they’re not filling tags because they don’t see any mature deer. I don’t want to be that guy who complaines about crossbows because it gives people an advantage over me ( I could buy one anytime) but I honestly know people are using them for the advantage of shooting deer out to 100 yds. And that’s what they’re trying to do, not to mention out the truck Window as well. Anyway there’s ALOT of dead deer out there that are not accounted for and I believe that is a huge reason why.

Stop all deer hunting during the rut. Completely unsportsmanlike to kill a buck when rutting and not aware of danger. Deer seasons can be before and after the rut. Stop all bear hounding. It is a cruel and unsportsmanlike practice of pursuing a terrified animal with packs of hounds into a corner or up a tree and walking up and shooting it. Sicko! A disgrace to the State of Wisconsin. Bear can be hunted similar to deer as is done in other states. Where there is bear hounding there is practically zero deer. The hounds chase deer 50% of the time and devour more fawns than all other predators combined. I’ve been watching this 30+ years. In the northern part of the state bear hounders, combined with bow hunters, leave very few deer in the public forests. Most private land owners don’t want them on their property. My family deer hunting has been ruined cuz my relatives and friends from out of state don’t want to pay the higher license fee and hardly see a deer and seldom even a track. I know it’s affected many others. With the current program there is less and less interest in hunting. Can’t blame them. My wife and daughters are afraid to go berry picking because of hounds ranging through the woods. If major changes are not made as suggested the decline in deer hunting will only become worse.
I believe the proposed antlerless harvest quota of 4000 is much too high for Rusk county. Hunters in the county last year did not meet the objective quota, and based on anecdotal evidence as well as personal observations, I strongly believe the deer population for this area is currently overestimated. Most hunters in the area I have talked to saw fewer deer in 2019 compared to previous years, both while hunting and while just out and about. The fact that hunters could not kill the intended number of antlerless deer further leads me to believe that there were fewer deer than estimated. If 4000 antlerless tags are issued, not only do I feel like hunters would fail to meet the quota, but if they did the impact on the deer herd in the area would be devastating. It concerns me because there are many other causes of deer mortality such as predation and winter weather, which cannot be accurately predicted. This winter was mild, but there is not telling what the future holds. If the quota is to be increased, I think it should be no more than 2500-3000 antlerless deer. Personally, however I would support maintaining the current quota for the time being as there is little evidence suggesting deer numbers are rising in the area.

It seems like wolf activity, including not just predation but also very importantly for hunters like us in the far northern tiers of townships, is being given very little consideration in the discussion. Having hunted in wolf country of both northern Minnesota and NW Wisconsin since the early 80's, I feel somewhat qualified in stating that the wolves need tighter management. I don't hate wolves but their numbers where we own land (and do our deer hunting) are excessive and the wolves themselves have become way too comfortable—hunting during mid-day, allowing themselves to be seen by people on regular basis, i.e., showing too much acclimation to people and willingness to be too close, thereby often creating vacuum-like deer presence for us during the gun season. More and more hunters are switching to cross-bow hunting (or taking it up) to give themselves a better chance to see deer before the gun season finally arrives and the deer have already been put into near panic state of hunkering down during shooting hours and becoming totally nocturnal. The combination of greatly increased wolf and archery+crossbow pressure has greatly diminished the joy of gun season.

The last three years hunting public land I have seen fewer deer than years prior to that. The deer were shot off with excessive antlerless permits in past years. I hope that this year's proposals are not setting this situation up again. I used to see a good amount of mature bucks while hunting, especially with bow. The last three years have been very sparse in any sightings of deer period. Not only are the mature buck numbers down, but all deer numbers continue to be low in public land areas that traditionally held some pretty good deer numbers. I have hunted the Blue Hills area for over 50 years now and find the last 3 years some of the worst for deer sightings. Not only are deer sightings down, but overall deer sign in the woods. Last year it was like pulling teeth to find active rut sign. We need more deer in the Blue Hills. Increased forest management projects are good to see. That may help improve habitat quality and therefore increased deer numbers. It needs some time yet before opening up the tag numbers.

I hunt in the Rusk County Forest area near Gordon Road. When my hunting group first built our cabin deer were available for all of us. We would normally shoot 1 or 2 bucks that were nice enough to be mounted. That was from 2000 o 2012 or so. Since then our group is lucky to even shoot a buck now and usually it's small. In 2018 out of 13 people one 12 year old girl shot a doe and that is all we got!!! There are two many people shooting anything that moves because of all the Public Land does permits being handed out and the heard hasn’t recovered from the days the T-zone. It was only several years ago when a hunter could shoot 4 does if he wanted. Come on! I recommend NO DOE PERMITS on Public Property for 5 years to give the herd time to recover. We have too many predictors like bear, coyote, wolf, bobcat and on it goes. We have too many seasons and all deer have become nocturnal due to hunting pressure...Please back off on the number of seasons to pressure dear and make baiting illegal.
I'm retired and bowhunting is what I do. In 2019 I had just short of 300 hours on stand, yes I hunt a lot. I hunt on both private and open forest crop land, hunting in 25 different stand locations most of which are moved around not only on an annual basis but as changes in deer movement happens during the season. I'm sure there are Ag locations in the county that have to many deer. Such is not the case in the area I have hunted in for the last 30+ years. According to my hunt log it was the fourth lowest year for deer sightings in that time period. Only two fawns were seen during all those hours. I'm sure there is more than one reason for my own experience, all I can do is comment on said experiences. On a different note I support removing the crossbow (except for the elderly and physically impaired) from the rut. I also support keeping the rifle season out of the rut. Eliminate baiting as well. Again just my two cents worth. Thank You!

I have been hunting and visiting are land cents I could walk and ever year the seeing of deer and the number of deer taking in the jump river area is going down. It’s to the point we’re I was thinking of sealing the land. No deer to many wolfs not worth driving and putting all the money n the land for nothing I hope you stop taking money from insurance companies and actually care about the deer. Should have 2-3 dose per buck not 2 buck per doe. In the last 5 years of hunting I’ve only seen 5 does. Are camp hose years with out shooting or sometimes even seeing anything. It used to be great. Could walk to your stand with out seeing 5 deer. My first year I saw over 20 deer just in the first 2 hrs of opening day with 6 of them being bucks I wish it was still like that. For my kids hard to get in to hunting when all you see is trees

The deer population was down in the 2019 season I seen fewer deer then I did in 2017 & 2018. I have seen fewer deer this year I and my wife drive around the area in the spring and look for deer we have not seen the deer this spring that we have in the pass their were less deer in 2018 to see then there was in 2017 and their were fewer in 2019 then 2018 & less this spring then in 2019. Bow season is way to long there is no reason to open that season before Oct. With a cross– bow it is like hunting with a rifle. When you have the youth hunts the deer become nocturnal. Some of kids shoot the biggest buck of there life so they feel they should get one every year, when they don't they quite hunting, the youth hunt took away from the traditional excitement of the nine day hunt with the family. I feel the DNR wants to regulate families.

If possible to better help the deer population and quality of deer, I think most of northern Wisconsin counties especially Rusk county should move to a 4 point rule system as of most of counties in Missouri have implied to their state. I hunted down there seen more and better quality bucks as well as antlerless deer. I also believe highly in selling less and increasing the prices on non-resident tags. We should be giving more opportunities towards our residents to fill their freezers before nonresidents to do so. All states around Wisconsin have way higher prices on their out of state tags which would help us with more opportunities putting more money in the DNR to help the conservation of other wildlife as in trout, other fish species, elk populations, and also our Whitetail populations.

We own land and hunt about a mile north of Hawkins. We have 4 bow hunters and 4 gun hunters. We have multiple food plots and have managed the forest to benefit wildlife. We also deploy about 8 trail cameras from spring through December to survey the deer herd. In 2019 we saw a slight increase in the herd and several does with twins. (Hadn’t seen that in years) Our land and neighbors can handle the increase. We see no sign of browse damage in forest and the food plots grow well and still have to be mowed. We did not shoot any anterless and 1 buck during bow. That’s with each of us logging about 10-12 full bow hunt days and 3 gun days. No deer were seen in gun season. I think several neighboring deer camps have closed because they haven’t shot anything in years.
Last year was a really good year, ideal weather, ideal temperatures for opening gun weekend... Several years prior to this I had seen no deer year after year on opening weekend (5 years consecutive) - this past year I saw 2 deer. The person that I hunt with didn't see any deer. I think there are some other factors out there that are affecting the overall deer population. In the Northwoods, the opening weekend hunt seems to be dying off. The diners aren't open in the morning anymore and driving past the public land trucks and cars are very minimal. If your going to double down on some of these number quotas you need to at least look at why people aren't going out anymore. Locals believe that the wolf population is playing a big role in the low deer numbers.

Being a landowner in rusk county I've taken the last 16 years bettering my property for all wildlife whitetail included in the last several years I've watched as the total deer numbers have continued to drop on both public and private rusk county lands . I was never a hunter who counted my hunting success by a harvest but its sure nice to see a few deer when you log in some long days in the stand . I'm more worried about my kids having the same opportunity and seeing enough deer and maybe getting a shot at one when they start hunting . Deer should also have to be tagged and registered like before . From the sounds of gun fire I hear during primetime during the rut while I'm now hunting I'm pretty sure the locals are keeping your herd thinned down enough.

We need to get rid of this “call in registration” for deer harvesting and go back to the “back tags”. This call in registration, I feel, is severely messing up the actual deer harvest numbers. There are some individuals out there that exploit this I am sure. Processing places do not ask for your hunter ID number when you drop a deer off. So why would an individual even purchase a tag? Also, by not having to register your deer at a verified registration place... Gas station or bar for instance. You effectively kill the local economy by not getting hunters out of their camps to come in for food, drinks and or groceries, while they register their deer. I have personally noticed the drop in business around the area due to this “call in” registration.

This is an astronomical leap in doe harvest authorizations that should NOT happen in this county especially on public lands. Yes the deer heard has grown in Rusk county after the few years of buck only but it has not fully recovered to the point where that many doe tags are needed. It is still difficult for the average gun hunter to merely see a deer during gun season on public lands. I think a couple more years of lower doe authorizations would give the heard enough time to bounce back and bring more hunters back to this county. Between the predators, harder winters, and over killing of does the county will suffer! We are already seeing less and less hunters due to poor hunting opportunity. This is too much to soon on Rusk county public land!

To whom this may concern, The 2019 deer season was a successful one for me, not just because I harvested two bucks (crossbow and gun) but because I saw deer around half of the days I was hunting. Seeing deer is important and for the past dozen years before these last two seasons, I was seeing less than ten deer all season! I do NOT support an antlerless season for the general population of hunters, but would like to see an antlerless season for our youth hunters. Keeping the amount of antlerless tags to a conservative number for another season or two will improve the population of deer who are starting to show slight increases in population. Thank you for your time in reading this and the opportunity to give my input.

The cold long winter of 2018/2019 had a large negative impact on the deer herd. Not to mention 2 new packs of wolves moving into the blue hills region around Weyerhaeuser. Last season in 4 full days of hunting sun up to sun down my 3 sons and I saw only 2 does without fawns!!!! Its very hard to get youth involved in hunting when they aren't seeing any game!!!!! When I first started hunting over 30 years ago in the same area we hunt now it was common to see 20 deer on a single day and we never thought of harvesting a doe until after Thanksgiving. The few years we had buck only we started seeing more deer but now it has regressed severely again. Please help to bring the great whitetail deer back to the northwoods.
Our family hunts a 200 acre plot in Strickland. We had one of the best deer seasons in recent history. Everyone had the opportunity to see and observe deer. We harvested 4 bucks, all of which were 8pts or better. The deer appeared to be comfortable as they were moving naturally and not as if they were in a constant panic from predators. I don’t think almost doubling the allowed antlerless kill is a good idea. Our land is near some large farms, and in years past when large amounts of antlerless tags were issued (intensive harvest), the land owners would wipe out the heard. Causing the following couple of years to be very tough hunting for us who’s land is made of mostly trees and swamp.

You guys are absolutely going to ruin hunting in Rusk County on PUBLIC LANDS!!! I’ve been hunting the same public lands for 43 years, the number of deer are down dramatically! I witness every year the same few groups of locals (that own their own land) come out to public land with 30-40 guys and drive everything and KILL every deer they can. They are armed with doe tags, tags they won’t us on their private land. They do not care who is parked off the road and in hunting as they will come right through your set-up! THERE SHOULD BE ZERO ANTERLESS TAGS FOR PUBLIC LAND!!! This is a money making grab by the DNR! Last year I bought as many as I could and then BURNED THEM!!!!!

I see more and more predators every year. This year and prior I’ve seen wolves, black bears everywhere, even mountain lion on camera. I think we are in a dilemma with too many tags and too many predators. I had a total of 3 tags this year and I hunted the 9 day season on 180 acres in different areas of private land. I’ve hunted this space for 15 years. I saw multiple predator tracks and few in far between for deer. In my eyes the numbers are scarce and far/few between now. I remember when I first started hunting. You would see at least a handful of deer ever season and ever sit in the stand. All in all we need to open more hunting of predators, and less tags of whitetail deer.

I understand there is talk of reducing crossbow season to just October. Hunting numbers are down 6 percent. If this happens my family will not hunt in Wisconsin. I know many other people that pay thousands of dollars in out of state hunting licenses that intend on doing the same. We have made significant investments in hunting with crossbows. Reducing the crossbow season will not only affect deer license sales, but all license sales. I understand there are association lobbying hard to reduce crossbow season due to their own personal interests. The financial ramifications of these actions will be much farther reaching than what you believe they will be.

Overall I think the deer hunting experience in Rusk county has been very positive for our family on our private land. However, I do feel more antlerless deer need to be harvested to balance the buck to doe ratio and reduce social stress for the deer. I feel the deer population has increased the last 5 years on our family property. Three of us hunt on 160 acres and we mainly harvest 3-5 does ever year and average one mature buck between the three of us every year. Even with three of us harvesting more does than bucks every year, I personally feel that we still have more antlerless deer living around our property year over year...

I have hunted for 50 years. In the last 15 years the quality of hunting has been severely affected. Stop killing the does. Between two legged and four legged predators there are so many fewer deer the young people cannot hunt what’s not there. The value of my hunting tag has gone way down. Seems like we do what’s best for revenue and not necessarily for healthy deer population if you want to sell tags and get young people involved provide sufficient deer to hunt. Why buy a tag if all I want to do is watch birds and squirrels? Seriously we can do better than this. Hard to believe really that public hunting has gotten so bad.

I think the herd should be allowed to increase slightly for a few years. In the forest areas the herd has declined as total deer killed last few years. Plus I think we don’t have a very good grip on deer density. We need a better method than current. Also should go back to back tags and registration stations. Rusk county has a large population of predators especially bears coyotes and wolves. So that said we need to increase deer numbers. During the gun season i have hunted same property for last 6 years.I hunt about 7 out of the nine day season. My deer seen went like this 18, 24, 15, 13, 7, and just 3 last year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8010</strong> Gentleman and Women, I hunt north of county O off the end of Norwegian Rd and west southwest of the Christie Mountain on private land adjoining Norwegian Rd. The deer population has not recovered since the slaughter of the doe population 15 years ago. Obviously the habitat changes over the years may have some input, but the hunting pressure during gun season is very low. Seeing any good size doe is rare. Buck population is low also. Maybe it is the farm land drawing the deer away for better food. I would like to see this area really researched closer for better herd management. Thankyou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8011</strong> GO BACK TO TAGGING DEER AND REGISTERING THEM IN PERSON! Every hunter I know could care less about number of tags or seasons we want our old way of hunting back. We all miss getting a back tag then driving up to the gas station or tavern to show off or look at each others luck. The stories that are told the dollars spent at local businesses. Instead the last few year we all hide our deer and register them secretly so no one knows or talks to each other. The love of the sport is dwindling fast with the loss of the stories and sharing. PLEASE bring back back-tags and registering in person!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8012</strong> I welcome the increase in antlerless harvest, it seems the buck to do ratio is getting low after I believe many have targeted young bucks for harvest significantly lowering the buck to doe ratio and the number of mature bucks on the landscape. Buck movement may be lower due to a low buck to doe ratio and a sub-optimal level of competition. Camera data and observed conditions in the field suggest the number of mature bucks is currently low relative to 4-5 yrs ago and lower still from the 2011-2013 timeframe which I believe benefitted from earn a buck in years prior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8013</strong> I am a nonresident landowner. I was born and raised in Wisconsin. Please reevaluate the metrics that are used to determine herd size and harvest. The number of deer, north of Highway 8, is shockingly low. The predator numbers are high: black bear, coyotes, timber wolves. I strongly urge one to two years of bucks-only to rebuild the herd. I love my home state of Wisconsin and the rich tradition and history of deer hunting. However, it is unlikely that I will be coming home to hunt this year. I can not justify killing a deer in an already decimated herd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8014</strong> It’s interesting to see the effects of of the management methods. Extra doe permits definitely brings more people to public lands, and usually shows in lower deer numbers the following year. The bucks only years lowered the amount of people on the public land in that year, and showed in more bucks and deer the following year. Allowed deer feeding seemed to show a higher kill all over. Private land appears a little harder to control with increased permits as the private landowners seem to decide on their own how many deer to take even if more permits are available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8015</strong> The data presented by the DNR does not add up. The project 2020 deer herd amounts are similar to 2017, 2018, 2019 but yet the CDAC and DNR want to increase the quota number by double that of 2019. Rusk Co. has not come close to meeting the quota numbers in the last three years but yet the CDAC and DNR want to dramatically increase the quota. Either the deer are not there or we are poor hunters in Rusk Co. You can sell all the bonus tags you want but if you are not reaching the desired quota then you are just generating additional revenue for the DNR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8016</strong> I feel our deer population has reduced greatly since the introduction of the wolf. I know the wolf population is a huge detriment to the deer population. These animals will destroy a deer population rapidly. I wish their instinct was to completely devour their kill, but they kill, just to kill by instinct. I wish we could go back the days that I could enjoy my game hunting and not have to compete with the wolf. About 3 of the 12 in our hunting crew are considering not to participate in the 2020 deer hunt due to the deer population being down.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I believe the new unit system (going to county instead of dmu) hurt our area. My county was split in half by the previous dmu. The southern half is predominantly farm land and holds an over abundance of deer while the northern half is mainly public forest land which is limited severely in deer population. Our deer population had a fantastic winter and we are seeing large herds out and about now that the snow is gone. Our rut the last few years has been almost non existent with the buck to doe ratio so out of wack.

The deer harvest by residents in the Northern Forest district is reduced due to out of town and out of state hunters. The out of town and out of state hunters are first in and first out with their quota while the remaining deer population is in hiding for the rest of the limited season. Hunters (southern counties plus Illinois & Minnesota) that are not from this area leaving their trash being are harvesting the natural resources and leaving minimal for the local hunters. Thank you for this opportunity.

Way to many wolves and blackbears in Rusk county. Deer populations are way down from 5 to 10 years ago. I hunt on 300 acres of private land. 40 of those acres is crop field. When corn is in the fields it's not uncommon to have up to 10 different bears on camera. The fawns get massacred by those adult blackbeard. Also, we are constantly finding wolf kills of adult deer. Too many predators in the area to up the limit of antlerless tags. Start giving out more bear tags to hunters and get rid of the wolves!!!

Over the years I feel that we are seeing less and less deer. I think we disturb the heard by baiting, and the sport turned into hunt off of bait piles. I am not seeing as many deer harvest on the roads on cars as I use to when driving home. Talking with others around the state they say very similar and concerning things. I think if we concentrate on keeping deer numbers up and not worrying about the number of tags sold you will continue to have a steady rate of hunters bring in money to the sport.

Own 40 acres and hunt there in south Rusk County. Seeing plenty of deer. In fact a very high number of young up to 2yr old deer. Not seeing big bucks until rut. Even then very few big bucks. Last years late rifle season saw hardly any bucks at all. There were plenty of young deer last fall. We avoid taking spike or fork horn young deer. Maybe increase emphasis on increasing bigger bucks. Thank you for doing a good job monitoring and maintaining the deer population in Rusk county.

I have notice the last few years the doe that I regularly see on my land are having fewer twins than years in the past. I've also seen more fawn kill by predators per trail camera. 5 years ago I had 1 bobcat on trail cams regularly. This increased yearly to 4 Bobcats last year (I trapped the biggest Tom last Nov. So down to 3 again) I'd like to see less cross bow. We have trophy bucks in this state. I fear cross bow during the rut will hurt our states big buck reputation

Rusk/Sawyer county line– First time in 22 years I’ve encountered wolves...in all, I saw 5 (4 in a pack and one loner) I’m only up in this area for five days a year but my father stated in 44 years of hunting in blue hills country, he’s only seen 1 in that time span. I went on the wolf sighting page, and it didn’t look like there was a documented sighting in this area... Take it for what it is, but there are wolves in this area! Thanks for all you do.

I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this program. I hunt with cross bow on private land and move to public land during gun season. As I am getting up my years it is however hard for me to retrieve a deer from public land. I can use my atv on private land. It would be nice to be able to see public land (State) trails and roads open for the gun season even if it was only for the retrieve of a Deer with a motorized vehicle. Again, thank you

I hunt is Rusk county and I saw 1 doe all season. I didn't have a tag to shoot the doe because Rusk county didn't have any to hand out at the time I purchased or wasn’t authorized in selling doe tags. 2018 season I didn't see on deer (zero). 2017 I shot a nice 11 pointer and didn't see another deer the rest of gun season. 2019 deer season I was 1 coyote and several fresh tracks. thank you for working hard on keeping Wisconsin's deer herds safe.
There is much variability of deer population within Rusk County and should be taken into account, both by location relative to farmland (SW) and pressure from predators such as wolves (N, NE). As a land owner, if desire is to maintain herd by taking more antlerless deer please consider giving antlerless tags for free with purchase of buck tags for landowners instead of charging. Also, where herd control is warranted, consider earn-a-buck program.

I have hunted rusk county my entire life. I have watched a steady decline of the deer population and a steady rise in the predator population for many years. Last year,(2019) I saw 4 deer the entire 9 day season. I. The same area, I also saw 63 coyotes and a number of timber wolves. Something needs to be done about the predator population. In my opinion, the rusk county unit should not be hunted for about 5 years. Maybe we can see some deer then.

Important to think about carrying capacity with Elk in the same area as they browse 2-3 times as much. It must affect this. I have many trail cams and see many bear, wolves, bobcat (all cool) but a factor greater than mentioned I believe. The ratio is different the last 3 years with as many bucks as does (few each) in our area on the Rusk-Sawyer line, not sure why. Just some comments on what our camp sees. Hope this helps with your work.

I am more concerned about the oversale of tags, and the EXTREME amount of wolves and coyotes that are on our trail cameras and our trail. There needs to be an open wolf season in all of wisconsin, the wolves are the massacring the deer population and it’s ruining the hunting season, especially for the youth. This is a MASSIVE problem especially in northern wisconsin. Please Fix this, otherwise license sales will plummet.

The number of deer this year was much lower in our area than in the past. Predators such as bear, wolf and coyote as increasing. As well we are seeing higher sign rate of Cats species. We didn’t see near the number during the bow or gun hunts. We have too many seasons, with cross bows now legal the bow season is way too long. By gun season the deer pattern has turned nocturnal if there is no active rut.

I own 80 acres that is surrounded by other private property. On most days driving to and from work I can count over 100 deer in the crop fields within 1 mile of my property. I don’t feel it is right that if I don’t rush to the store the day antlerless tags go on sale they are sold out. Private landowners should be given preference for antlerless tags the same they are with turkey tags.

I have been hunting this area for over 11 years and it is prime deer habitat and every year the number of deer we see goes down and yet you continue to give out more doe permits. Go into the woods and walk around a little and you can see the deer sign is not there and listen to the hunters for once. I sat in the woods for 3 days for the entire day never leaving my stand and I saw 1 deer.

The lower success rate for deer on public land, should not be a reason to administer more antlerless tags for public land. The number of antlerless tags to be issued for public lands is much to high. I would encourage CDAC members to spend some more time in the Large blocks of state and county owned land within Rusk county and reconsider the amount of tags available for public land.

We have been seeing a large increase in Wolves in our area over the past several years with hearing them daily, seeing tracks on my trails always and people in our group seeing them. In last 4 years we barely see any deer during gun season and only see a few during the rut when they have to move. We need wolves thinned and doe left alone so we can get numbers back up.

Quality bucks (8 point or more) have greatly decreased over the years. Many of the bucks harvested are under that and are not given a chance to mature. I personally would like to see a more than 4 point rule go into effect to increase the quality of the bucks harvested in not just rusk county, but statewide. I would apply this to both the gun/bow season. Thank you.
Our Bear population is way to high, need to allow more bear to be harvest. We also have a problem with wolfs, I seen 5 wolfs and in our hunting party from bow and rifle hunting we seen seven different wolfs running deer. We also have a mountain lion on our trail camera with several coyotes, I can say that is one of the main reason our deer population is down.

During the 2019 9 day gun deer season I hunted 5 days. During that time I only saw 6 deer. I was able to harvest 1 buck. I didn’t see one fawn all season or any of the previous scouting trips. I hunted in the Blue Hills county forest on public land only. I have hunted this same area during gun season since I was 12 years old with only missing one season.

Deer seasons start in September and end in January. If you can’t harvest a deer in that amount of time your not hunting. There is a difference between hunting and killing. Hunting means you have to go and make a little effort to harvest a animal. Walk more then 50 feet of the beaten path. People have become very very lazy when it comes to this.

There are very few deer on public land in rusk county. See fewer every year, bow hunt for 2?weeks during first two weeks of nov seen fourteen deer more little bucks than does and fawns. Should be bucks only for five years but thats not your objective is it your objective is sell more tags make more money so go ahead and screw it up more

My feelings are that if u buy a large game permit be it bow, gun, or both on private land the land owners family should be allowed to take one deer buck or antlerless deer at or in any season. It should be allowed with any weapon they want. I want to keep my hunting family interested in hunting. My land rights to hunt one deer.

We have 120 acres and saw 5 deer between 5 of us hunting. We have food plots and seen nothing. It sucks for my kids when they spend over 40 hours in a stand and not see any. I understand now why the younger ones are quitting. My 2 kids probably won’t go again. I go to take my 80 year old dad, when he quits so will I.

As a farmer in Rusk County, the deer population is simply too high. Checking fields in the evening, it is not uncommon to see 10-15 deer in each field. Crop damage, to both forage and grain crops, is out of control. Also, the amount of antlerless deer is high, while harvesting a mature buck has become more difficult.

Deer population is crashing. Too many wolves and no control on those, winters have been hard and we have good property with oaks and food plots and there aren’t enough deer to even eat the food we have. Do not give any doe tags and figure out a way to mange wolves or people will stop hunting up north very soon.

Bear numbers are extremely high in thornapple township in Rusk County. I personally saw 9 bears during the gun deer season last year and we saw few fawns in our area. There needs to be increased bear tags issued in hot spots since the extremely high bear numbers take out a large number of fawns in these areas.

I have been hunting and scouting the same area for 26 years and I have seen the deer herd decline dramatically. The wolf population has a drastic toll on the herd from what I have seen, also the doe harvest tags are overabundant. In general the population is hurting in Rusk County from what I have been seeing.

What is the DNR’S plan to reduce and address the exploding wolf population in Rusk County and Wisconsin overall? Over the years our deer population on our 440 acres has greatly reduced while predator populations of coyotes and Wolves has increased. Something needs to be done to manage the wolf population!!

We have so many does that our 400 acres is way over-browsed. Doe to buck ratios are way out of whack against healthy ratios, according to our extensive camera studies throughout the property. Please open up more doe tags, especially on private property where we know our deer and our numbers well.

I would like to see Wisconsin significantly raise its out of state license prices or have a Wisconsin residents only hunt first. We have premiere deer hunting in this state but it seems like we are you eager to sell it out to everyone rather than reward the residents who make it happen.
I have been hunting Rusk county for 55 years and believe me when I tell you the amount of mature bucks have been reduced, and the Doe population the same. My son and I would compare the number of racked bucks we saw after an evening bow hunt. I feel for the next generation of hunters.

The purpose of the quota of 7500 antlerless tags is to high for our area. I have gone out on several occasions scouting for deer, I see a lot less deer than I did last year when I was out scouting for deer, my scouting is in a 15 mile radius. There is less deer this year than last year.

I have not seen the numbers I used to see 20 years ago where the deer were herded up. I remember seeing the numbers much higher in the woods of Rusk County years ago. I don’t see the point of such a high quota of antlerless deer. I’m not seeing the numbers to support that.

We as a camp of 8 hunters have consistently seen lower numbers of both sex deer over the last number of years in the northern 1/4 of Rusk and southern Sawyer county. There is not a need to over harvest the deep woods deer. The few we do see are the same over and over.

I think the deer are healthy and the population is good. I hunt by the Flambeau forest. The elk are beautiful and seem to be doing good. We see lots of wildlife. I think the amount of harvests and available tags are right at this time. Thanks for the survey!!!

Please keep the harvest tags the same. I feel the deer numbers are starting to come back in this area. There were many years of not seeing many deer at all while hunting, while in the past few years I have seen more. Thank you for all of your efforts.

There seems to be plenty of deer in some areas. Family buys about $1500 in out of state license and hunting opportunities and being able to have times available to multi generations to hunt is critical ---gun,cross bow and muzzleloader.

I feel the bow and cross bow rules are right were they need to be should never change them. I feel the gun season should go back to old days 5 day season either buck or doe. This allows families to be together during thanksgiving holiday!!

I am very concerned about the # of deer we see. For the last 6-8 years we haven’t seen any #s of deer. I hunted 8 days last year and saw 5 different deer. Both of my boys each saw 2 deer all season. I really hope they keep hunting.

The number of deer I saw last year was down but it was a strange season. I’d like to see the deer population up just slightly. If 4,000 antlerless tags would result in a straight maintain I would want to see 3500-3750 offered.

Stop all baiting!! Bucks only with 4 points or more. If that happens we might see a recovery in about four years. We need to issue more bear tags also. I had to wait eight years for a kill tag. Who makes these decisions?. Thank you.

I don’t see a need to keep raising the number of Doe permits for public land. We hunt the Christie Mt. area and don’t see 10 other hunters on 100s of public acres. No matter the number of permits, there’s a lack of hunters.

There appear to be far more predators here than the DNR recognizes. These predators decimate the deer population. Primarily in the spring. Coyote, bear, bobcat, and wolves kill fawns at a staggering rate.

I believe that an increased antlerless harvest would be good for the unit but I am not in favor of making it antlerless only. I also feel that the permit system favors landowners over hunters on public land.

We see very few deer in the area we hunt. We have 5 camps in our area. The last several years several camps are lucky if they shoot 2 bucks a season. We had people that saw one or none deer last season.

I would like to see the antlerless quota around 3500 in Rusk County. I believe the 7000 plus quota would be way to high, and would knock the future numbers of potential harvestable bucks way down.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>833</td>
<td>There are heavy numbers of predators in this hunting management unit. I firmly believe the number of predators exceeds what is yearly documented. We see large numbers of wolfs and bears. Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>834</td>
<td>Get rid of the wolves and other predators. Way too many! Too many bears. Not enough bear tags. Still waiting for eight years and haven’t received a kill permit for bear, that’s ridiculous!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>835</td>
<td>During the crossbow season I hunted about 40 hrs and approximately 60 hrs during the rifle season. Deer sightings over the last 4-5 hrs have been dismal for others in our group as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>836</td>
<td>Need more doe tags for private land owners in 2020. I am a landowner and could not get a doe tag for my property in 2019. Many many many does and not enough tags to harvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8020</td>
<td>I think the amount you expect out of state hunters to pay to help with predators is absolutely insane. You cannot gain popularity in the outdoors while overcharging people!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>837</td>
<td>Please consider removing the separation of &quot;private land/ public land&quot; from antlerless tags. A tag should be good for a deer in public or private land in a given zone. Thx!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>838</td>
<td>I would like to add the nonresident licenses cost are to low in Wisconsin. I also hunt out of state and pay way more than they pay to hunt here in Wisconsin. Thank you....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8021</td>
<td>The deer population and deer management in Rusk County is good. The county needs more law enforcement activity with respect to controlling the illegal harvesting of deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8022</td>
<td>To many wolves had a 16 year old kid get stranded in stand by 6 of them had to have help starting them off so he could get out saw a couple other while hunting as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8023</td>
<td>I have been hunting in this county for 39 years, since I was a young boy. Despit statistics shown, I have seen less deer of both sexes over the last few years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8024</td>
<td>I am most concerned about the predators especially the wolves. These need to be controlled to have a sustainable deer population. Way too many wolves out here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8025</td>
<td>To many out of state hunters that are buying up the land to hunt and dumping corn all the time. No more deer drives anymore. The deer aren't pressured to move.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8026</td>
<td>I would like to see all deer seasons to remain as they are, there are ups and downs in all things we do and we appreciate the good seasons after the poor ones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8027</td>
<td>Soms and grandkids spend 1500 buying out of state lascenses to hunt with crossbow and gun. see no reason to punish crossbow hunters with a shorter season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8028</td>
<td>I think all junior licences should be antlerless only, always. Junior licenses can always hunt anterless deer and only anterless deer no matter the quota.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8029</td>
<td>I would agree with the approach of bucks only with reduced number of bonus tags for public land and an increased number of bonus tags for private land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8030</td>
<td>Deer numbers are still too low, I hear of the importance of introducing youth to our great hunting traditions, tough when kids don’t see deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8031</td>
<td>Been many years since a good harvest for my hunting group in Rusk county. Sometimes we rarely see deer anymore. Hope we can find a balance!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8032</td>
<td>Too many black bear in county taking the majority of new born fawns the past 10+ years. Fawns need to survive for the numbers to increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8033</td>
<td>Please leave crossbow season alone it's what got me back into hunting if its changed I may just stop hunting with crossbow and with gun.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
keep doe tags low, 6 person deer camp. saw 4 deer from sat thru wednesday total. we refused to shoot a doe because numbers were down.

Deer numbers look good on my land, S of Hwy 8 E of Tony. Doesn't appear to be much winter kill. Number of tags looks good to me.

Keep tags down, rebuild the deer population. No t-zones or extra seasons. Ok with youth hunt only (beyond normal hunting seasons)

We are losing to many hunters each year. One of the biggest reasons is not seeing deer. We should not be over harvesting deer.

Seeing fewer deer every year to increase hunters increase the herd. Many hunters I talk to are concerned by lack of sightings

Limit bow hunters to 1 buck. The kill to many in their season. They can get a second tag after gun season is concluded

Haven't seen any deer now in two seasons and very few tracks. Lots of wolf and coyote tracks. Confirmation bias, yes.

the deer season should be 1 buck and 1 doe tag for both gun and bow. No other tags should be available to buy.

Numbers are still not reflecting herd accurately. Everyone I talk with says they are not seeing deer.

Do not change the rules in regards to which weapon can be used. Allow all types the way it is.

You'll sell more licenses and attract and retain more hunters if more deer are seen.

Rusk county landowner should be granted an antlerless tag with purchase of license.

STOP BAITING period, end of story!!!! Just stop it!!! No really STOP BAITING!!!!

DO NOT CHANGE THE DEER SEASON !!! LEAVE THE TRADITIONAL 9DAY HUNT AS IS !!!!

Numbers are hard to believe still not seeing deer like I have in the past

Going from 2100 to 4000 quota seems like a radical change for one year.

Deer being shot illegally with crossbows. To long of a crossbow season.

Believe we had a mild winter when you factor in the snow and weather.

DMAP Program is an excellent resource. Please continue this program.

I am very interested in maintaining a thriving, healthy deer herd.

Very few deer in this Rusk Co unit other than on a couple farms.

Deer numbers are drastically down from at least 5 years ago.

Cross bow hunting has certainly effected the gun hunt.

Would like to see more Clear Cuts made in the Blue Hills

Predator numbers are too high. Poaching is too high.

I’m concerned about poaching in Rusk County.

All of us hunters want meat in the freezer

I haven’t seen deer since they did T-zone

There are not enough deer in this unit.

I believe a 1 buck rule would be good
Keep cross bow hunting as it is now.
Do away with October youth hunting
Leave the season dates alone!
The DNR is doing a fine job...
go back to having BACK TAGS
Nice work over the years!
Less wolves will help
Get rid of the wolfs!
Wolfs kill too many
ban baiting!
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Sauk, Southern Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

668 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 368
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 140
   - I hunt in this unit: 618
   - General interest in this unit: 125

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 586
   - Bow: 337
   - Crossbow: 228
   - Muzzleloader: 179

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.52
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 398
   - Mostly Private Land: 93
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 44
   - Mostly Public Land: 25
   - Exclusively Public Land: 44
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 14

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 26
   - Not too crowded: 63
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 48
   - Somewhat crowded: 37
   - Very crowded: 24
   - Not applicable: 8

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 117
   - Fewer: 197
   - Same: 259
   - More: 67
   - Many More: 13
   - Unsure: 15

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>29</td>
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</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>211</td>
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<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
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<td>284</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>67</td>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT : Support 323  Oppose 297  Unsure 48

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 399  Oppose 211  Unsure 56

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 63  Oppose 550  Unsure 55

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all;  2 = Slightly;  3 = Moderately;  4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020  Sauk, Southern Farmland
Main thing I want to say is that CWD is here to stay. Study it if you want to but the amount of money wasted and still being wasted on it is ridiculous. I don't think the projected numbers are anywhere close to what you think they are. I've been hunting for 28 years and know many, many, many other hunters that hunt all over, and the results are all the same—we've never seen a sick deer in our lives. How can that be if it is so prevalent? Also, the deer harvest numbers are down for various reasons. Less hunters for one, because everyone is scared away due to the CWD scare you portray. Also look at the hunting conditions...opening day last year had frozen leaves on the ground. It was absolutely noisy getting into the stand last year. Last time I checked deer had ears and a nose, and you're not going to tell me that human presence did not go undetected in the woods last year more than others. This adding 10 days to the gun season—one word—DUH. What is this really going to do? Most people are done hunting after thanksgiving anyway whether they harvested a deer or not. Do any of you spend time in the woods at all to know this fact? Also, the crossbow proposal is just pitting hunter against hunter and that is completely unacceptable. Back to CWD. Back when cwd first started in 2002, so called wildlife biologists here were talking the sky is falling for the deer herd...that it's going to be wiped out in 5 to 10 years. They've had it out west for decades and the herd is still there and flourishing. Cwd has been here for 18 plus years now and I see plenty of deer year after year. And not just deer—healthy deer. You aren't going to stop the spread by killing deer, because deer still interact 24/7. They smell each other's poopitydoo, they rub on the same rubs, they lick and smell the same licking branches and mock scrape areas and rub their pre-orbital glands on the same places. How you going to stop all this?—go out there and put a mask on them and put signs up for them? There are still people out there that feed the deer, put out mineral licks, they drink out of the same puddles in the woods. These regulations are nothing but overreactions to CWD. Study the disease, but leave the damn deer herd alone with your managements. It's nature...it's going to survive. Humans in government agencies have this overwhelming urge to think they need to play God all the time. It's not the CWD that is ruining the best resource Wisconsin has available, it's your policies. Wisconsin is an example of failed CWD policies and an example of how CWD does not gravely affect the deer herd like you said it will. Go back to the traditional ways of hunting when I was a kid, but add a twist. Buy a tag—gives you the right to shoot a buck or doe. If you want more deer, buy more tags. Plain and simple. This buy a tag and you get 3,548 extra doe tags is ridiculous. It encourages overkilling of deer which we all know you want for some insane reason, but who the hell needs to shoot more deer than they need. I'm just like most other hunters...I am glad to shoot someone a deer, but I come first. And when my freezer is full, I quickly go from I love deer hunting to I'm sick of deer hunting. One more point that proves your CWD logic is flawed. Let's say we kill every deer in the woods that has CWD. Hooray, no more CWD.....no but wait.....that "white" deer has CWD. Can't shoot him. Well son of a potato...looks like CWD is going to spread again. It's still here to stay. Wake up
First of all I'd like to start out saying, I scout whitetails 8 months out of the year, I run a good amount of trail cams throughout the county and I hunt about 3 months out of the year very hard. But being out there all the time I am able to see what's going on. I hunt mostly public because I have better success. I think we should be the first county in this state to set the bar and pass a 3 pt on one side antler restriction. Not to grow trophy bucks but to protect spikes and forks so they have a chance to go through the cycles of life and maybe they will have a chance to mature more. We do not have the quality of bucks like we did in the past. People like seeing a nice buck, it brings business to the area, and when one is harvested the business continues onto the taxidermists, maybe the butcher shops. If muskie fisherman can get a 50" size limit why can't we get something to help deer in the whitetail capitol of the world? We should try it, what's it going to hurt? People will have more success and they will be happy. This should be an option and many of us would like to see this. Otherwise we would like to see one buck per hunter a year. We are losing hunters not because they aren't seeing deer, because they aren't seeing any decent bucks. The extended rifle season will hurt our buck population, and the continuation of crossbows for anyone all archery season is really having an impact on the buck population, I do not agree with either. We need to have a crossbow season and stay with the traditional rifle and muzzleloader season. If people are in the woods with rifles at the tail end of the rut it will be devastating to our buck population, they are like sitting ducks. One way we could make things a lot easier is change the way the seasons begin. This is a suggestion for the whole state. There are years we hear how the season started to late like 2019 so that lowers the harvest of bucks. There is a simple fix, make rifle season open on the same date every year like MI. This is my idea on season structure and I believe it would improve our state and simplify everything; Archery Season - Sep. 15th-Jan. 15th statewide continues Crossbow Season - Nov. 15th-Dec. 15th statewide continues Rifle Season - Nov. 20th-Nov. 30th statewide, weapon of choice Muzzleloader Season - Dec. 1st-Dec. 10th statewide No extended archery hunts, no holiday hunts, no youth hunts, no baiting statewide, no CWD tags, let the counties control their herds as needed. Let's make this the greatest state to hunt whitetails because right now we are falling off the map, losing business and losing hunters.

The white deer issue continues to be a problem in many parts of Sauk County. Each year I'm told by the board that I should go talk to a legislator or write to someone. Wouldn't they value this opinion more from someone on the CDAC committee or on the Conservation Congress board? I don't see that opinion going very far just coming from a citizen and not someone who has the credibility/background/pull like you folks have. Couple main points to consider: 1.) We want to control deer numbers and DECREASE the population yet it's okay for the white herd to continue to grow? Each year at these meetings it keeps being stated to decrease the deer herd and give out more free doe tags, but protecting white deer does not allow that to happen. 2.) CWD was found in 25% of the deer tested in Sauk County in 2019... that is an astounding and scary number. 2 mature bucks have tested positive on my farm the last 2 years. The number only continues to climb and increase. Yet it's okay for the white herd to continue to grow and not kill off those deer that may have CWD? There are currently 10-12 white deer on our farm, many of them being mature does. 3. White deer are genetically inferior and do not provide benefits to the herd yet it's okay for the white herd to continue to grow and pass on these poor genetics. All of these decisions are supposed to be science based in order to help better the population. They aren't supposed to be made in order to please a group of people who enjoy looking at white deer. Like I stated last year, I realize some of these CDAC members have direct ties to those people and they don't want it to affect their personal life and how people judge/view them; however, isn't the point of this CDAC is to help the deer herd in the best way possible for Sauk County? Just brushing this issue off each year does not help the deer herd in the slightest. I believe it's time for someone to take a stance on this because allowing them to be protected totally contradicts everything we are currently trying to do in this county. I realize white deer are protected by law, but EAB is also currently restricted by law but now it's a question again this year if people would be in support of it coming back. The white deer issue could be handled in the same way. I appreciate you taking the time to read over this and I hope it will be read by the committee. If it is too personally attacking, please just take the main points and relay them to the committee. This NEEDS to be looked at from a scientific perspective, not an emotional attachment perspective. Thank you!
Hi. In all honesty I was happy with how the season structure looked last year. As an avid bow hunter I am not a fan of the doe only hunts. Especially the October one. But I understand their purpose. On the property I own and hunt I am trying to raise my deer numbers. The neighbors have been enlisted in a crop damage program for many years now and we are seeing significantly less does. I am trying to maintain a healthy buck to doe ratio so the last few years I haven’t allowed anyone to shoot does on my property. I also plant a lot of food plots and trees that benefit the deer and other wildlife in the area. There weren’t any questions regarding limiting crossbow hunting and having bow season end a week before gun season. I’m not sure if those are no longer on the agenda but those two proposals are what I didn’t like, and why I am giving my feedback. I personally don’t use a crossbow and at first I thought of it as “cheating”. But as I thought about it more it is a good way to get more people into the woods to experience the joy of bow hunting. And for a lot of hunters that don’t put in the hours of practice in the off season, it is a good way to make a good ethical shot on a deer. I think the decision to open that option up to everyone was a good idea. As far as closing bow season a week before the gun season, I don’t like it at all. I use my vacation time to hunt all of November. And that proposed week can have some awesome rut action. I can’t speak for public hunters but it hasn’t effected my gun seasons at all. Bow hunting is all about sneaking in and out without pressuring the deer to much. So I have the same deer in my fields all of bow season and gun season. What effects my gun season the most is neighbors. Wether they are out hunting or cutting fire wood. I hope my feedback helps, I am sure you guys get a lot of input. But thank you for listening and I’m looking forward to the 2020 deer season!

1st, I was on the Sauk County call, thank you for setting that up. I really struggle with the 3 antlerless tags with each tag. I do not think that increases the number of does shot at all. In fact I believe it creates the opposite affect. All my neighbors think that everyone is going to shoot 3 does each so no one shoots does because they think the deer population will be wiped out like what happened when we had earn-a-buck. So no one shoots does at all because they are afraid everyone is going to fill all their tags. If you have one doe tag with each tag you purchase I believe most would shoot one doe and then people that wanted more does could buy more tags. It is also a benefit to the DNR because purchasing the extra tags is added revenue. I heard many jokes about all the tags that were handled out. One group close to me had 10 hunters with 80 doe tags. They shot 2 doe because they were afraid all the other neighbors were going to fill their tags. I know you want to send a message to legislatures and that is why you want to keep handing out so many tags but this idea is completely backfiring! I am completely against all the extra doe seasons and holiday hunt because it keeps me out of my land to cut wood, etc. because I don’t want to anger all my neighbors that do hunt. Additionally, as a snowmobiler and one that puts all the signs in, all the extra deer seasons affect us severely. Everyone forgets that trails need to be put in during early December and with all these deer hunts many landowners do not allow us in to mark and clear trails during the deer seasons whether they hunt or not because they don’t want the deer pushed to the neighbors that are hunting. We as snowmobile clubs end up doing a ton more work because ground is frozen and it is hard to get the trails. Again this does not take into account if we do get early snow we would miss out on open trails.
Your harvest strategies on public land are very good. Deer numbers on public land are low enough to keep deer disease at bay and there are very good bucks hiding on the public land. Private land is a whole different story. You need to find a way to open them up for doe harvests. The entire country now has deer diseases that only exist because of high populations on private land. Most states now have at least two diseases in their herds. No competent Ph D will say they have been linked. Fire any that think they have. Counting nose to nose contact is counting nose to nose contact it isn’t linking disease to feeding. Reduce the herd size on private land by at least half and these deer diseases go away on their own. If feeding were the source of the problem these disease would first manifest in northern populations. That isn’t what happens. The disease always first emerge on high density private lands. Explain this to hunters so they understand your policies and your challenge. It will likely someday be established that these high deer numbers are the reason for the spread of ticks and tick borne illness. Warming is like feeding, its is a good punchline but worthless beyond that. This is resulting in human illness is threatening livestock. Solving this is your job. Working with other states to identify herd density as the problem nationwide is your responsibility. My advice is a bargain, it's free.

I have hunted dane and saulk counties for 12 years now. I am always hunting somewhere. 12 years ago up to 9 years ago we seen decent amounts of deer while hunting. But since that time the deer have proven to be way smarter than humans. They will come out right after dark every afternoon. The deer have been hunted so hard that they have taught the new baby deer to mostly move at night. It is very tough hunting in Wisconsin for me. I even hunted Walking Iron Park by lottery 2 times in the last 5 years. The deer are very timid to move much in the daylight hours. IDK how to fix this problem but I do know that there is plenty of deer moving at night. Maybe completely changing the season dates would be alot of help. My friends see tons of deer in the summer. And when the cold snaps come those deer are ghosts. IDK what to do but something needs to change. Only way we harvest most of the animals is by driving deer. If we did not do that the harvest numbers would be even lower. OR by chance deer driving is the main cause of nocturnal deer. Maybe deer drives should be outlawed. Just a few of my opinions. And also if you want your doe harvest numbers to come up to 11000 you need to make the doe tags easier to obtain. Heck you track the harvest area once a person calls in the animal harvest. why not make it easier on us to understand and to obtain doe tags. Thanks guys.

We live in one of the best counties in the State in one of the best States for wildlife and the outdoors. We all want to keep it that way. I believe their are plenty of deer in our county. The distribution is always disproportionate in some areas because of hunting pressure, habitat change, and crops planted. Having 3 or 4 free tags per license scares people into thinking everyone is going to shoot that many and no deer will be left. I think 1 free tag would be the best. It would put value on that tag and a belief that not every deer will be shot. So they would be more likely to shoot that deer. There are plenty of extra tags for purchase for only 12.00 each and 6.00 each if you are enrolled in DMAP if anyone wants to shoot more. Deer hunters are all about tradition and the seasons should be left the same for quite awhile so hunters can plan their time to hunt, vacations from work, ect. Please leave the antlerless holiday hunt. Hunters are finally getting used to it and planning for it. If you change it, it will only anger off more. CWD is here to stay for a long time. We need to test for it so hunters can decide if they want to eat it. Also the disposal dumpsters are an awesome thing as hunters who cut up their own meat do not have a proper disposal otherwise and may throw them in the wrong places.
Would the circus, aka CDAC, stop telling me I need to kill every deer in the woods! Take your 3 antlerless tags, take the bonus tags, take the holiday and extra hunts, and shove 'em. You recommend to decrease the deer herd? And you're hunters???? What drugs are you on, and where can I get some? I've never heard, in all my years one single hunter say...."i'd like to see less deer this year". Completely and utterly, delusional! Hunter's are seeing less and less deer in Sauk Co, I wonder why? We're being told to kill everything that moves, and there's a deer behind every tree. Such nonsense. CDAC's are suppose to be separate from the DNR, yet you go to a meeting and its all people who are in bed with the DNR, and your'e told your opinions mean nothing. Such a waste! Also, you can shove the earn a buck thought, the same place you can shove the other listed subjects in the first paragraph. What in the hell is wrong with you people? Hunters decided over a deccade ago that earn a buck is, was, and always will be, a disaster! Yet, its still on the plate. Shame on the DNR, shame on the Conservation Congress, and shame on the CDAC's. Each and every faction is an utter disgrace and a slap in the face to hunters across this state.

I'm an avid Bow & Gun hunter in Sauk County. I hunt several properties throughout the County and I'm in my tree stand several times throughout the week and every weekend. In watching the video, I have to 100% disagree with the findings that the deer heard is above par. Last year was by far the worst year I have experienced hunting with logging more days that I never seen a deer to the number of day I did. Make no mistake, the weather was phenomenal and the corn was in the fields the same amount of time it had been several years past. The only thing that has changed was the number of deer sightings. I thought this was just my bad luck, but when checking with several other hunters in and around the county, I was receiving the same report. If you want to do a real spot check, go on Facebook - Wisconsin Rut Report - You can ask your questions there as well. Think you will be actually surprised. I'm asking you to please talk to the actual people that put time in the stand, not a hunter that is a 1 - 3 time per year, weekend warrior. The deer heard is down around the Plain area and 20 miles surrounding the area in Sauk County. please regulate the number of additional tags given out. I've talked with several other Deer Hunters, (Archery and Gun), County wide. I als

In the Sauk County portion of the Southern Farmland unit. CWD continues to spread and this past summer/fall portions of the county had high numbers of EHD. These two diseases seemed to disproportionately affect/kill adult deer of the breeding age. This will decrease this year's fawn population as well as the number of adult deer that survive until fall. I have been hunting the same private property with the same hunters, same neighboring farm owners for over 35 years. At least in our area even though we are careful about how many deer we take, and using QDM techniques our numbers of mature bucks and doe have certainly fallen. I have noticed far more doe in the fall over the past 3 years that do not have fawns with them (early season archery) than I can ever remember. It is my opinion that the diseases are certainly taking a toll on the population and an increased number of tags in the area is NOT needed. I am most certainly not one of those hunters who complains if they don't see and/or have the opportunity to harvest a high number of deer. I realize that over population has it's own negative consequences to the flora/fauna of the area. That said, I believe our actual deer numbers in our area are down almost by 50% of what was even around just 10-15 years ago.

Ok now my opinion on this coming deer season should go as follow>>>>>>>>Everyone that has a deer license will have to shoot a antlerless deer before you can shoot a antlered deer. Once you have achieved this you can shoot antlered deer then. No matter what type of weapon used. If all you do is archery hunt then a antlerless deer must be shot first. I fully oppose having a only antlerless season. But a one antlerless per license holder would work better to lower the herd in general. Then do not offer any other antlerless tags then. And just for this year only until all the numbers come in. I said the same last year also. Remember when we had to shoot antlerless deer first with either license no matter what. So if you had both license, gun and archery, you had to shoot a antlerless first for a gun license and then one with the archery also. I am going to only shoot as many deer as I eat. Which is close to two a year for my wife and I. No matter how many antlerless deer tags you give me I will still only shoot as many deer we are going to eat. I like to hunt early in the season only because of the taste of the deer. Rut and cold weather change the taste of the deer.
Cdac is a joke and the spring hearing questionnaire is a bigger joke. You keep pushing for people to kill more deer, more doe seasons, extended seasons, bounty on deer and more doe tags. Face it 93% of Sauk county is private land. The more you try to push your agenda on us hunters the more we are going to push back and appose the changes you are trying to force on us hunters. We are sick of hearing all your malarkey. We want quality deer with mature bucks not less deer with a majority of bucks being 2 -1/2 years old or younger. We want 4-5 year old bucks with a healthy number of doe and fawns. We are tired of hearing about CWD also. You said it in the video. You are not testing sick deer because of money. That is all the Dnr is worried about is$$$$$. People are starting to really hate and not trust the dnr again because you don't listen. Case and point. CDAC voting a doe only season last year in Buffalo Co despite heavy opposition. Start taking our opinions seriously and being honest with us so we can work on trusting the DNR and CDAC. Until then you have and continue to create a us virus them mentality and we land owners will continue to oppose you.

Please do NOT back down on high quotas and aggressive antlerless harvest in Sauk County! We MUST reduce the population to control CWD. Anyone who argues otherwise is being completely shortsighted about our deer population and hunting traditions. Of the seven deer harvested this year on the property I hunt, four were positive. It was devastating to throw away that much hard‐earned, cleaned and wrapped meat, wasting that animal's life and our hard work. It was troubling, knowing we had to bleach all of our knives, cutting boards, work surfaces, and the tread of our boots in order to not contaminate our home or other areas of the state with prions. I applaud the Sauk CDAC for doing what they can to encourage antlerless harvest. I fully support the high quotas and extended seasons. While it is extreme, I would not be opposed to an antlerless-only season, since that is the only tool available for the CDAC to impose higher antlerless harvest. For my part, I will be out there hunting regardless, doing my best to reach these quotas. Please keep up the assertive measures and keep fighting for better tools to manage our disease-ridden deer herd.

I moved here to Sauk county from Iowa 2 years ago. I feel regulations and seasons in Sauk county at the moment are treading water. Neither great nor horrible. I feel that knee jerk reactions like changing regulations and seasons in response to declining hunter numbers is misguided and not in the best interests of Wisconsin’s deer herd. I understand that in the states eyes these decisions are based heavily on money and not always what’s best for the resource. In my opinion the truth of the matter is that the declining hunter numbers have much more to do with generational changes in us as humans and much less about the quality of our herd. Diehard hunters from the baby boomer generation are slowly being replaced by tech minded millennials that do not have the same patience, passion and interest for the outdoors. That is unfortunately the harsh reality of the direction we are headed as hunters. I feel spending time and money on programs to secure more public hunting land opportunities as well as mentor programs for youth and new hunters would be a much better use of resources to promote the growth of the sport.

As a land owner trying to reduce our numbers it is a challenge to get out group to shoot does. I think earn a buck is best. May do it for our group even if that is not decided. Ethical kill is also huge to us as we watch these deer all year long. Strongly disagree with shorter hunting season for crossbow and Vertical bow. Crossbow has been our best way to take adult does and get more involvement with our younger hunters. It is more difficult to get a clean shot at a doe after opening day of gun season. We have always limited our maximum shooting distance at 25 yards for any type of Bow. With tracking our group and other hunters we find the successful quick kill and recovery rate with a crossbow to be much more effective than vertical bow. We take very serious of doing our best of not wounding a deer that we can’t recover. I am concerned a longer gun season may hurt any of the few 9 day hunting traditions that may be left. We combine opening day and Thanksgiving week as a large gathering of family and friends. Not sure what the extended season will do to that? Thanks for reading my input.
These lies on deer populations in public lands have to stop and stop NOW!!!! I have been hunting the same area for 34 years and last year was unbelievable. During the 9 day regular hunt I seen 1 dang deer. I walked for miles did several deer drives and seen nothing and kicked up nothing. Now that the horrible dnr put wolves out around devils lake I’m sure we will never see deer again. We use to see 20 to 30 alone on opening weekend. Now if you see 2 or 3 it is a miracle. Also during the doe only hunt I seen zero deer and finally the last day of the holiday hunt I seen 2 deer. So out of about 15 days of hunting public land in sauk county I seen 3 deer. Deer hunting season must go back to a 9 day hunt only and 1 deer per tag. So many people have quit hunting because the numbers are lies. If this does not change you will continue to lose people hunting. THESE LIES MUST STOP !!! Let’s make hunting fun again. I know my opinion will not matter in your decision making but trust me, you will soon have zero people deer hunting if you do not stop lying about deer populations!!!!!!!!

I read in some of your input from members the importance of tradition in the Wisconsin deer hunt. I couldn’t agree more. In my opinion the single largest factor that has disrupted that tradition is the high level of hunting pressure during the archery season. When the crossbow season was first suggested the thought was to draw more hunters into the sport but if what I'm hearing is accurate just the opposite has occurred. Most of the new crossbow hunters are coming from the original traditional archery and rifle hunting ranks. With so many hunters having there freezers full of venison before the rifle season many of them are no longer hunting during the rifle season. The crossbow hunters have the highest success rate among all the deer hunting groups accounting for 42% of the buck kill. With that many buck taken prior to the gun season most of the remaining hunters are loosing interest. I can speak for myself by saying I no longer hunt with the rifle but choose to hunt the muzzleloader season when most of the dust has settled and the deer are not as nocturnal.

We hunt in White Mound County Park. Too much of the park is closed to hunting. This impacts hunter density and potential deer sightings and harvesting. Also, 2/7 deer harvested in last 3 years tested positive for CWD. We don’t eat meat form deer with CWD. Also feel public lands are becoming poorer and poorer habitat for all game animals. This is unfortunate and due to anti hunting/gun sentiment. Very disturbed I can’t get my son’s to see vary many deer and yet have so many killed and wasted by vehicles. VNA lands are a waste of money as they are poor hunting land. Would like to see more public land leased to farmers to plant on in order to provide better game habitat. Have been hunting this same park for 40 years. It has grown more restricted to hunting and become much less suitable habitat. I think the deer density studies and deer counts of public verses private land are drastically different with deer density much lower on public lands. I do not understand why you are having hunters deciding ahead of time for public or private land for antlerless tags.

Keep the seasons the way they r. Xbows do not hurt the hunting industry at all! Keep the week of Thanksgiving for gun season as usual. Get rid of all the extra seasons! If ppl r gonna hunt they hav plenty of time to kill a deer. Too many ppl "think" they know what is best for the industry!! CWD is here to stay. It will not b taken care of by humans. Mother nature rules for animals. Like i said, too many ppl "think" they know what is best for the animals! Ethical hunting is what matters. Ppl being scared to eat venison is what is hurting this industry! It has backfired on a group of ppl n not gonna change now! Nature takes care of its own, we r only here to help it by harvesting some. Leave xbow season alone. Cut back on all the extra hunts n tags. Raise non residential licenses/even a draw system would be nice to see! Ppl that quit gun season hav picked up a xbow. More enjoyable and nicer weather to hunt in! And this message goes for Richland county also! I hunt the border of the counties so it was pick one or the other!!
Over the past few years I’m concerned about the lack of participation in private land owners harvesting Antlerless Deer. This past seasons opening day I saw over 100 deer, of course mostly antler-less. Yet we have neighbors with much larger tracks of land that are still insistent on not harvesting anger-less deer. No matter how many tags are provided for free. I’m a huge supporter of earn a buck in Sauk county. When it was in place it seemed like the herd was in better check then now. But it never turns out to be an option. When we had earn a buck we saw a more stable population of deer in check and one of the by products was more mature bucks on the hoof. I certainly would limit the amount of buck tags be provided to a max. Of two per license. I strongly feel if you want to get the deer population in check this is the way to go vs. giving away free antler-less tags. There are still land owners I have heard of that have antlerless tag burning parties. Let’s get real and bring back earn a buck.

I would like to see a longer season whether it be the regular rifle season or an extended muzzleloader season. I have heard some talk about earn a buck and I strongly oppose that. My reason for this is I live for deer hunting and I do not feel the need to shoot two deer Just so I can shoot a buck. For this I think the idea of earn a buck is very useless to single families if the Hunter enjoys going out and hunting a big buck. I practice quality deer management and do not shoot anything other than respectable animals. Please take these recommendations too hard for both myself and fellow hunters that live for the Wisconsin deer hunter just so I can shoot a buck. For this I think the idea of earn a buck is very useless to single families if the Hunter enjoys going out and hunting a big buck. I practice quality deer management and do not shoot anything other than respectable animals. Please take these recommendations too hard for both myself and fellow hunters that live for the Wisconsin deer hunt.

I'm seeing a lot of deer daily during the 2020 youth, 1st, and 2nd spring turkey seasons. With that said we have more deer then I had suspected. However, history shows us that you can give out as many free antlerless permits as you want, but people, as well as me don’t have an interest in harvesting more deer then our families can eat. I target 3 deer per year for my wife and me. A buck during the bow/crossbow season and a buck during the rifle or muzzle loader season. If I choose not to take a doe during the bow season then I will during the gun/muzzle loader season. My opinion, keep the deer seasons as they are. Don’t get suckered into those complaining about people hunting during the rut timeframe with crossbows. Keep politics and private interest groups out of controlling the deer herd size. Let people continue to choose whatever weapon they feel most comfortable with to harvest a doe or buck. It's the arguing between hunters and your organization that's hurting our WI deer hunting.

Like many areas Sauk County is all about the haves and the have nots. It’s a lot like fishing 10% of the water holds 90% of the fish. The same can be applied to deer to some extent. There is no cookie cutter answer to how antlerless tags should be distributed. Some areas need unlimited tags while some areas it’s hard to fill one tag. It’s hard to complain about actually seeing deer it wasn’t always that way ask some of the older generations. There needs to be more motivation to harvest antlerless deer even then some still won’t do it. Possibly give people a extra buck tag for the following or current year if they harvest 10 anterless in one season bow/crossbow and or gun. Or a bounty on cwd positive deer. Make it easier to donate venison to food pantries, people in need, etc. Don’t pit hunter against hunter, each hunter should have equal opportunity and freedom to use their weapon of choice during each season(obviously no guns during bow/crossbow season). United we stand divided we fall.

Last year I saw half as many deer as I saw the year before. I am an avid bow and gun hunter. I totaled over 50 hours in a tree stand during the 9 day gun season. And 100s of hours during the bow season. I hunt privat land west of Baraboo in the bluffs. I still had a good season. I shot nice bucks with both gun and bow. And shot a doe in the holiday hunt. But most of the hunters I know said they had horrible years. So I was apparently an exception to the rule this year. I believe your estimates for the deer herd are high. And I believe your target numbers are unrealistic. Sauk county is a big area. Deer populations are different for different parts of the county. Deer population and management should be different in the hills of Baraboo vs the river bottoms of spring green. I believe the county should be further broke down into smaller geographical areas for better management of the land and the deer.
I think you really need to look at other states like Iowa. Please stop treating the deer like rats and more like sporting animals. I would even support a 1 buck 2 doe limit with any weapon. Things need to be simpler with less slaughter also consider a split gun season that’s 3-4 days each. Our gun season is a joke too long and hardly anyone hunts after opening weekend. Start like the 15th of Nov for 4 days and 3 or 4 day break then again for 4 days. Increase out of state license to at least $200. Make them jokers pay to play just like we do when we go there. 2010-12 was the best deer hunting I’ll ever see the path we’re going we might have one decent buck go hunt every year unlike the 10-20 we had back then. That was with earn a buck too which I’m not opposed to. Please consider changing the seasons a lot or your going to lose hunters and I’m not talking making gun season longer.

I have hunted deer in Wisconsin for 42 years with archery and firearms, I have hunted public and private land with the emphasis on public land. It has been my experience to witness that the early youth and doe only hunts have changed deer patterns to nocturnal feeding immensely, I can back this by anecdotal evidence of trail cam pics. I feel that we have fractured our hunting community with too many seasons and have diminished the other small game hunts during those seasons. If all hunters were to hunt deer during the 9 day general season, participation would be much higher and more deer would be moving because of the pressure and increase harvest as a result. To many seasons keep screwing up our archery and small game hunts and if it continues I will be ending my deer hunting altogether because of a lack of sightings and harvest, on average I hunt 45-60 days per year for all species.

Holiday hunt years ago allowed antlered and antlerless to be harvested. I sent a letter when that was changed, as this time gives a better opportunity for harvest success than the regular 9 day hunt for parents and their children over the Xmas school holiday. When it was changed to antlerless only, we along with all of my family in the area stopped hunting this time. I was told in a phone conversation with someone who called to answer my letter that the out of state hunter complaints were a main factor in changing the holiday hunt to antlerless. We would continue to archery hunt at this time if antlered harvest was allowed, as there are already enough antlerless only hunts that interfere with archery. With COVID-19 in the front of everyone’s thoughts I feel that the focus should shift away from catering to out of state license purchasers and more to the local hunters.

Setting harvest goals is very difficult given the diverse reasons for hunting and the type of deer and individual hunter prefers to harvest. Also, potential solutions for decreasing the herd size are difficult to implement because: 1) aging hunter population, 2) dressing a deer is a lot of work, 3) having sausage made is expensive, and 4) small game hunters don’t want the woods crawling with deer hunters. As a result, extending the gun season, offering more bonus permits even if free, earn a buck and other solutions are moot to the tradition bound older hunter who wants a hassle free hunting experience at a reasonable cost. In terms of questionnaire design, it would be beneficial if you would ask respondents WHY they gave a certain rating to a few of the most critical questions. Thanks for offering the public the opportunity to provide feedback.

If your goal is to take more deer, I have several suggestions. A. They seem to be moving towards the edge of town, and protected areas. 1. Allow controlled bow hunts in "edge of town" areas. The state and county parks should have areas open to bow hunters, maybe limited, maybe all season. B. The staggered seasons frustrate many hunters. 1. Sometimes the weather is terrible during the short hunts. Either extend the 9-day hunt, or have the whole month of December. C. CWD has scared off many hunters. 1. Since many do not hunt any more, you must allow those who hunt to hunt more, and take more deer. The earn a buck was a bad idea, and still is a bad idea. Yes, there are "buck hunters", so what! If you allow the choice, (as you have been) we are more likely to spend more time in the woods.
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<td>8480</td>
<td>I believe the &quot;earn a buck&quot; system would work rather well if applied to the bow/crossbow seasons. Most of the bow/crossbow hunters I know, myself included, are motivated during the bow season by getting that trophy buck. I know alot of hunters that put in countless hours pursuing the trophy buck and passing up many antlerless deer in the process. Keep the gun season the same because this seems to be the hunting tourist draw, as well as the family tradition we all enjoy and it would be best to avoid deterring these hunters. In addition to the earlier suggestion, maybe a &quot;bounty&quot; would also help drive higher harvest numbers. Harvested deer could provide a cash bounty or maybe credits to next year's hunting license. Finally, provide more outlets for donating a harvested animal, whether it be to individuals, food banks, or other purposes.</td>
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<td>8481</td>
<td>I feel that the gun season is plenty long and should not be extended. I feel Non Resident license fees are way too low. They are One of the lowest in the county. I feel the later doe only seasons hurt herd numbers. Especially after the rut when the Doe have been breed. I could understand one doe only season but two of them in December is just too much. I think too many doe tags are given out but I also think during the gun season there are just TOO MANY HUNTERS... It starting to feel very crowded so #1 raise the non resident license!! 2, limit it to one doe only season.. The doe only season right after muzzleloader limits bow hunters who still have a buck tag and that can be a great time to be bow hunting.. I would understand a holiday hunt b it’s around the holidays and then you still have 1 of the 2 doe only seasons..</td>
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<td>8482</td>
<td>First off, thank you all for volunteering and doing a great job here in Sauk County. I think there was less deer this year. Although I felt it made the hunting (for bucks) better! I personally had much more exciting hunting season. It was the best hunting for nice bucks since we had the earn a buck. As much as hunters hate to admit it, those were some of the best hunting seasons I remember. I’d like to see us keeping simple, traditional looking seasons (including the antlerless only late hunts) and try to recruit more hunters to get afield. Rebuild the culture and holiday of deer season lost during the CWD pandemonium (the overreaction to the disease mixed with constantly changing laws/seasons). With more, willing hunters, we will have a better ability to manage the herd effectively. Keep up the good work!</td>
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<td>8483</td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment. With that being said, CWD is a very real concern to me. Not only from a consumption stand point but also for my passion for this amazing resource that we’re tasked with managing and responsible for protecting. I ask you to please take this disease seriously if not for yourselves but for future generations. I also want to thank you for once again offering the holiday hunt and the extended archery/crossbow season. I'm very appreciative of this season as its a great time to hunt with friends and family. This additional opportunity also allows those weren't previously successful and those who want to harvest more deer the opportunity to do so. With that being said, I fully support and thank you for preliminary recommending the holiday hunt and the extended archery season.</td>
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<td>8484</td>
<td>Shouldn’t the dnr be acting more aggressively to curb the spread of CWD? I appreciate all he efforts on testing, but now that we see the numbers spiking, we need to act aggressively. Why shouldn’t we be issuing extra, free, out of season permits to landowners, especially Amish landowners? Has the DNR considered a larger DNR-led culling effort? We’re headed to a crisis where even less people want to hunt as the cwd scare impact is affecting people’s demand for venison... Last year you guys tried issuing tons of free permits but that didn’t do anything to control the population... why not a One-off warm season hunt to put a dent in the population. The holiday hunt is a good idea but it’s so close to the regular season that turnout will be weak...</td>
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<td>8485</td>
<td>With a group of 10-16 Louisiana hunters we enjoyed public land bow hunting the great state of Wisconsin the past 5 years. For 4 years we had a 70-80% harvest rate amongst our group. Season 2018 it dropped to a 30% success rate amongst our group because the number of deer sightings and mature bucks seen per hunt dropped terribly! Last season we regrettably made our yearly hunt In Illinois. The reward was good but we have come to love Wisconsin and putting our money into the economy there but we also have a goal of harvesting mature whitetail in mind. I hope y’all can get the numbers back to where they need to be without the influence of politics affecting the herds. I would assume a loss in out of state hunters would affect the local economy.</td>
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Decreasing the deer population involves heightening the interest of and number of hunters. The addition of crossbow has increased the number of hunters during bow season and the number of kills during the bow season. It gives hunters who cannot otherwise hunt with a regular bow the ability to hunt during the rut, thereby decreasing the population and increasing the interest in hunting. Hunting during the rut when deer activity is at a maximum not only spikes interest in hunting but also offers more chance of a successful hunt. Therefore, I believe it's in our best interest, if the objective is to decrease the herd, to allow crossbow hunting during October, through November and beyond, through the end of January.

Please provide graph identifying number of tags issues, E.g. -bow -crossbow -gun Be interesting to see how license sales are changing along with secondary comparisons between license sales and harvest numbers. Simplify seasons. -Combine Archery. Freedom for individual to choose. Don't differentiate. I use a compound, however why not let more people into the sport all season with their choice. -Gun. Leave at 9 day. Going early annually, as your graph indicates, increases antler harvest. Year over year this will further impact heath of herds sex ratio. Longer season will have minimal impact either as many only hunt opening weekend. Minimal hunt second weekend. How would a third weekend help? :)

I keep seeing less and less hunters in the woods, most are out by 11 am Saturday. Main reason, not seeing deer, not willing to shoot does for it might be tested with CWD and dont want to waste money on processing. If this area would go back to earn a buck most will not go out. It destroyed our hunting area. It went from a area where I saw maybe 15-20 deer opening weekend to 0 this year. I am ready to not hunt this area anymore. I rifle hunt this area mostly and that is because I still hunt with old timers. But when they are gone I will probably only hunt the Polk county. There are still some nice deer down here but private land, lack of hunters and deer make it tough.

Since I don't have statistics on the success of predators on the deer population, nor on the amount of crop of vegetative damage deer are causing... I made the suggestions I did. I support increasing the quantity of antler-less deer permits for Sauk County. The information you provided said the DNR's goal was 11,000 antler-less deer per season. The total amount you listed as available was about 4,700. That's a difference of over 6,000. I know we have fewer big game predators in Sauk County than up north. I assume this would partly account for the amount of crop and vegetation damage in the County? Thank you for asking for our input...

The CDAC for Sauk Co. has a challenge because the deer population around the county varies greatly. There are pockets of very high deer populations and then the rest of the county. I own and manage over 200 acres for deer hunting in Dellona township. I have many neighbors that I collaborate with. From monitoring trail cams, shining deer, and many hours bow hunting we believe that there is no way there are too many deer in Dellona Township. The doe population in our area still has not recovered from the earn a buck era. Until I start seeing more deer and especially more does than bucks we will refuse to shoot does. Thank you.

I sincerely believe eliminating the Holiday hunt will INCREASE the overall antlerless kill. To me, the holiday hunt is a "back up" option so guys will not shoot does during the 9 day season because they don't want to screw their hunt up for a buck. Then once the holiday hunt rolls around these people would rather spend time with their families or if the weather conditions are too cold or unfavorable they opt to not go hunting. The holiday hunt antlerless kill makes up a tiny portion of the overall antlerless kill. If you want more does shot then eliminate it and force people to harvest does during the 9 day...thank you.

The issue isn't to kill rate or people not applying to hunt, the main issue is people don't know how to hunt. Bow hunting is different in the sense scent and remaining quiet/still is imperative. I bow hunt on public land and see a lot of deer but gun hunting is a 180 because the hunters walk around, talk, smoke, gather in groups and stay in the woods for 3-4 hours and then go back to their vehicles. You can't kill deer or you're constantly making them aware you're their. That's the main issue and it's hard to portray that when it's hard for a collective group to abide by the common hunting practices.
There are too many seasons that extend for too many months. The deer wise up in a hurry and become nocturnal. Also, with hunters spreading out their time across nearly 5 months, there is no time when hunting pressure helps keep the deer moving anymore. This makes it an early or late proposition, rendering much of the day useless. Therefore, I do not support the extended seasons, even though I love to deer hunt and spend time in the woods. Also, you have seen the proof that hunters will only harvest so many deer. The number of tags per hunter that you issue will not increase the harvest.

Goals need to be adjusted or some other type of compensating measure needs to be put into place to account for deer that are harvested but not being registered thanks to the idiotic new system of no longer tagging or registering deer in person. It is my belief, as well as that of nearly everyone I’ve talked to that that alone accounts for the recent declines in annual deer harvest. If the CDACs and DNR were serious about actually managing the deer herd, they would reinstate these tagging and in person registration practices, which would also benefit the local economies.

I’ve heard lots about cutting crossbow season down shorter and people flipping out about crossbows but people don’t realize us people who gun hunt simply like to hunt earlier in the fall when it’s not freezing and we see more deer due to the rut. Not to mention it’s so much safer when you don’t have idiots shooting rounds all over trying to hit a deer. If I could chose to shoot during bow season vs gun 100% I would but if it closes crossbow season to people like me I have not just me and my wife that would quit but 10-15 of our friends would too.

I urge you to consider doing away with the Holiday Hunt. For a lot of people that do not fill a tag, this is their last remaining time off of work before the season ends. I, personally, have not participated in years past because I refused to shoot an extra antlerless deer. I would have gladly been in the field if a buck was an option, which would have helped your total harvest number. Either my daughter or myself have had unfilled buck tags each of the last two years with that entire week off of work and school and did not hunt 1 minute.

I would like to see there be an opportunity to earn more than one buck tag for archery. I have severely decreased my time spent hunting because I only have 1 buck tag available. My mindset is more so I don’t want to waste my one opportunity on a deer rather than I need to harvest 2 bucks. If I knew there was at least an option to get a second buck tag I would be much more open to using public land around my home or harvesting a buck in Sauk county. Since there is only one tag the stars have to align for me to use it.

The more different hunts offered seem to decrease the amount of deer hunters interested in participating in any hunts. I believe WIS DNR needs to promote the 9 day gun season to make it the most important season for all Wis. hunters. Adding all these other hunting seasons only muddy the waters for hunters and turns their interests off. I believe that the more structured time frames for deer hunts to increase the amount of people hunting. Archery, gun, and muzzle loader. Make it easy, instead of 10 different seasons.

longer seasons, start bow and muzzleloader earlier than 9 day gun season and run it later in the year after the gun season. the 9 day gun season is not the holy grail and the earth does not revolve around it. consider shotgun only, too many slob hunters with high powered rifles. Need to reduce the deer population drastically in order to avoid CWD. If CWD continues to spread an entire generation of hunter will be lost and the hunting enterprise and experience is dead. this is a matter of science, not politics
8501 This year I saw a lot of deer, it’s just unreal how many I can see in the fields at dusk...I can only imagine the accidents caused by the overwhelming population of deer. This is serious, and we need to help others, by bringing back Earn A Buck. We have many people privately raising deer without a fence. QDMA is part of the issue on private lands, raising trophy deer. Hence many have lost the path of the harvesting of does. Earn A Buck will force hunters to take that doe first approach, and they will...thanks.

8502 Thank you to the CDAC for taking all steps possible (all except going totally antlerless) to meet the goal to decrease the deer numbers in Sauk County. I agree that the deer population needs to be reduced through most of the county, and DRASTICALLY reduced in many specific areas (most the southwest portion of the county). The only change I would love to see is for the state to give CDAC's the option for reinstate the earn a buck option. I also voted for that change during the spring hearing comment period.

8503 In reading through the 3 year plan for my DMU I saw where you were trying to decrease deer population. Well congratulations because you are certainly achieving what you set out to do. I am seeing less deer every year in my area, and it’s getting to the point where I have to consider if it is even worth my while to buy a license anymore. I also saw where it was a consideration to go antlerless for the season. In my opinion this would be crippling to the already falling numbers, as well as the hunter morale.

8504 Against crossbows for everyone, it’s just as good as hunting with a rifle. I hear some hunters going just for the kill and not the meat, they just want to fill these tags. I saw 0 deer in 4 days of hunting. It’s been that way for the last 6-7 years. This area for hunting is in the Baraboo bluffs where I would see 20 to 25 deer in same amount of hunting time. Hunting has become very lousy! Considering not buying anymore licenses and quit hunting. I’ve heard other hunters thinking about doing the same.

8505 The problem with hunting and fishing is to many hunters are hunting/fishing for the wrong reasons. It should be about getting out and enjoying the outdoors. Using ethical standards for harvesting your game. Most hunters want to shoot the biggest animal or catch the record fish. It’s all about ego. It’s difficult to find land to hunt on because of trophy hunting. Who gives a crap about the size of the deer or fish, not I? Make hunting fun again and plan it like it use to be and leave the politics out.

8506 I believe there are way too many hunting seasons. I feel that most hunters get the idea there's no hurry about getting deer because there are so many seasons and don't get out and hunt like we use to. I get tired of going out so many different times and believe we would have a better chance of being successful if it would go back to the traditional 9 day hunt and then everyone gets out there. It's nothing to not hear many shots, even on the first day because the fun of getting together is gone.

8507 I have been hunting for over 40 years and we need to get hunters safety classes easier to find. Mentoring is great but still need proper safety. Saying any age can hunt is wrong. If they or old enough to pass hunters safety class they can hunt. I gun and crossbow hunt. My family does a lot of bow hunting. Holiday hunts mess with there hunting some years. Last year weather was bad. I was out in the cold and rain but did not see any deer. I am hopping the weather is better this year for me to hunt.

8508 The extended seasons, holiday hunts and over the top dnr’s plight against cwd has made most elderly hunters to quit. Keep lower the number and the younger generation will quit too. The traditional 9 day season has been ruined forever by early and late seasons. Those 9 days were always to most a holiday of outdoorsman to gather. It’s gone! As an avid outdoorsman of all winter sports following hunting season, it’s a joke to cut our snowmobile season shorter to extend a failed deer harvest.

8509 The land I hunt borders devils lake state park and I also hunt inside the park. I have been trying to get my wife and kids into hunting but when you go 3 or 4 days to see a deer gets to be frustrating. We see more coyotes than deer. A margin of 3 to 1. The deer population is so low that there are barely any hunters at the state park. Little to no out of state hunters. Burma’ rd and hwy DL used to be packed with hunters but like anything else the deer are gone and so is the hunter now.
I support your decision to hold a holiday hunt and to extend the bow season. We need to continue to provide opportunities to hunters. Myself as well as other people I know, do not enjoy hunting on public land due to overcrowding during the 9-day, its intimidating especially when you're a new hunter like myself and you are learning to hunt. Even though I might not harvest the best animal on the land, it still provides me an opportunity to learn without a bunch of people around.

I hunt with cross bow and rifle. I shoot antlerless deer with cross bow and rifle. I want to use my cross bow up to start of gun deer season at a minimum. If I don't kill enough deer by the end of traditional rifle season, I would hunt the holiday hunt with my rifle. I strongly oppose any rules that would limit my cross bow use. I am 61 years old. I know some hunters do not like to shoot antlerless deer. I have no problem at all shooting antlerless deer.

The number of deer seems to be increasing dramatically, I've been seeing a lot of twin fawns the last couple years and the winters have been mild. I see a lot of browsing on young pines that I planted that have been left alone in the past. It's not unusual driving in the afternoon to see ten to forty deer in single field. I would recommend an earlier start to the rifle season while the weather is nicer including the entire rut.

The deer I had seen were healthy, also with fawns. I disagree with the fact that others will shoot does with fawns. I believe the wasting problem is real but the cause not being from poyons but fawns starving from an underdeveloped digestive tract, solely from not being properly weaned. I also feel the digestive problems then are passed to the next generation of animals. Not being able to properly digest food just the same.

EHD hit regions of SW WI last summer/fall. The chances it does again are probably pretty good. EHD can and does hit a herd hard. There were numerous deer found dead in my area in late Sept/early Oct. With all of the other mortality factors, we need to keep the herd similar in numbers to its current state. A hard winter or another hit of EHD could dramatically decrease numbers. We don't need extra hunts or tags to do that.

We have a ton of deer in northern Sauk county. Way to many. Please consider leaving the 9 day gun season and offering an earn a buck to hunters after the initial buck authorization is filled. Let hunters harvest bucks in the holiday hunt off the earn a buck system. I believe this would keep more hunters in the woods and we could possibly get to the antlerless kill that is needed to maintain a healthy deer herd.

Get rid of the youth hunts, I didn't need a special hunt to get interested in the outdoors when I was growing up. Get rid of your muzzle loading season, Get rid of all your extra hunting seasons like holiday hunts And so On. There's too much hunting pressure all the time. Just bow Hunt, gun hunt and get out of the woods. You'll get higher harvests in the long run. One buck, one doe for each season, Period!!!!

I would also like to see a bounty for harvesting a CWD deer (have it similar to the license cost) rather than getting a license refund for next year. I believe that this will improve testing participation and public awareness of how prevalent it is in their backyard as it will be a "cash" incentive. Getting everyone to participate with CWD and understand what it is doing to our herd should be a priority.
Rifle season should be only the youth season and a 9 day traditional. I feel all these seasons are making people lazy thinking they have lot of chances to get a deer. They end up not hunting and not getting a deer. All the extra seasons make it difficult to pursue other game animals and trap the predators. In my area of Sauk County we don’t have the deer population that central and southern Sauk County does.

There is a very significant decrease in the number of deer that we see during hunting and non-hunting season. Wisconsin had been known for its very good white tailed deer hunting but this changed. The change occurred when hunting opened up on state parks and conservancy land. This policy should be reconsidered and I feel strongly should be discontinued. Several of my neighbors feel the same way.

I think we have over hunted the deer for years and we don’t see the number of deer that we used to when I was growing up. Maybe we should increase the out of state license to what neighboring states charge us. As you increase the fees for local hunters we are saying why do it. Increase park fees also. Hunters and fisherman have been paying the load for everyone for to long. Thanks for your time.

The holiday hunt should allow hunters to shoot bucks. This would increase participation and number of deer shot. Crossbow hunting should be permanently adopted it expands participation to keep our hunting traditions strong. Gone are the days of large hunting camps for deer hunting - let’s stop retrying to recreate the past and create a future that meets how people want to live and hunt today.

Please remove the holiday hunt and any additional antlerless only hunts. Maintain the traditional 9 day gun hunt. Holiday hunt in my opinion does not have that much participation. Most serious hunters at that time are bow hunters. Between the 9 day and muzzleloader season I feel that time is sufficient. Also I would not be opposed to a earn a buck season again but should be voted on yearly.

It seems that the unharvested farm fields (due to flooding) in Southwest Sauk (and likely much of the region, had a great affect on deer harvest. It would be good to know if this is statistically true. Anecdotally, it seemed like with corn up until December, deer where not in the woods. This might lead to less hunting deer kills, as well as higher winter survival. Just a thought.

I bow hunt and saw three deer one buck and two does. Rifle season I saw nothing. I hunt every day during rifle season and take a week off during the rut. Ten years ago I saw twenty one deer and the last three years I average seeing three deer. You need to stop the doe only hunts. Leave the nine day hunting season alone. Let archery and crossbow alone for us disabled veterans.

I believe with the COVID-19 related grocery store issues hunters will fill more antlerless permits issued compared to prior years. That is why I would recommend lowering the number of antlerless permits per license to 1 or 2 per license. In the past many hunters didn’t try to fill all their antlerless permits. This year I believe hunters will try to fill all permits issued.

I hunted the driftless area between Plain and Spring Green and saw greatly reduced numbers of deer while at the same time I observed healthier deer populations than I have seen in some time on the Baraboo bluffs. Your questions don’t allow you to specify which areas of the county when asking about the number of deer observed. Thought consider for future questionnaires.

Over the past 4 years have seen drastic reduction in does and no bucks past year. seen in woods. Where we stay 15 other hunters hunting in the area all within 30 miles of each only 1 buck 1 doe taken. 90% reduction in deer seen your plan and numbers dont match what is seen in the woods by avid experienced hunters. You are destroying this county like others before.

I commend the CDAC members for their comprehensive work to structure our deer hunting seasons for maximum enjoyment for hunters and maximum benefit to the deer. If the number of deer that you would like to see harvested in Sauk County continue to end up below your target, I would support earn-a-buck in the future. Thanks again for your work and dedication.
Hunting in this county for many years is has become clear that regulations need to be different for public land vs private land. Your goal was to decrease deer population and all that did was decimate the public land herd and still allow the private lands to manage their large parcels of land. You can have the same regulations on public vs private.

I think Sauk county has a good stable population even with increasing cwd issues. Certainly there are pockets with fewer deer but that's always been the case. If cwd prevalence gets much higher we will certainly see a decrease in the overall population and will have to make adjustments to what we harvest to keep the herd at a sustainable population.

Go back to one buck, one doe per seasonal tag. That’s it. Adding extra hunts and messing with the days and traditions is impacting the enjoyment for everyone. To include youth hunts. Eliminate the youth hunts!! Seasons should be: Sept-Dec31/Arcery November/ traditional 9 day season followed by the traditional muzzle loading season. KEEP IT SIMPLE!

Youth hunt should be abolished - hunters grew up hunting the nine day - should sugar coat hunting for the young. If they can't handle the cold - stay home. I have 3 Grandkids all hunt the 9 day and not one wimpers about it. All that season does is screw up bow hunting and disrupts the deer habits. Holiday hunt have it both sexes or don't have it.

Go back to the way it was 20 years ago. Have a nine day season where everyone is in the woods for the same week. You can have a youth hunt earlier in the fall and I would be in favor of having the muzzle loader season prior to the gun season. Other than that make the season like it used to be, nine days and no antlerless seasons before or after.

I think the rifle hunt was more of tradition more peopole were out and pushed to get a deer and the bars would register them and gas stations people would be proud to show of there trophies I think most of the good times and traditions are gone seasons way to long to many seasons getting to were it’s like a chore and not so much fun anymore

We are attempting to regenerate an oak-dominated forest stand on our land near Plain. We planted 2,000 red oak young trees two years ago. We are seeing very few of our planted trees that are escaping the browsing pressure. We also regularly harvest CWD+ deer on our land. We do not wish to see the increasing prevalence rates continue.

I was told by a DNR warden that the Sauk County deer herd is "property of DNR". Having heard him say that, I wonder why the CDAC is considering input from the general population on the matter of Wisconsin's deer herd? Last I checked and the way my believes lead me, the deer herd is Mother Nature. The human race does not own Mother nature.

The % increase of CWD since 2002 has been disturbing, and simply limiting the population only would slow the inevitable. We need to start looking at alternative solutions. Attached is a below article that looks at some interesting ideas for solving the issue. https://www.mossyoak.com/our-obsession/blogs/deer/a-cure-for-cwd

Changes are being asked for due to the reduced harvest last year and what appeared to be a lower deer population. Get outdoors and take a look. I am seeing more deer this year than I have ever seen. I am willing to bet the deer population is close to an all time high for this county and several other countries I travel in.

Propose doing a antlerless only weekend hunt in October along with a earn a buck for the regular gun deer season. Also propose opening the nine day gun season earlier, so that the cold weather does not play a part in the harvest numbers. alsoo, suggest not restricting the crossbow season due to the popularity of the weopon.

If there is a holiday hunt, I believe hunters should be able to harvest bucks with unused tags. I think having the extended late archery season is good, but don't think it should go until the end of January. The deer need a break from hunters, with all the predators. Maybe consider closing somewhere around January 20th.
We have seen a huge growth in sick and dead deer. There is also a huge uptick in hunters deciding not to harvest deer due to the CWD issue. There needs to be a program for 100% testing and payment to hunters who harvest CWD infected deer in order to decrease the population. Otherwise the hunting tradition in WI will die.

Too many deer being taken. Didn't see a deer for the first time in 11 yrs and hunted 5 days. GAVE up. Too many hikers walking and talking, yelling etc. This used to be a lot of fun and have lost family support in wanting to continue to keep hunting in Devils Lake state park area. IT's a joke now for hunting.

In my opinion most ethical hunters will not harvest more deer than what they can consume. If you want more deer harvested you need to create a demand for the meat such as a food pantry and pay for the processing of the meat. If hunters know that they can help feed hungry people they will harvest another deer or 2.

I'm 60 years old, I’m concerned you will limit the crossbow season. Due to my job, I can no longer hold a bow at full draw for any extended time. I would also like to go back to in person registration, I believe the online system is a invitation to poach. Plus, spotty internet service is a concern in some areas.

The additional CWD kiosks and deer dumpster availability is a benefit, helping us quickly get a deer sent if for testing. And, once we find out if a deer was CWD positive, have a safe solution for disposing the deer. Very much appreciate the DNR and the groups or individuals that sponsor the kiosks and dumpsters.

Keep messing with the hunting season and you will see a decline in hunting. More opportunity to hunt does not mean more pressure of moving dear it will actually decrease the movement because now you have people spread over a larger time. Dear went knock ternal last year from the excessive pressure from hunting.

If holiday hunt is implemented which supports the majority want more deer harvested consider allowing unused gun buck tags to be utilized during the holiday hunt, the added opportunity to harvest a buck will most certainly draw more hunters into the woods which in turn will result in greater harvest numbers.

I think earn a buck would be great to have again. when that was implemented i saw a lot more bucks and also bigger bucks. it seems like no one is shooting doe’s and only killing bucks (me included). the buck to doe population seems way out of wack and this strategy seemed to work back when it was implemented.

Bring back Earn a buck for RIFLE only. RIFLE ONLY. Archery hunting is not a means to control population. And then on top of this, if you want more deer shot let the hunters know that to get a 2021 archery buck tag that you need to harvest a doe in 2020 or 2021 before you get a 2021 buck tag for archery.

We need to get rid of all these special seasons. There should be the archery season and the nine day rifle season. Antarless tags are no good until Thanksgiving day. We need to keep more hunters in the woods which will keep the deer moving, which in turn will increase the success rate. No pressure = no deer.

Re-establish the earn-a-buck framework and your population problems will be less...require two antlerless deer to get a buck tag in year one and then one antlerless deer in year two; and then analyze population and goals. My friend shot a doe in late January and it had two fetuses in it. That we don't want.

Should offer free hunter safety courses to encourage more young people to hunt and learn how to do so, safely. Need to advertise the public hunting areas more extensively. Many times, people do not know the boundaries between public and private because they are not well marked or made known.

The deer population has been taking a hit for several years in this unit, increased hunter tags, predators on the increase (especially bobcats), and this last year certain areas of the unit took a significant hit with Blue tongue. The season doesn’t need to be extended or bonus tags issued.

I don’t think there are enough hunters pushing deer during the season. Because of the private lands surrounding our private land we only tend to see deer on opening morning, then they don’t come back through during daylight the rest of the season, they lay low on Unoccupied property.
Stop bow hunting from the second week in Oct to the end of gun season. No early hunt or holiday hunt. Get rid of 3yr olds to have licenses for extra tags for the bow and gun hunter. Allow disabled hunters to hunt in Oct gun only in any area for 9 days. Not isolate it to just farm.

Deer numbers in this unit have been way to high for many many years!! You can give all the free doe tags you want. Filling those tags is the real problem. The only change I saw in deer populations was during the earn a buck years. This is only way to decrease the population.

I would like to see the Public/Private division of hunting removed. We should not have to make that decision within the county. As opportunity presents itself, we should not be limited. I also support earn a buck. It reduces herd, and gets folks out working the woods.

Over harvest or low deer numbers in my area are creating less opportunities for hunters, especially young hunters. The local economy is hurt through no in person registration and the traditional gun season that is suffering from low deer numbers, which is less hunters.

Keep the crossbow and bow seasons in conjunction with one another as in the past. Leave the deer gun season as is. And, if the deer harvest objective is not met, hold a 4 day antler less hunt in early December for all legal weapons. Thanks for this input opportunity.

The coyote population in my area is out of control. My land is in Sauk County between Baraboo and Reedsburg. The deer fawn population is taking a major hit by these predator's; Furthermore, my neighbors fear for the lives of their pet's and livestock.

The 24 hour window to register deer was difficult when you're hunting in quartzite valleys with no cell signal. Please define "Recover Deer Harvest" as leaving the woods or field and allow us to stay at camp with tagged deer hanging until camp is over.

Farm land owners need more time to gun harvest a buck, without purchasing a muzzleloader gun, crossbow etc. maybe use slugs instead of muzzleloader. Don't make it to hard to find time in a narrow window to hunt. Land owners do care about the future!

Our family farm is a prime 230 acre piece in the heart of deer country. I have no idea where you think all these deer are. We are really close to the lowest amount of deer we have ever had on our farm. Thanks for your consideration.

There are more deer than the county should have and the committee members do a good job of recognizing the abundant herd and providing abundant opportunity. Thanks you for your dedication and for doing a job that few people want to do.

I don't see as many deer as many years ago. Would like to see more out it's harder to hunt year after year. People shoot from babies to adults they don't care. They just want to fill all tags. For all parties in the group its rediculas.

I am a patron license holder. If this went to an antlerless hunt or had any idea it was I would not have bought the license. I think if it goes to a more antlerless format less private land will be available to hunt by non owners.

There are too many deer in this area, and the state in general. There should be an open season on them to significantly decrease the size of the herds. The young trees and the forests are threatened by persistent browsing.

Sauk county deer habitat varies greatly and is managed the same. This is wrong! Hunting the northern portion of the county is vastly different than the more heavily framed southern areas. PLEASE go back to 54,54b, etc....

I would like to see a change allowing hunters the option to use a gun buck tag during bow season if they tag a buck with their bow. This will help keep hunters hunting during bow season. Also, shorten the crossbow season.

in the past 10 years I have heard less and less shooting opening morning - might it be that so much land has been bought by people that do not allow hunting on their properties or might it be just less hunters period...
Stop trying to kill all the deer in Sauk county. I saw very few deer last year. You need to have a normal bow/crossbow season and a normal 9 day rifle hunt and don't have a holiday hunt or antlerless hunt in October.

Please secure funding for and implement better tracking, containment and elimination of CWD in southern WI. This is the most serious ecological issue facing the state and I don't see much urgency or action around it.

Please consider earn a buck as an option instead of a complete antlerless only season. Much more affective to maintain the heard. Many hunters will shoot more does to get a chance to hunt bucks after shooting a doe!! We need to go back to the mid September bow opening and the traditional 9 day gun season followed by the muzzle loader season. Low harvest numbers for 2019 were due to the late season start and weather conditions.

get rid of all anterless seasons we used to be one of the best deer hunting states in the us state dnr is a joke - get someone in power at dnr who is a hunter and fisherman who is not a political friend

Stop this crap. The herd is fine, test for cwd after the kill, nobody needs more than 2 deer a year. There would be less deer vehicle accidents if people would put there phones down and watch for deer.

I tested my deer kills for CWD. It takes too long to get results on those samples. I would like to get the turn around time for results reduced so that the meat can be processed more quickly.

we need a place to give information on land owners hoarding OUR deer. I know of some that heavily feed the deer to keep them on their land. Also to report land owners charging to hunt their deer

would recommend a 4-day antlerless only hunt in mid-October rather than the Holiday hunt. Also would recommend earn a buck along with opening the gun season earlier and running for two weeks.

I would NOT like to see the gun season extended. Bow hunters have already lost enough time from enjoying their sport with so many extra seasons. Please DO NOT EXTEND THE RIFLE SEASON!!!!

please dont shut crossbow season down in November. we didnt pay the money for these bows to sit on the couch. You made them legal and u want to put restriction on them doesnt seem right.

2019 was the first time we had a harvested deer test positive for CDW in the area. Need to reduce the spread so that the area has low incidence numbers and we can continue hunting there.

There should be NO CDACS, the state should go back to management units as before, and reinstate in person registration to get a more accurate count of deer harvested!! Wake up people!!!

I would hope that we never go back to the "Earn a Buck" solution that was implemented over a decade ago. We lost several potential lifetime hunters those years, my son is among them.

I think you are doing a great job. I have harvested 85 deer in 35 years in Wisconsin. Therefore I am very please with the way you manage the deer herd. Thank you for a job well done

I think the holiday hunt should allow the harvest of either sex. I have talked to many hunters that do not participate in this hunt because we can’t use unused firearm buck tags.

I am a private landowner and intend to reduce the number of deer on my land to alleviate overbrowsing while I try to reforest logged areas and areas I’m clearing of invasives.

You guys have given way to many antlerless tags out. It is nonsense for people to be able to shoot 8 antlerless deer between bow and gun hunting. NOBODY NEEDS THAT MUCH DEER.

Wish it was back to 9 day rifle and you actually had to take it in to the small bars or gas stations to register bring back some tradition to it it really kinda sucks now!

All state parks should be opened a week sooner for Bow Harvest opportunities. At the very least have a two week minimum state park opening period prior to gun deer season.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8593</td>
<td>I would like to see the opportunity of a CC few buck permits during the holiday hunt. Might be a drawing or...... Also, would like to see more money allocated to CWD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8594</td>
<td>I would like to see a muzzle loader season similar to Colorado where it is before the rifle season and you would have to purchase a separate license for this season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8595</td>
<td>Gun hunting is no longer enjoyable due to years of brown it’s down attitude that so many gun hunters have. Will stop hunting if gun season starts sooner in November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8596</td>
<td>I would like to see an October gun hunt like we had during earn a buck. I don’t have the time to bow hunt and this was a very successful season for me in the ast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8597</td>
<td>Thank you for providing reasonable pricing and access to tags for non-resident deer hunters. You are one of the last to provide this opportunity in the mid-west.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8598</td>
<td>I’m not a big fan of the holiday hunt. A lot of young bucks end up being shot and it shortens the late bow season especially in counties were it isn’t extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8599</td>
<td>Increase the carcass dump boxes and provide more info on the deer donation program. For example, if a hunter donates a deer does he have to test it first?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8600</td>
<td>So I’m very concerned that now season keeps being encroached by all these special hunts. I believe all the rifle hunting should be done in the same season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8601</td>
<td>Please consider bringing back CWD testing facilities for CWD zones like SAUK County. College interns or volunteers could be utilized again like before.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8602</td>
<td>We need to harvest more deer. BRING BACK EARN-A-BUCK please, it was the most effective tool. Don’t take any crossbow hunting opportunities away please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8603</td>
<td>The DNR has already depleted the deer population substantially! There used to be herds of deer, now we are lucky to see one. Bring back the herds!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8604</td>
<td>For the holiday hunt only would earn a buck be an option. Currently holiday hunt is antler less only. It may get more hunters out for holiday hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8605</td>
<td>Doe population is decreasing in our area. Do not believe 2 bonus tags are necessary, 1 antlerless tag is enough. Let hunters decide what to shoot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8606</td>
<td>I would also like to see it go up to a 2 (bag limit) antlered buck for archery, crossbow and gun in addition to the free antlerless tags. Thanx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8607</td>
<td>We really need to find a way to bring back earn a buck, or one buck per hunter a year by all means. (bow-crossbow-rifle-muzzle loader combined )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8608</td>
<td>Go to a 1 buck per year limit per hunter. Move muzzle loader season back 1 week. Increase non-resident licenses to help fund CWD testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8609</td>
<td>Lost a lot of animals to the blue tongue last summer Nobody is accounting for this Definitely some problems with the herd count methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8610</td>
<td>State lands and conservancy land should not be a unlimited number of hunters in one area. It is only a matter of when we have fatalities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8611</td>
<td>One buck per hunter per year. Allow 2 antlerless per hunter per year. Shut down archery season 1 week before gun season to 1 week after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8612</td>
<td>I have found 5 deer carcasses on my property this winter and wonder how these are counted in herd numbers. I don’t know cause of death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>8613</td>
<td>I saw more deer during the archery season due to snow. Gun season they were hard to find due to the warm season this last year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8614</td>
<td>Was really hoping for longer gun deer season. Would help solve problems with bad weather concerns, and harvest issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8615</td>
<td>Too many private landowners will not shoot doe so doesn’t matter how antlerless tags you issue, especially bowhunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8616</td>
<td>If Sauk adopts an entire antlerless only season, I’m done buying a license and many of my family and friends also!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8617</td>
<td>9 day gun season bow til Jan 31 1 buck 2 does per weapon worked for years don’t fix something that isn’t broken cut back on the bow hunting, stop bow hunting two weeks before gun season. No bow hunting after the gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8618</td>
<td>We need instant CWD test and a more definitive information as to human transmission and concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8619</td>
<td>I think that all white deer should be included in the hunt. We are seeing many more of them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8620</td>
<td>I believe in slow, small changes, reviewing affects, not to make drastic changes in any year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8621</td>
<td>very large amount of deer doing Ag damage to property on near dutch hollow lake lavelle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8622</td>
<td>The number of deer on my dad’s property seem to be declining the past several years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8623</td>
<td>Please continue the holiday hunt. We appreciate being able to gun hunt at that time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8624</td>
<td>I do not agree with with the decreasing of deer in this zone. Stop over hunting them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8625</td>
<td>I think that the archery/crossbow seasons be doe only for the month of November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8626</td>
<td>Go back to the straight 9 day deer hunt. You would have a better deer season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8627</td>
<td>Would like to at least see more than 2 or 3 deer the whole gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8628</td>
<td>Thanks for your guys’s hard work! I look forward to this hunting season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8629</td>
<td>no matter how many tags you issue, people will only shoot so many deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8630</td>
<td>Never even saw a deer and I hunted everyday possible in this unit!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8631</td>
<td>It doesn’t matter what this survey says OUR VOICES ARE NOT HEARD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8632</td>
<td>Not interested in extending the current 9 day gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8633</td>
<td>CWD and blue tongue have decreased the herd and still are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8634</td>
<td>Been hunting sauk co for 55 yrs never seen less deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8635</td>
<td>Please do not restrict the crossbow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8636</td>
<td>I’m opposed to changes in crossbow seasons!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8637</td>
<td>Longer gun and black powder season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8638</td>
<td>Go to 1 buck per year per hunter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8639</td>
<td>I would support - earn a buck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8640</td>
<td>I oppose a 16 day gun season!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8641</td>
<td>Bring back unlimited EAB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8642</td>
<td>No Holiday hunt!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8643</td>
<td>Have a nice hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8644</td>
<td>Bring back EAB.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
what deer
1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 191
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 181
   - I hunt in this unit: 543
   - General interest in this unit: 113

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 517
   - Bow: 264
   - Crossbow: 189
   - Muzzleloader: 165

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.49
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 118
   - Mostly Private Land: 82
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 121
   - Mostly Public Land: 70
   - Exclusively Public Land: 148
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 20
   - Not too crowded: 61
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 78
   - Somewhat crowded: 99
   - Very crowded: 154
   - Not applicable: 9

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 150
   - Fewer: 182
   - Same: 159
   - More: 70
   - Many More: 14
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>167</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>13</td>
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Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>163</td>
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9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
47 492 45

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID NOT VALID Unsure
273 246 65

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

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<th>Concern</th>
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<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.12</td>
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<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.08</td>
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<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
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I feel like the number of predators in this unit is very high. Between wolves, bears, bobcats, coyotes, and the harshness of winter's in this unit along with the "brown is down" mentality of the majority of the non-local and local population alike the task of managing the herd for health and numbers is truly a challenging task. I commonly see bears and coyotes and occasionally wolves on my own land and while driving throughout my local are, yet I can't hunt wolves, I will probably only see 2-3 bear authorizations in my huntable lifetime, and a similar wait for bobcat authorization, yet the only thing we discuss when it comes to managing the deer herd is the number we are allowed to shoot. This unit used to have significant deer numbers and was a "must hunt" destination for sportsman. That reputation has dramatically changed in the last decade almost exclusively due to lack of deer numbers and poor age structure of the existing herd. A 3 1/2 year old buck is often considered a trophy deer in this unit, not because it is an impressive specimen, but because it is uncommon. The herd has gradually grown to tolerable numbers, but the ongoing theme seems to be issue more licenses, make gun season longer, create antlerless only hunts after all seasons are over (which will include buck fawns and adults who have already dropped their antlers - I found 3 different sheds on my land by Christmas in 2019). I feel like this unit needs a few years to build numbers and maybe go back to one deer per person per season like it used to be. Gun tag was buck only unless you were awarded a Hunter's Choice permit and archery was one deer either sex. This allows the "brown is down crowd" to still shoot whatever deer they like and encourages those who trophy hunt to be more selective with their harvest which should allow for a great hunt while building numbers, and improving the herd age structure. More license sales does not correlate to more healthy deer, it just correlates to more money (I understand that license sales do contribute to habitat and hunting). We need to manage the resources without the effects of political pressure. The impression I got from the 2020 public input survey is that the concern is money/revenue and not necessarily the best interest of the deer herd or natural resources we exploit.

I live, work, and travel throughout this area on a daily basis year-round. I think predators play a bigger role on not only the amount of deer that survive until hunting season, but the location of where those deer "feel safe". There has been a mass migration over the last decade from the National Forest to people's back yards. I think this is caused by the predators pushing them into these locations as well as the draw of backyard/private land feeding of deer and birds. I recognize that wolves play a much bigger role in the loss of deer year round than anyone wants to admit (in the name of being "politically correct" rather than stating the truth!). On my daily travels, I see less bears than I did 10 years ago. I average seeing probably 2-3 bears a month during their "active" season. Comparatively, I see roughly 2-3 wolves EACH WEEK year round. I have traveled extensively on hunting trips in my lifetime to northern and western Canada and Alaska. I can honestly say that I will see more wolves this month while driving in Sawyer County than I have in 32 hunting trips in my lifetime. This does not make sense when utilizing the DNR website population estimates of an estimated 24,000 black bears and 978 wolves. According to those numbers, there are approximately 24 1/2 times more bears than wolves in Wisconsin. Common sense tells me that actual sightings do not reflect such a huge discrepancy in numbers! I realize there have historically always been predators other than wolves preying on our deer herd, and there has been a drastic change to the landscape/habitat and the influx of people in this area, but I think it is time to admit that the protection of wolves in Wisconsin is a major cause of the dis-satisfaction of the Wisconsin deer hunting enthusiasts!
Cross bows were for the elderly and disabled. Why did we take this only advantage away from them by allowing everyone else use them. There is enough technology out there already to the hunters favor. I’m 30 years old and hunt my butt off with a compound bow. I have sucess so I’m not complaining. I'm putting in this comment to protect the wild life. All the wild life has left I’s quality hunters that respect them. I understand people are lazy and want instant gratification. But hard work and how bad you want it is what makes it worth the while. Support our elderly and disabled they made it possible for us to hunt these lands. Why destroy it again. I hunt deep timber walk in only there is a major wolf problem in this county also jeopardizing our safety of our children playing in our back yards. If you dont believe me I'm willing to take you on a walk.quality buck population is down big time thanks to buck only. Trophy deer 130 class and higher are scarce now. We are loosing hunters to hunt better states in chance of mature whitetails. Let's face it what kid doesn't dream of shooting a big buck it's what drives them to make it happen.we should reside our whitetail age class by better management 6 points or better. Increase our doe herds which makes more bucks to hunt. More does means easier rut so the bucks dont wear down as hard looking for does causing them to starve in hard winters. We need to decrease forest crop damage tags for eating under brush when a processor driving over them kills them any way. This county Is thick as heck so that is a bunch off bull. We as quality hunters neer to protect this before it gets to bad. Stand up against all the bull and make this great state and county thrive.

I'm going to make this short and sweet. My family and I and friends roughly a group size of 20 to 25 people have hunted the flambeau river state forest since the 1950s. Our group has a log book dating back to the 1970s. The biggest changes are. BAITING IS A HUGE ONE. It affects our hunting immensely. The opening of roads so people can access locations easier, which in turn, most people do NOT show respect to other hunters. They crowd areas and will hunt right next to you and surround your hunting location with other hunters to cut you off. It has happened many times. Wolves. They are out of control  and make large population dent in the northern deer herd. Anterless tags. Why are there so many given out? Our group saw 2 or 3 deer last year over a combined 160 hours of sitting up north. We scout and go deep into the wilderness to escape people. The anterless tags as well as deer populations being big are based on deer being around agricultural fields and feeding stations or bait piles. Back in the 1980s 1990s and early 2000s BEFORE WOLVES AND BAITING EERE A HUGE THING. and BEFORE ANTERLESS TAGS WERE A HUGE THING, the hunting was great and our logbook as well as many other peoples show the same. The managament by the dnr and cdac and loa officials for there benefit is crippling the deer herd. The northwoods is on the verge of losing alot if money in taxes...hunting revenue....and cabin rentals and food as well as many other things up north very shortly. I wish my daughter could experience what I did growing up and actually seeing deer and shooting them. The way its heading ...she will not be be able to. Time for a change or you will reap what you sow.

Do not agree with allowing all hunters to use crossbow (should only be elderly and handicap). They are basically a rifle, so we have extended the rifle season from Sept. to November. The deer are too jumpy by the time gun season comes around the hunting has greatly diminished, and your average hunter who only hunts deer gun season loses hope of a reasonable chance at harvesting buck, so they don’t buy license anymore. Allowing baiting has made deer hunting in WI a pursuit for those wealthy enough to afford bait and private land. Deer know where food supply is, so you don’t see many on public land anymore. Hunters finally quit buying licenses due to lack of hope for a reasonable chance of getting a deer on public land. Baiting is also a reason the CWD has become an issue. By not limiting the number of buck tags in Sawyer County, the buck population is decimated to the point you really don’t see any nice size bucks harvested anymore, especially by the time deer gun season arrives. I would be curious on the average life span of a buck, but guessing very short. This also causes hunters not to buy licences anymore, as not a reasonable chance of harvesting an older, nice size buck. Also, you need more DNR game warden patrol of Sawyer County. Don't recall in the past 6 years even seeing one DNR pickup. There seems to be significant poaching or illegal activities such that your honest, average hunter doesn’t have a reasonable chance at success. The dis honest need to know a game warden is a likely possibility. Right now it is rare to see one, so illegal activities increase, and also reduce the herd.
I sit in the woods all Fall and house is located in middle of the woods. I see my fair share of Bear and have plenty of Coyotes howling at night. Luckily I have not had too many wolf issues but the predators that go after yearling deer all spring and summer concerns me. They take a huge chuck out of the population. When it comes to Bear it take years to get a tag. Way more people Deer Hunt Vs Bear hunt yet we are very limited on Bear tags. The bear feed off the newborn deer each year and hurts our deer population and there is nothing we can do but wait years to harvest a bear to help the deer population grow. I have been hunting in Sawyer since I've been a child and looking back at picture of the buck pole, we consistently have less and less success due to the fact we see way less deer. Online Registration is easy and nice but does take away from helping the local businesses and the deer stores that go along with it. It was part of the deer hunt to see all the deer driving around in back of trucks and hearing the stories, that is now gone with everything done online/by phone. These businesses really could use a busy 9 day deer season like they used to have where hunters had to go to town to register a deer and support local businesses. People "Go Up North" for the experience and stories, please bring that experience back. You wont lose hunters because you have to go to town to register, you will have less people lying about it when you simply call a number and don't need to physically put a tag on. You can really help the tourism dollars grow.

I think the Wisconsin Gun season for deer is far too late to experience any deer rut at all, since it was really late in the rut like this November 2019 season and previous years. Wisconsin and out of state gun season hunters do not have a chance to see much of rut when the deer season for gun only is so late in November. Archery/Crossbow Season is much longer than gun season for deer hunting, for example this past 2019 Archery/Crossbow season statewide ran from September 14, 2019 to December 16, 2019 with December 12 to 15, 2019 Antlerless-only for all weapon types and a holiday hunt December 24, 2019 to January 1, 2020 Antlerless-only for all weapon types. Gun Season has the Traditional 9-Day hunt from November 23, 2019 to December 1, 2019 for statewide hunting of deer with the December 12 to 15, 2019 Antlerless-only for all weapon types and a holiday hunt running from December 24, 2019 to January 1, 2020 for Antlerless-only for all weapon types. I have not and do not hunt deer in Wisconsin during the Muzzleloader Season or on the December 12 to 15, 2019 Antlerless-only for all weapon types or for the December 24, 2019 to January 1, 2020 Holiday Hunt Antlerless-only for all weapon types. I only do the gun season Traditional 9-Day hunt in late November. Maybe one consideration is alternating years for gun season in Wisconsin would be having gun season in early November or late October to split the deer season up between Archery/Crossbow season and gun season better than it is now. Archery/Crossbow season is pretty long with about a 13 week season.

I am very concerned with the rapid decline in whitetail across many areas of Wisconsin. I have been hunting this area for 30+ years and the amount of deer present, and the quality/size of antlered deer is declining at a rate that will be hard to recover from. We need to manage the deer herd better. There is an overpopulation of bears that are hunting fawns. There is an overpopulation of other predators. When I see more wolves and bear during gun season that I see deer, something is not balanced. Myself and many others in the area would be in favor of no antlerless tags, and a 6-point minimum on antlered deer for the foreseeable future. We need to build back the hunting heritage of Wisconsin. If we want to generate revenue from hunting, $3 antlerless tags are not the vehicle. We need quality hunts, with trophy management units. Let’s work together to make this happen by limiting hunts and harvests to bring back the herd and make it possible to have a quality harvest along with a quality hunting experience with family and friends. This will have also have a positive impact on the small businesses, restaurants, bars, resorts, gas stations, etc., throughout the state. Please stop the slaughter that seems to be happening with the antlerless tags.
I completed this form with entirely "No Opinion" responses because I do not believe that I, as a deer watcher and hunter, have a worthwhile opinion regarding HOW our deer herd should be managed. I may have my experiential preferences, but this process goes WAY beyond merely asking me about those things by asking me to indicate preferences for many specific management tactics. This whole CDAC process is a wrong-headed slap in the face to professional wildlife managers who should be trusted to combine wildlife SCIENCE with user preference surveys in order to arrive at the best possible vision -- combining what stakeholders are passionate about getting with what trained professionals are passionate about giving, within the capability of ecosystems to sustain such harvest. Wildlife management biologists should possess the scientific training, experience, and social acumen to arrive at sound management decisions without turning everyone and their dog into wildlife managers. It's an insult, and it should stop. Let these people (DNR wildlife managers) do their jobs by asking amateur stakeholders what they WANT, not what they want the DNR to DO. If you do not understand the distinction, please consider taking some courses in executive leadership.

I've been hunting Sawyer county for 40 years. Our property is 14 miles northwest of Winter. 2019 is the worst season I've ever had. I seen 4 deer in 9 days. 5 people in our deer camp and we seen a total of 8 deer combined. I spend a lot of time in the woods. Very little deer sign no matter where I went whether it was on our property or in the national forest across the road. Sawyer county should have 2 zones. Farm country and forest. I did see plenty of elk sign. DNR accessed our property to trap and collar elk a few years ago. I did see moderate wolf and bear sign as well. Get rid of public/private option. In my opinion zero doe tags except for 1st time youth should be given out in 2020. Eliminate any special hunts in Sawyer county for 2020 and revisit that in 2021. Just stick to the 9 day deer season. Don't extend it another 10 days. Many resorts dont open up their cabins any longer due to lack of hunters. The rural bars and restaurants only have locals in them whereas 10 years ago they were packed with out of town hunters. Not so much the case any more. I dont blame it on the late season but rather lack of deer. Not as many scrapes and rubs where I had seen them heavily almost every year. Thank you

I respectfully request that you OPEN THE GATES!! There is no public land accessible for hunting anymore. Most traditional public land hunters are getting old, like me, and cannot walk a mile back into the woods. And if we could, there would be a zero probability of dragging a deer out from that far back. Open the gates like it used to be years ago. This is PUBLIC land and we all should have access to it. In addition, you have locked the public out from viewing some of the most beautiful land in the midwest.....why?? At least if there are no deer we can enjoy the wilderness. As it stands currently we have to hunt on or very near highways. And for the future of deer hunting: it is doomed if the gates are not open. Our party of 11 hunters is down to only 5 now. No young person is interested in a sport that is so passive. If they cannot harvest a deer within 5 years, they won't continue and that is the case with our hunting party, only 1 of the 5 grandchildren are continuing to hunt. We have hunted the Flambeau River State Forest for the past 50+ years and have many really good memories. We want that to continue for our kids and grandkids. Open the gates so they may make good hunting memories. Thank you

I saw a decrease in deer around my area. At time just simply going 10 miles from home I would see very strong deer herds. I usually have trail cams out most of fall. The dawn population seemed down and seemed like there was a lack of fawns in my area. Wolf tracks seem to be showing up more and bear population seems extremely high. Putting corn out once and awhile I would get my 3 local does and one fawn in a week and I believe I counted 11-14 different bears. The sows seem smaller and they are have 3-4 cubs with them. I also noticed a decline in small bucks that come through while rut is starting to set in. Also seems like old bucks are getting a little more scarce. Now that could be the snow accumulations and longer cold into spring or just my lack of accuracy on reading pics. I think this year was the first in awhile I've had a bigger buck return to the food plot the following year and actually have the bent back and droopy belly. Was wondering if lymes disease if starting to take a year or 2 off our old deer. These were just things I observe and express about. Now I've also spent less time in the deer woods last couple years then what I use to. Thanks for you time
I agree with what I stated, and I respect what the organization is trying to accomplish as a whole. Most hunter in Wisconsin have an issue with taking away, restricting or limiting baiting as much as it has been done and for as long as it has been done for. Many other states have not restricted baiting with the same concerns and/or have lifted the limits of how much they can bait. With the internet and the YouTube videos younger hunter are asking the question of why? I truly hate to see that the Wisconsin DNR and attached organizations are starting to lose the respect of the younger generations as they watch how other states are allowing 10 gallon, 50-80 gallon barrel feeders and other states that are unlimited feed. These are states with and without CWD. It is just so sad to see these organizations that I grew up and was taught to respect shrink in size, be put on shoe string budgets and than have some laws that don’t match other states. I don’t know why young people “don’t get it” or feel like it’s “hypocritical”? They have more information now then ever before. I think some things need to come back around OR be explained better to the public.

In general, I agree with comments from the CDAC. I am seeing large numbers of doe family groups who appear to have survived the mild winter in good shape and in large numbers. I’m concerned about concentrated numbers overbrowsing as does raise new fawns this year. I’d like to see a slightly elevated number of antlerless permits issued for private land. I’m also strongly in favor of giving the deer - and the woods - a rest and starting to scale back the duration and the numerous types of specialty hunts. Let’s not have a near-constant state and parade of various hunts stretching from opening bow to sometime in January. Also, I’m hearing from all hunter age groups the desire to return to old-style registration. The new way, via computer, may be convenient for the DNR but it assumes honesty on the part of all hunters (not likely) and takes away the cultural aspect of gatherings and of the process at registration stations. There was nothing wrong with the old way - although not perfect - but also gave businesses a chance to make sales, and for DNR field reps to check and age deer while keeping a look-out for questionable activities.

I would like to hear more about the subject of baiting for deer on recommendations by CDAC. It’s my opinion that in the public lands of northern Wisconsin, it detracts from hard work that bow hunters put into scouting. I cannot tell you how many times I figure out deer movement, core areas, bedding, rub lines etc. and have it disrupted by another hunter dumping corn. It displaces deer that I’ve keyed on with the attitude of fair chase. It is unnatural for DNR to warrant this and should concentrate on forestry practices to improve hunting opportunities. It also invites congregating of deer and transmission of CWD. I think it’s gotten out of hand with some baiters abusing the rules regarding baiting. It brings in the attitude that if you excessively bait “You Win”. Honestly, I don’t want to see the health of the herd falter with artificial tactics (baiting) supported by the state. Please practice silvicultural management to improve deer health and hunter success. Thanks for this survey.....it elevates my public trust in your management strategies and makes me feel integral to helping as a hunter.

My family and I have hunted the Flambeau River State Forest near Big Bear Supper Club since 1976. My Grandfather, father, brothers, nephews, friends, and sons have all taken part in our hunts from year to year. The past few years a plan was put into place to gate off many of the old roads in this area. Extensions off of West Lane, Tepaske and others have been gated off. My brothers and I are 55 to 62 years old. We can not walk the 1 to 2 miles down these gated roads to get into the forested areas we have had access to our entire lifetime. This is public land. This is simply not fair to restrict access to these areas. There is an entire culture of hunters in this area where people have been able to drive back into these areas. It used to feel like an adventure every year - we loved it. Today we see younger hunters parked at the gates and walking back in and setting up tree stands. This is something we simply cannot do. This is a shame for me and my family. The traditions of our hunting camps have been washed away. Open the gates. Give hunter access to the public lands that we want to hunt.
I heard from one of your biologists that there are about 900 wolves in the Northern Forest Zone....or perhaps the state in general....that's out of control! And there is a proposal to add an additional week of gun deer season? Are we trying to get rid of all the deer around here? There needs to be a hunting season on the wolves to control the population. Beautiful animals no doubt but that's just way too many. I did not see a lot of deer this year as compared to last, weather played a part I agree. Walking through the woods and creek bottoms there were SEVERAL deer carcasses from wolf kill. More than I've seen in years prior. Really need to look into that! Also the online registration for harvesting deer I believe was a bad idea. You’re just encouraging people not to buy a tag. Why buy a tag? There’s no reason to if you don’t physically have to register it. You’re not checked when it’s processed either! Also, too many bears around as well, they’re doing major damage on the fawn population. Probably should balance the bear out as well. Thanks for listening and for all you do on a daily basis!!!

I hunt a combination of private and public land south of the Chippewa Flowage. The owner of the land open to the public was given a number of Doe tags to distribute calling it crop damage. (It is ludicrous that the DNR gives them these tags.) The doe/deer numbers are low due to a number of reasons. (Starting back from the earn a buck fiasco). Includes increases in predators, some bad winters, reduced clear cutting, etc. I saw 1 legal buck on some very prime properties. It was a fork horn that I let walk. 2018 was the same. Nine guys that are actual hunters have shot two bucks in the last two years. Recommendations: Stop Baiting, reduce predators, stop shooting does or move to a party tag for a few years until the numbers rebound. Don’t let the Bow hunters (I am one) control the buck hunting and take away the cross bow opportunities. We need to stick together. The bow hunters association is just a bunch of selfish bastards. If this continues to be an issue, institute one buck tag per hunter and let hunters take a buck with whatever hunting tool they desire. Problem solved.

Hard to answer the question of whether I’ve seen more or less deer in the field, when the total number seen has been negligible for quite a few years now!! I’ve hunted the area for 51 years, and the past......8? have been terrible to the point of giving up. I no longer invite nephews to join the hunt. I hunt all 9 days, sunup to sundown. I hunt serious, and I hunt hard. I hunt public land. Where I used to see several dozen deer over the course of a season, I now see ONLY SEVERAL lone deer total. Ever since the dnr sold unlimited $3-4 bonus tags, the herd has NOT recovered. I was very surprised listening to DNR Derek Johnson even question that issue. I can't believe you are planning to increase doe tags. I buy them just to burn them, and it's not right. I can't afford it, but I do it. You sure have nice new unmanned office buildings though! Do I sound bitter??? Like I said- I grew up in the area, and it has never been worse. I’ve reached put in the past, and not once have I received a reply.

Predator numbers are getting out of control(coyote, wolf, bear, bobcat). Last year was the worst deer season(box and gun) I have experienced in 25+ years of hunting. I bowhunted for most of November leading up to the gun season and saw the fewest number of deer I have ever seen during that time. On opening of gun weekend, I saw 3 bears and no deer, which is a first to not see a single deer on opening weekend of gun season. This was all on private land that is managed for hunting. Deer numbers need to be increased and doe harvest needs to be limited or eliminated for at least another year or two. Trailcam photos and first hand experience don't lie. The same sentiments were shared by neighboring property owners. The land can support high deer numbers that what we currently have. I’m also trying to get my young kids interested in hunting, but if they can’t see deer, they lose interest. If the state wants to recruit more hunters, we need more deer for them to hunt in this part of the state.
I personally spend 200 plus days a year in the woods across all Sawyer county, I personally spend a lot of time with herd control, numbers, and overall herd health and trying to make the best hunt for me and my family that I can! In the last three years we are starting to see a difference in deer numbers going up in the right direction and regaining a herd! Our age class was impacted hard by the bucks only license years and showed progress this last fall of getting back on track too! One thing that could/should be considered is bring back a hunters choice tag system where it’s one tag but ultimately the hunter that applies and is granted the tag can make the choice for meat or horns and would afford a lot more people the opportunity to harvest a deer without having to have a quota of doe tags! It would be a lot more Beneficial for deer numbers, age class of bucks and overall herd health while also giving hunters the opportunity to hunt for a buck or have the option to fill the freezer!

The family has hunted this area for 83 years, my first year in the woods was 1959 when I sat with my mother, have not missed a year in camp since then, the camp is getting smaller my youngest daughter is the only one that hunts, son and oldest daughter were both in camp for 4-5 years and stopped coming up. hard to stay interested when you see no deer, getting that way for us old guys also. in 60s and 70s you could at least see deer. last year saw a doe and fawn opening morning, the total camp saw 9 deer before the season did see a few young bucks and that was encouraging, there was a total lack of does and fawns in our area. there are not even any bow hunters in the wood anymore also. use to be hunted quite heavily but no deer no hunters, do not understand how the department figures that less does will mean more deer, predation from bear and wolves also a problem also have a large population of coyotes do not need doe tags

I have hunted Sawyer County public land for 20 years, and lived and hunted it hard for 12 years. The current deer herd is a skeleton of what it used to be. After implementing T zones, introducing wolves, there was a definite decline in the herd and quality of age structure. After back to back hard winters in 2014/2015, the population really took a hit and with the predation is not able to bounce back. I'd recommend pushing for an INCREASE 3 year plan with no bonus antlerless permits, and I would even go as far as to say we could limit it to ONE buck per hunter per season in this area for a year or two. This may be extreme but in my experience the deer numbers were significantly higher a number of years ago, and the herd was healthy and not overpopulated. Deer hunting was fun. It would be difficult to get a new youth hunter interested in the sport with the current deer population we have now.

I have read the historical deer metrics report for the county. My personal opinion is that I feel the DNR estimates of total deer population are over estimating the actual number of animals on the ground. I am further concerned that the county objective of "maintain" is inconsistent with the increase in antlerless authorizations given the decline in 2019 total deer killed and especially total bucks killed. I think there is a real risk of our "eating our seed corn" if we increase the doe kill in 2020 and then face a cyclical return of a severe WSI score for the winter of 2020/21. I know that society can not stock pile the deer population. However in the face of generally negative harvest numbers for 2019, downward trending total population numbers, increasing predatory presence and a potential return to tougher winter conditions in 2020/21 I do not think increasing the antlerless numbers is warranted.

I believe that we should have the normal 9 day season and NEVER go to an earlier opener with a two week season for gun. Season should fall over Thanksgiving like it has forever. This is not only good for deer population it's tradition for families to get together. Predator issues are high in the north woods. Last year I saw more coyote and wolf tracks than deer in fresh snow. I saw 1 deer in 2019 (buck) with over 60 hours in the woods and 2 others in our group saw ZERO deer with 70 hours in the woods each. We have a PREDATOR problem. Our deer numbers have been down while wolf numbers rise. Not to hard to see the pattern. Some people in the government have a hard time seeing it. In central and southern farmland the population is better but nothing like it was in the 90's. Then again look at the wolf, not as many in the central and southern farmland and in the 90's there were very few wolves.
I spend about 40 days hunting on the snow and about 80 to 90 days from July to Oct. along with the 9 days of gun season in the Flambeau River state Forest and Sawyer County Forest in the south east side of Sawyer county.

Question Deer over-browsing of forest that prevent Re-growth of some forest tree species. I see most of the deer in the winter in the new logging areas. They have not been in the new grow trees much. I think for the main reason with the equipment moving around and people it provides the deer some protection from the wolfs.

Question Influence of Predators on deer numbers in the unit. The wolf population continues to grow at a very rapid rate, which in turn is hurting the deer and elk populations. When I am bobcat hunting in this area we come across a deer kill ever couple of days. Now a few of the kills are coyotes but most are wolf kills.

Wolfs are one of the main problems in my opinion. Also the black bear population appears to be higher. I have almost 500 acres and use many cameras on my land. I would say I get as many pictures of wolfs as I do deer. In my opinion a buck has a very difficult time surviving after the rut. I believe the wolfs target them as they are worn down from the rut. We have not harvested a buck on our land in over 10 years. The doe population appears to be improving. I do feel some of the does loose there fawns to predation. I have pictures of wolfs going past my cameras with fawns in the mouths. I know you probably get tired of hearing people bitch about the wolfs but I have been bow hunting in Sawyer county since 1974. We bought our land in 1990. Thank you for listening to the hunters!

I listened into the meeting a couple of weeks ago on my cell and felt everyone was well informed and sincere. But, of all who commented or made suggestions I didn't hear anyone talk about the size of Sawyer county. I hunt south of highway M and just south of Bayfield county and it’s almost all public land/county forest. Many comments talked about deer NOT being in the deep forest and I totally agree, but no one talked about dividing the county into TWO zones. There is much more farm land in the southern portion of the county and I imagine more deer. Why not stop the antlerless deer tags in the forested public northern portion of Sawyer to increase the head size? More predators also live in the deep public forest which puts pressure on the deer herd. I’ve owned 40 acres of land there for 45 years and we see less deer each year.

My only comment is that based on the lack of deer in the north woods recently I have given up deer hunting in Wisconsin. I have opted to hunt outside of Wisconsin. The lack of deer is killing the sport. Young people have no interest in sitting in the cold and watching trees grow. Wolves should have never been introduced. You have killed the sport in my opinion and I had hunted since I was 12 years old. I also sold my land up north. There was no sense in paying taxes and maintaining land with no chance of a reasonable success rate. Lost taxes, lost license sales, lost tourism sales - Wisconsin better wake up or the sport will complete die off. Kill the wolves, promote growth in deer populations by creating good habitat on public land and maybe the sport has a chance. My opinion and I am a tax paying consumer.

Many others and myself are losing the younger hunters due to over killing the does and the abundance of predators in Sawyer County and surrounding areas. You can make all kinds of recommendation on seasons, length of them and quota's. Until you start giving more bear tag and start letting people kill wolves you will have no younger generation to buy your much needed license fees to keep the money flowing to manage the deer heard and other natural resources funding. Trying to get your funds now, is and will cut your own throats in the future. I have been watching your department try to increase sales, and not look and listen to what is actually happening. Please step back and look and listen to the people that are actually experiencing and managing there lands and public lands. Thank you and good luck.
I have hunted in this unit for 28 years. When I was younger, I would see 5-8 deer per day which I feel was reasonable and enough to get a younger person interested in hunting. Flash forward to current times and I have not seen a deer in over 5 years from a tree stand. I hunt hard and the last several years have spent the entire opening day in the tree. My interest in deer hunting in Sawyer County is quickly waning. It is hard to get kids interested in hunting when they can spend all day in the woods and see nothing. I have a fair amount of bear and wolves on my trail camera and that probably contributes to a fair amount of mortality in the area. I long for the days of seeing a few deer a day during the season. Please do what we can to increase the herd in Sawyer County. Thank you!

The DNR has systematically destroyed a once proud Heritage in the state hunting up north now you see vacant cabins Frontera one family spent time together in the Northwoods mismanagement of the deer herd make me quit hunting deer for many years I started back again only to see if you were deer I hold the dnr's mismanagement at fault I work for the state of Wisconsin myself and I see the mismanagement in my field, on a daily basis I Now understand it with poor management comes poor practices with poor practices covers loss of Interest by the General Public now there are proposals to change the length of the season restrict crossbow hunting season after thousands of people invested and crossbows I expect nothing less than the DNR to do the right thing I am far from alone in my thoughts

The deer heard has been getting ravaged by the growing number of wolves the last few years, combine that with deep snow/harsher winters and you’re exactly where Sawyer County is at. Minimal deer population. As a private land hunter, I’ve seen the effect of what’s going on. You go from doe/decent buck population to next to nothing due to everyone shooting anything and everything they can because there’s nothing left out there. A new biologist needs to be brought in to really count the deer and see what the predator population has done. Depleted the herds to next to nothing, and then sit here and be told the deer are flourishing... This county needs help, and this 2020 proposal is an absolute joke. Get out and talk to the people in the county that actually live there, not the travelers.

the biggest issue is that antlerless tags are sold to everyone when they should be sold to residents only and also non resident licenses prices need to be increased dramatically. There are far too many non residents that buy antlerless tags and come here and stack deer up like cord wood because it is cheap for them to do so. Also the biggest reason for deer numbers being down all over the northern half of the state is because the wolf and bear population is getting far too high. we need to eliminate the point system for residents for bear tags and make only non residents apply for tags. and we need to get our wolf season back. I shouldn’t go out and see more wolf and bear sign than I do deer. and that is how it has been the last few years and its only getting worse.

Still concerned with the wolf population. No question, the wolf has been a factor in the deer population in Sawyer county. The deer are few and wolves have to eat, so I can’t blame the wolf for extremely poor wolf management. I also think baiting has been a factor. Most large bucks are harvested during the early bow season over a corn pile. Our hunting crew used to have 23 hunters, now we are down to two. No deer, so the others go elsewhere. When you walk a logging road for a 1/4 mile after it snowed two days before and you don’t see a track, something is wrong. I feel sorry for all the businesses that counted on hunters and now they are gone. I don’t dwell on killing a deer. I shot 1 deer in the last 10 years, but I would at least like to see some.

Not seeing very many deer at all. Seeing several wolf tracks and yes I know the difference from coyote. Seeing more wolves than ever before. Go to a buck only harvest and an application process for harvesting a doe. Get rid of "private" and "public" tags. Go back to deer unit designations like it was before. No antlerless tags free or bonus. While you are at it, go back to in person deer registration and back tags. Too much room for taking illegal bag of deer and expecting people to be honest and actually phone in registration. No youth hunts or holiday hunt. No antlerless tags until DNR can prove that there are enough deer left in the northern part of the state. Pay bounty for coyotes. You won’t do any of this probably so I should quit hunting.
Deer populations in Sawyer County on both private and public lands. Public lands surround our property and we get a good view of both. The deer populations are extremely low compared to previous years and seem to get lower every year. There is very little shooting (if any) anymore during season, and hunters do not flood the area as they use to do on opener. Local business's really feel it. We believe that this is due to antlerless harvest practices, extra deer seasons and also high wolf/bear populations. Our opinions on high wolf/bear populations and low deer populations have nothing to do with graph statistics, but all to do with what we see in the woods all year long. We believe the biggest reason is ALL wildlife management practices.

Great Survey! Thank you for letting me contribute my input. I live near Moose lake we have been seeing less bucks for the last three years as compared to the others. Very few trophies and the last two years not as many one and two year olds. I do work in the woods and do my field studies and I have not come across many predatory kills in the last three years. This past season in October before the cold snap I would see a healthy population of deer on my 16 cameras. After the cold snap it was the opposite very few deer on the cameras. What was more interesting different Elk were coming through the properties. I also had that grumpy bull Moose show up from time to time on the cameras. Thank you again.

Hi, have just a few items, (1) need to back to hunters choice for one reason, licenses go on sale at 10:00 am most people don’t have the opportunity to get a bonus for tag. I have tried the last couple of years to get one and there gone before I get done work. If you go back to the hunters choice everyone has the same chance to draw a tag. (2) I believe out of state Hunter are getting a gift by not having to pay the same amount as if I were to go to say il or la, if I have pay 411 in il than they should pay the same coming up here or 600 in la. They should pay 600 here. Last thing I believe the DNR should adopt a minimum point for bucks, you will see a healthier buck population in the long run.

In the Hayward area where I deer hunt is public land. We saw about the same amount of deer on our trail cameras prior to the start of the gun season (Oct‐Nov), as we did last year (2018); day and night. About a week before the opener the amount went down and only at night. After the season ended the few cameras we left out showed an increase of deer daytime movement. During the 2019 gun season, we saw significantly fewer deer and the trail cameras noted only nighttime movement. We did take two bucks (8pt and spike) and one doe. We attribute the lack of seeing deer and our success to the rut already being over, the snow events, and corn still standing in adjacent farm feeds; in that order.

The predator problem is great. There is very little control of the bear, wolf, or coyotes in our county. Ever since the Department opened up our county to many doe tags, and that followed by some of the most severe winters in the states history, our deer herd has never recovered. Fewer and fewer people are choosing to hunt now because some may go the entire season and not see one deer. It has happened in our camp and it has happened to many other groups also. Does produce fawns. Shot the does and decimate the deer herd. It’s really a pretty simple concept. Leave the does alone and your herd will increase and so will your license sales. No deer no license sales. Not exactly a special science.

All traditional WI deer hunting components need to be reinstated including back tags, registration of deer up to the Monday after the nine day deer season. Deer season needs to continue to start on the same nine day season as has happened. People want to continue the traditions that had made WI deer hunting a respected and cherished past time.

Awful. Just awful hunting. My two boys and I have decided that hunting in the Northwoods where we see more bear, coyotes, wolves and elk then we do deer is getting too tough on us. We will use the outdoors in another manner in which the DNR will not get our money. The DNR has not managed the deer population well. Too many predators feeding on the deer and yet they still allow antlerless tags, what a joke. Tough winter's, still more tags. Young hunter's, more tags and more seasons. I have an idea why don't you let me recycle my tag each year after I don’t shoot a deer that way I keep using my unfilled tag every year until I actually get an opportunity to shoot a deer.
CDAC only purports to value public input. The structure of the meetings does not allow question/answer format of any meaningful amount and it is painfully clear that the committee has it's agenda already planned and will not accept any suggestions from the floor. To have a goal of maintain is totally unrealistic when predators take almost as many deer as the hunters do. A suggestion to manage the forest areas of the unit differently from the ag areas (as it relates to antlerless quotas) was immediately discounted as impractical without any discussion allowed. These comments are meant to be constructive in nature in hope that the current system can be improved upon.

I own property inside the Flambeau Forest and hunted the area for 60 years. Normally I don’t see a lot of deer (typically 10 =/- in 8 days). This past season I didn't see a single deer. Activity on trail cameras was very low. No activity for two or three days at a time including nights. I did see 15 timber wolves. I know they are federally protected. However, I would like to know that the DNR is doing everything they can to get them de-listed. When the two hunting seasons were held several years ago, thinks seemed to be more in balance between the deer and the wolves. The wolf activity this past year was very high in my opinion, too many wolves for the area.

We have a hunting Camp on Moose Lake. We have harvested 2 Bucks in the last 9 years with 15-20 hunters each year. We have taken ZERO the last 2 seasons. We are not seeing deer at all even with organized drives like we used to. We do not harvest antlerless deer because the population is so low that we do not see deer period. We have a big beautiful hunting cabin called Whiskey Jack Camp that has turned into Camp No Deer. We feel this area should be a BUCKS ONLY UNIT for a few years to get the Whitetail population back. We see more ELK most days than we do deer. It is very demoralizing going deer hunting and not even seeing any deer period. NO DOE TAGS!!!!

Sawyer County is a mix of AG land and forest. The deer population is high in the AG areas compared to the forest areas. I’m sure you know that, just stating it is very prevalent here. I hunt paper company land primarily, but there are several areas a distance apart. Deer sign is light and has been since the winter of 2014. How to increase the population in the forest areas while thinning the heard in the AG areas is the problem. Neighbors and friends agree with my assessment. A few things to additionally consider is the logging which has occurred here at an increased rate the past few years and what the tribe members harvest. Yes, many hunt year round.

Deer are everywhere!!! They are healthy, fat, and it is green up all over the place!!! More permits for the public lands!!! Better access to all huntable lands, forest MFL gates need to be open!!! Early and longer season for the gun season!!! Hunt the rut not after they are done in late seasons!!!! Stop baiting and really go out and hunt not sit over a bait pile!!!! People just hunt bucks and wonder why there aren't any bucks and miss the big bucks as they are done before we start our late hunts!!! Get non hunting and not safe guns out of the woods, NO more than 3 shot clips, like duck hunting plugs!!! CDAC, its a good start!!!

I have hunted this unit consistently since I was a kid (active military service has since taken my away). I have only purchased one tag since I left, in which case I made a special trip home for gun season. The area was so desolate in places where we used to see large populations of deer, and nobody harvested a buck over 100 inches out of 3 different hunting groups. I decided I would not be coming back to WI to hunt anymore- it just wasn't worth the trip. Between predation and consistent over harvest, the herd has been dwindled down to dismal quantities. It would be nice to see buck tags limited to one per hunter per year.

Deer hunting over bait should banned in Sawyer County and throughout Wisconsin. Illegal baiting is wide spread where we hunt in south east Sawyer County. It is not uncommon to find while we are grouse hunting 200 pounds of corn in a single pile on public property. Often a mile or more from a public road. Allowing baiting to continue is not good for the hunting and is an invitation to spread CWD. Shooting deer over a bait pile is not hunting. What would Aldo Leopold say about baiting and shooting deer? END BAITING IN THE 2020 HUNTING SEASON. Baiting cannot end soon enough and never should have been allowed in Wisconsin.
8697 See a large discrepancy between the deer numbers in the Eastern and Western parts of the county (Ag area vs large forest). My hunting area is in the East and although the herd seems to be steady, it is fragile at best. Would like to see a better management system to deal with this situation. The old "Unit" plan failed as well as the unit extended south into agriculture land. Couple more comments.... although aggressive logging in the state and county forest areas we hunt has reshaped the forest it has given the deer some decent winter browse. Also, don't forget the deer herd in favor of the elk and wolves.

8698 There is a large public access property bordered by heilisng rd and pray road held by hedge fund. Each year the gates are locked since they purchased it which limits access. The DNR says you can walk in. This forces all to hunt the road edges an virtually leaves the middle untouched. The DNR should negotiate access and rd maintenance to allow hunting which will help disburse hunters. Additionally, the DNR provides Nuisance permits to the forest companies who log the property. If the companies get these tags, part of the condition for receipt of those tags should be that gates are left open for public access.

8699 This is my opinion as a avid bow hunter. Sawyer county has one of the worst buck age classes in the state.In the 2019 bow/gun season I did not see one buck over the age of 2 1/2. Yes our buck harvest was up but that is only because people are shooting all of the 1 and 2 year olds out of corn piles. I don’t know if CDAC has any control over this but I recommend the following: Point restrictions on antlered deer, no baiting, and one buck harvest per year total per person. License sales will continue to drop if we don’t protect the 1 and 2 year old bucks. 60% of DNR funds come from sales of tags not farmers.

8700 There are decent numbers of deer in the more agricultural part of the county but sparse numbers in the national forest area. what deer there are primarily found close to habitation where they get fed and dont have to worry as much about being eaten. I cover alot of miles in the national forest in spring and fall and the deer sign is pathetic. Decent sign close to cabin clusters and some of the more heavily timber managed public non national forest areas but the forest itself is in no position to support increased antlerless tags I urge the council recommend NO increase in antlerless tags for public land.

8701 We can not stockpile deer for the next year! Harvesting bucks every year for every license and not does, well what is left, does,does,does. Older bucks on my trail cam last year did not get harvested, a waste of a resource, we need a early season, closest to Dec. 15 weekend for 16 days every year which will level out harvest over the years and seasons, just a 4 days hunt this year with the weather, to short and late! Herd harvest is out of wack as it should be 50/50 buck to doe ratio, but you eliminate your bucks and keep your does. CDAC is doing a great job with all of its constraints

8702 I don’t believe the DNR is doing enough to manage the deer population in sawyer county and in the state of Wisconsin. The issue lies with the amount of antlerless tags given and the increasing predator population. That being said some ways to change this would be to increase the amount of bear tags given and up the amount of wolf tags given if not start a season for it. If I counted the times I’ve ran into wolves in the woods during the 9 day deer season I would run out of appendages. Overall the problem lays with the amount of antlerless tags given out and lack of bear and wolf tags.

8703 I see where red oak seedlings were a concern. The common practice of clear cutting forests should also be a concern. It is rare where select harvest is being done. I saw on several state owned lands all the red oak were removed and most of everything else just leaving an almost baron landscape. I think if you are going to allow clear cutting then eliminate the concern over the seedlings because the forest has already had the damage done to it. It will take a hundred or more years to have a mature forest with red oaks getting to the size they were before being clear cut.
For several years our trail cameras have shown many bucks in velvet and up until fall. Not very many does. A few years back we saw seven bucks in velvet at one time. None of them during deer season. When deer season comes around the bucks disappear and especially during the rut they seem to be gone. I think it’s because there aren’t a lot of does so they leave looking somewhere else. I think the number of seasons and licenses for those needs to decrease. And this would help this situation. And FYI, we have never seen nor heard wolves so I don’t blame them.

The main problem remains with deer hunting in Wisconsin and that is baiting and excessive baiting. The deer in much of Sawyer County have become nocturnal because they can wait until dark and go to bait piles and eat all the corn they need for their required food. There are deer, they are just very hard to hunt until bait is eliminated in the woods. I have never baited, but I have talked to hunters who have quit baiting, on their own, because the deer usually come well after dark and they are wasting their money on corn to feed them at night.

Started hunting Sawyer County 25 plus years ago because it had the highest percentage of trophy bucks in the books relative to open public lands. Try and find the last time a record book buck was harvested from Sawyer City. Good luck. Even in outdoor news paper no buck pictured north of hwy 8. Fewer and fewer deer equal fewer and fewer hunters equal less revenue for businesses and less young hunter recruitment. Wisconsin is killing the tradition. Need 3 years of grow the herd. Maybe even a rack size limit. Watch the hunters return after that!

Seasons are to long. Make it a one buck per person per season - any method of harvest. No special youth seasons. We have become a society of catching and killing instead of fishing and hunting. There is a difference! Antler size restrictions - ex. no buck can be harvested with 2-7 points. A spike buck or bucks with antlers 8 or more may be harvested. Shorten the season. September to Jan is, on called for. The deer body weight of today is much smaller than that of those harvested 20 years ago. What does your data tell you?

I believe what Sawyer County as well as Wisconsin needs is at least 3 points on one side for a buck to be harvested. Give the younger deer a chance to get to their potential. Also, Stop giving out so many doe tags for Sawyer County. I don’t think the Herd is as abundant as the CDAC believes. We also need to increase the non-resident price tags by 50% or possibly have some type of point system and only give out so many tags for the out of state hunters. I’d rather have my neighbor shoot a deer than someone from out of state.

I actually quit deer hunting and buying a license 3 years ago. The number of deer in the Sawyer County forest, has dropped to a level, that I felt it was irresponsible of me to harvest an animal. Every year I see more bear and wolf sign, than I do deer sign. I also believe that the DNR is irresponsible to have DMU set by county, instead of by land/vegetation type. Every farmer knows that different soils raise different amounts of crops, which is no different than forest vs. farm land raise different number of deer.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to fill out this. The last page of questions was not worded well, as well as a other questions. For instance I seen 12 deer in the woods from September to end of November this year and last year I think I saw 20. 15 years ago I would see that many in a day! There is not much sign of deer, but man did I see some sandy size canine tracks in places. Since the Dnr started the “t zone hunts” in the 90’s the numbers of deer in the woods has dwindled each year!

Following the actions of Sawyer County’s CDAC for the past few years, it is clear that certain members have an agenda to reduce the herd due to crop damage or overbrowsing. These individuals have no business making decisions that impact the deer herd in Sawyer County. A quick read of the article in the Sawyer County Record regarding the first 2020 CDAC meeting will affirm this. I would like the CDAC committee to reconsider their initial 1400 quota and adopt last years quota of 1100. Thank you.

I would like to propose two changes to Wisconsin deer hunting. 1) major change - point restrictions. Pennsylvania put them in (at first it was met with resistance) but it has been accepted and has been very successful. 2) minor change - a flintlock only, late season (last deer season), buck or doe with any unused deer license purchased for that season. This allows hunters who did not have success in any other deer season (for whatever reason) one last chance to harvest a deer.
My area has dropped significantly in numbers, this includes bucks, does and new born. Definitely not like it was 7 or 8 years ago. I'd like to see buck only for 2 years. Give the deer populations a chance to grow. Last few years my family and friends won't even come up to hunt, they been going to southern Illinois and Missouri. That sucks because there not here to visit and hunt as a family. There main concern was very little deer sightings. I hope this helps. Thank you.

To me it seems like all the conservation that has been done for Sawyer county is worrying about the elk that were introduced in the area. I am an avid hunter and feel the deer herd has suffered since that introduction and will only get worse as more predators move into those areas. The biggest is theme wolf. We are just starting to see more sign of that predator moving back into our area. The elk may not suffer but the deer herd is going to suffer more than it already has.

If we keep giving out so many doe tags and keep making residents wait 7 years to get a beer tag when we have one of the top 5 highest black bear populations in the country. We have way too many wolves killing deer and the mountain lion population seems to be growing too and we do nothing to eliminate the high amount of predators we have. So I say back off on doe tags for that reason. And that isn’t easy for me to say as my family relies on eating several deer in a year.

I believe that deer baiting should go away. This would put the deer back into their normal state of activity like it was when I began to hunt the Northwoods many years ago. This would lead to true hunting and the ability to harvest deer in their natural state. I would also recommend that we stick to our normal annual 9-day gun season. This has been an annual tradition for many years and gives the true hunter plenty of time to harvest a deer if they are able.

I am strongly in support of all youth tags for anterless deer. This is the only way I can keep my children interested in coming up north. After 29 years of hunting in Sawyer, the anterless deer are all we see. I don’t care if I don't fill my tag, but the kids, enjoy the chance to maybe bag a doe or young buck. My brother has the same feelings as I do. We rent a house, support all the local bars and restaurants during the trips up scouting and during the hunt.

My thoughts. I placed a priority on someday having a piece of land in Sawyer county for hunting. Taxes on a piece of hunting property are considerable, especially after the initial cost of the property. Seeing a reasonable amount of deer over the course of a hunt is important for all hunters, but even more for our young hunters. We have seen wolves and believe they do have a significant impact on herd numbers. Open the wolf season and improve deer numbers.

In the areas of Sawyer County where we hunt, we had hunting groups around us who never saw a single deer the whole season. I know the weather was less than favorable for the season, but to not see a single deer? These are not Johnny come lately groups either, these are groups who have hunted in this area for decades and have always been quite successful. The number of deer sightings on trail cameras that were posted were significantly lower as well.

There are way to many Wolf for this area (ie) Log Creek. There are no deer to be had just check the registration numbers. Between the Wolf & Bear there are no deer to be had. I realize this type of comment carries little weight but the people reporting the numbers of said animals are not in the woods hunting & in my opinion have no concept of what has really been happening in the Log Creek Flambeau area herd wise for many years.

The amount of deer in the CNF has significantly dropped over the course of the last 5 years. Whether it be hunting pressure, or predation the numbers are lower than what is being estimated. I have personally seen the influx of gray wolves in this area, and deer kills from them. I do not believe there presence is being considered in the overall health/population of the deer heard in the northern part of Sawyer county.
This county is too big and has 2 different habitats to govern as 1. In the large forest portions, the deer herd needs to be increased. There is little to no browse pressure to warrant the increase of antlerless tags. Anyone who thinks the public-private separation of tags is working is not seeing the real picture. Until the large predator numbers are decreased, the herd numbers can not maintain in the large forest tracts.

I feel that with the high number of logging activity has affected deer population in many areas of Wisconsin. Also I feel that antlerless deer season should be no longer in effect. Also the irresponsible actions of the human population doesn't help matters either, with the use of pesticides and barbwire fencing etc. Dumping garbage and toxic materials in their environment is taking its toll also More patrolling!!!

There need to be tags available for the wolf. Deer numbers are so low lots of guys are going out of state to hunt. I am not impressed with the Wisconsin DNR. NO ANTLERLESS TAGS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS. The winters and predators have deer almost completely gone. We have been hunting the same area for generations... 1930s to be exact. We have seen the deer numbers over years... its honestly a joke now! Thank you.

I believe that the deer herd is in a decent place and would not like to see the Doe number of permits to go up. I would like to see all season dates stay consistent with the 2019 season. We are on the edge with deer numbers and any little change will cause large changes to the population. Its a delicate cycle and we are doing an OK job as it is. Please no permits or longer seasons

Ever since elk were introduced we are seeing less deer. And deforestation is extreme in this area. Really sad when you see more elk than deer. This used to be the go to place for people to come and hunt but not anymore. This area is the Flambeau river state forest. The DNR in this area is doing more for the elk than the deer. It’s a sin how they ruined such a beautiful place to hunt.

Our group has been gun hunting this area since 1974 and bow hunting since 1994. Last year was the 2nd time ever we didn’t shoot a deer. The last time was 1980. No Gun hunter in the group saw a buck. 6 of 12 gun hunters did not see a deer. 3 bow hunters hunted a total of 18 days during peak rut and saw 1 doe, and no bucks. You will NOT convince me that ANY does need to be harvested.

We need to ban baiting in order to get the deer herd healthy and moving naturally again. Time and again we see a lot of deer in the fall, until 2 weeks before gun season. At that point people are coming up here throwing out bait, rather than hunting in natural feeding areas. Also, more turkeys need to be hunted up here. They are competing quite heavily with deer for mast.

As primarily a bowhunter who spends a lot of time in the woods all year checking things out, scouting, working, hunting, etc, please ignore the yelling and whining of the short term 9day gun hunters. They have yelled so much in recent years, it's become a problem more than before and starting to influence potential decisions. Thank you for all the work you do.

I still see too many wolves in areas i hunt. Tracks in immediate area I hunted were evidence that not just one wolf was there. Finally, on the eve of my third day of gun hunting i saw a doe with her two fawns. Very, very skittish. I believe presence of wolves keep them on edge. This was the fewest number of deer tracks that I have seen for several years.

I strongly believe there should be a 1 deer harvest per hunter on public land. That includes bow and gun. There are not a lot deer in the Sawyer county forest. Our hunting group of 13 hunters recorded 100,000+ trail camera pictures last fall. So don't tell me i don't know what i'm talking about. Those pictures are all year around. cameras never come down.

Reduce the numbers of private and public antlerless tags. Please go back to in person registration of deer for bow and gun harvests. No Holiday antlerless hunts. End all bow season at Dec 31. Do not lengthen the gun season Do not employ earn a buck Leave all cross bow and reg bow seasons alone Please go back to having to display a back tag.
8733 In Sawyer County, not all the antler less tags are sold oftentimes. So why are so many offered? I don't think it's right that hunters can buy numerous permits if they are available. I know you have a formula so that the number of permits available will result in a harvest of 1400 but hunters should be limited to one antler less tag per season per unit.

8736 In my area the predation is significant to the fawn mortality. I would like to see an increase in bear harvest permits and the state bring back the wolf harvest population control permits each year. I have see many adult does with no fawns over the past 5 to 7 years and in turn I have not seen many adult bucks physically or on camera. Thank you

8735 I think about 500 antlerless deer tags is about the right number. I think their is to much pressure from wolfs,bears and humans. Wolf population is alot higher than you think up their. You also can see the wolf prints following the deer tracks in the snow and sand. Thank you for letting us help advise you with our hunting future on deer hunting.

8734 Too many wolves in Sawyer Co. last 4yrs! Our hunting party (7 hunters) in the last 3 years have seen more wolves than deer in the 9 day rifle seasons. This was in the have Winter area. Also bow hunting in the area around Stone Lake I have come across many wolf tracks than ever in the last 4 seasons. This has to be a problem that needs addressing!

8737 We - three of us - have been hunting in this DMU for over 40 years and we have been seeing fewer and fewer deer each of the last ten years. Last year we saw no deer during the nine day gun season and that has never happened before. It seems to us that this DMU has a seriously declining deer population, probably due to over harvesting.

8738 There needs to be a wolf season put in place I saw 5 separate wolf in all different locations! And I had a pack howling behind me after dark walking out of my stand its unbelievable why there isn't a season. And sooner or later people will be in danger also! I hope that you guys take this into consideration! Its getting ridiculous

8739 I believe whatever is done to manage the heard, should be based on the best info possible and if, as an example, something is banned or a quota is zero, that means zero for anyone’s hunt. Decisions related to revenue or increasing hunting participation, shouldn't play a role in it. It’s a part of the hunter learning process.

8740 You talked about predication issues but not specifically Wolves. There’s is an issue when you see more wolves than deer. Also you are worried about food sources for deer or damage of forests, but yet you bring back Elk? Too many elk in my opinion and not enough time dedicated to getting our deer back on public land

8741 Point restrictions on antlered deer is the only way to bring hunters back to the woods. This has worked very well in Pennsylvania and some parts of Michigan. The reason tag sales have dropped is due to a very young buck age structure in the northern half of the state. Protect the 1 and 2 year old bucks.

8742 I believe strongly that the DECREASE number of deer seen is due to the fact of the ever increasing wolf population! I have personally seen a steady decrease of deer after the introduction of the wolf. F.Y.I. back in the late 1980's one season I seen more wolves than I did deer! What does that say ???

8743 Deer population around Loretta, Wi growing, had several young deer thru winter. Deer looked healthy. Numbers need control with respect to winter severity and disease. This winter was mild but next may be rough. Road kill looks to be up and deer crossings frequented. The numbers could be above average.

8744 In my opinion I think there should be 2 bucks per hunter for bow and gun season with at least 3 points on one side with at least a 14.5” inside spread which is normally even with the ears. And 2 does per hunter for bow and gun season so a total of 8 deer per person for bow and gun season

8745 The deer population is much higher than you think! Stop playing guessing games with our deer population! We the hunters need more tags to control the herd! We the hunters shouldn’t have to be limited to one DMU to harvest our antlerless deer, our antlerless tag should be valid statewide!
Our deer numbers are low. Way too low. We need To do some thing around quality deer management. We also need to make sure that Hunter satisfaction is very high. I don’t think there’s a lot of damage to crops in backyard plants. As much as people think. Our deer numbers need to increase.

I believe catering to bow hunters is wrong, there is nothing wrong with crossbow hunters having the same season as now hunters. If anything the crossbow is more ethical than the now because of its speed. I believe there should be no doe tags given out so they can repopulate the herd.

In the last few seasons I’ve seen one small buck. Mainly doe’s on the private land I’ve had the opportunity to hunt. I know that’s not the experience of every hunter and that’s sometimes how a hunt goes. But I’ve predominantly seen doe’s in both the gun and muzzle loader seasons.

Go back to the old management system, trying to manage, by county makes no sense. But that's what you get when you let an "expert" from Texas decide what will work in Wisconsin. Scrap the whole thing and start over. Management units by land type/use, would be a better idea.

Allow shooting coyotes during the gun season CHANGE youth hunt dates. The deer go nocturnal and this affects the bow season thru the end of November More aggressive enforcement of baiting with corn. There are literally areas I find near the state forest I name Corn beach...

There are plenty of deer if you do a bit of scouting. Though there are always areas with few deer, the hunt should be successful with plenty of deer left for seed. If the weather is like last year, numbers will again be suppressed, both in kill and hunter hours in the woods.

The goal for this unit should be to increase the population not just maintain. Far too few deer on the public lands. Also, the number of elk are way too many! The elk are driving the deer out of their normal habitats. The goal for the elk population should be to REDUCE.

Since I’ve been hunting in this unit, there seems to be an excessive amount of baiting on adjacent private land to the public land that changes the normal deer behavior in these areas. I strongly believe baiting should not be allowed so the deer can behave normally.

I am in Sawyer county 40 % of the year and I travel through out the county for work. I personally seen way less deer in 2019 and many of my clients who are full time residents of the county said the same thing. Way less deer than before and less than they want.

the overall deer population in Northern WI has dramatically dropped in the last 10 years. Dating back to the late 90s, this was prime area, now its hard to find a mature buck. I support not only no doe harvest but also a 1 buck per hunter per year for 3 years.

My group of 3 hunters believes the late season likely contributed to our seeing so few deer. Trail cams showed more activity earlier. Also, we hunt near Radisson and believe we heard there was some very severe cold in late winter 2019 around Winter, WI.

I know CWD has not been found in Sawyer County, but I would like to see more CWD Testing sites in Sawyer County. I would also like to see more advertising in Sawyer County from the local DNR offices to encourage hunters to have their deer tested for CWD.

Consider deer licenses that are valid for either antlered or antlerless animals and not specifically one or the other. Many hunters will only take a trophy and others simply want to provide meat for the family. Let the hunter choose what they harvest.

No baiting should be allowed in this unit. Deer should move more naturally when looking for food sources. Baiting has made that a problem and more difficult for hunters in my opinion. Too much baiting is happening on public land in the Flambeau forest.
3 of us hunted for 63 hours total each. We did not see a single deer, buck or Doe, while hunting. There was sign, probably night activity of feeding and movement. This is the 1st time this has happened in over 35 years of hunting in the area.

Deer are very unevenly distributed in the county. Decent numbers in the farmland areas. The national forest areas have very poor numbers - most deer are found close to buildings where they are typically being fed and less pressure from wolves.

Dramatic decrease in deer on both our properties compared to 2018. Each property is approximately 20 miles apart and both were extremely poor this past season. One property had daily wolf sightings and the other had very little deer sign.

Keep deer numbers low enough so there is a strong healthy herd. Counties are not the correct units to gauge hunting in. Ecosystem ranges are a more correct unit until we find something better. Large monetary fines for any deer feeding.

Gun hunter should only have the 9 day hunt. Crossbows should go back to the disabled and elderly. There never should of been buck only in Sawyer co. Go back to the way hunting was years ago. Too many changes and no respect for the animal.

With all the t zone and earn a buck hunts in the past in Sawyer county it really ruined it. When I first started hunting it was nothing to see 20+ deer a day. Know your lucky to see 20 all season. I hunt public and private land.

I believe the deer numbers in this area are still very low from the many doe permits that were givin from from 90's to early to mid 2000's. Wolves and bears have also been a problem along with some bad winters in that area.

I would like to see baiting with corn outlawed. The corn starts showing up in the woods a week or two before season and the deer habits change significantly. Which I believe hurts the real Hunter not the corn pile sitters.

For the 2019 deer season I saw a lot of deer damage to hardwood tree seedling in the maple/oak stands. There wasn’t many seedling that were not crewed on. Also I saw a lot of acorn feeding (scrapes in snow) by the deer.

Ban Baiting! Now! And Forever! Deer hunting in the north woods will never be the same as it used to be until that happens. Unless baiting is banned soon, I will no longer be a deer hunter in Wisconsin. Thank You.

Lots of shooting heard on Private land about 15 to 45 minutes after shooting hours in the area around Winter. There must be a high % of deer harvested over bait piles after shooting hours. Very frustrating.

We have a summer home in Sawyer county and have deer hunted this county in the state for over 40 years we support protecting this resource for future generations to enjoy Thank you Concerned property owner.

Please do away with the crossbows or at least not let them hunt the rut...too many bucks getting shot with them. Always allow junior hunters antlerless tags in any county...we need the kids! Thank you.

There ARE hardly ANY deer where I hunt. Wolves, Bears, and even Cougars are killing them. Start killing more Bears and Wolves.

The info provided only addresses antlerless issues. There have been discussions regarding extending the gun season and limiting the crossbow season. Are these changes still being considered?

While I have seen a small improvement in the number of deer in this area the numbers are still very low in the forested areas. I see very little sign through the season and very few deer.

Cdw testing needs to be free and easier and more dispersed like in Colorado. Do a better study on it. Check with Dave Gustafson OSMP Ranger City of Boulder to learn about that study.

Way too many wolves. Also too many bear. Please issue more bear tags to reduce the fawn mortality rate so we can get the herd back up in line with where it should be.
The Bear population in the Exeland area needs to be addressed and factored into these recommendations. As well as the Blue Hills/ Meteor area as a possible sub unit.

Baiting on public land is my number one concern for the 2020 harvest. I watched people carry in bags of deer corn with ARs into public land and it's upsetting.

What needs to happen across the state is ban all baiting across the board including feeding that is what we should be talking about not the other stuff

I would like to see an option for hunting bear during gun deer season. Is permit is given hunter can wait to hunt during deer season where hides prime.

Still need to provide protection for the herd in the National Forest region. Too many predators. Eliminate baiting and feeding to disperse the herd.

Our hunting group still believes there are too many wolves and other predators out there killing the deer. Way to many antlerless permits given out.

Our deer population would be a lot different if the people in charge of the bear population and wolf population would just listen to deer hunters.

I'd like to see the gun season remain the same...as a traditional 9 day season with muzzle loader season immediately following the gun season.

I would like to see the crossbow season remain just the way it has been. No changes to the season length. Especially in the northern forest.

I am hanging it up. Not seen a deer either sex in 3 years. Going out west until it is managed better. Too accessible for out of staters.

Please advise me personally when the antlerless permits will be available. I'm old and I missed my chance last year. I need some meat...

We need a wolf season, see more wolf tracks and wolves than deer. Your population estimate for wolves is pathetic. Way under estimated.

Walking around this spring it concerns me the amount of wolf and coyote scat I felt are out of control and the few deer I actually saw.

Seeing a lot fewer deer over the years in Sawyer county both in season and out of season. Might this be due to quotas being too high?

I went for a ride yesterday and saw 103 deer in one hour. About what I would have expected. This was afternoon to near dark.

It seems the DNR is more concerned with the Elk and Wolf population and habitat in Sawyer Co than the deep population

The wolves, coyote, and bear population is putting to much pressure on the deer herd. How can the deer come back??

More predator control! De-list protection of wolves, more bear tags! ESPECIALLY KEEP DEER GUN SEASON ALONE!!!!!!

need more bear permits, more aggressive wolf controls, less doe permits, keep the nine day season in tack.

I have two fields down the road i quit counting deer when i hit 100. There are alot more does then bucks

I would hope that in the near future we would return to backtags and physical in person registration

Don’t know how many years I will be able to hunt yet but I do know I won’t bother on late openings
Sawyer and Ashland counties should be buck only on public lands to help population in those areas.

Would like to see a 2 -3 year buck only in Sawyer northern forest. Let the deer population grow!

Let us kill wolves and stop giving out so many doe tags. Let's build the population back up.

Make the wolves go away. There killing way to many deer. The hunting has sucked since 2008.

The deer herd in the area I hunt is greatly influenced by the abundant wolf population.

Ag tags in our area are avabile if youcan get hunters to shoot does not many will hunt

I feel deer numbers and deer hunting is slightly less than normal now in Sawyer county. 

I am not in favor of elongated hunting seasons. I favor the standard 9 day gun season.

I am very concerned with predator impart on the deer population in this area.

Not seeing any deer is frustrating. 4 hunters all experienced. Took 1 deer.

Hunting in northern Wisconsin (north of highway 8) is a joke now a days!

Saw less deer and more wolf tracks. Recommend opening season on wolves.

I'm in favour of a fork horn law which in turn will grow bigger bucks .

The increase in the number wolves in our are has reduced deer numbers.

Sawyer Co should be buck only. Except for youth. 3 years in a row.

Same old song. 3 hunters, 96hrs in the woods and 0 deer sightings.

I saw more wolves during the 2019 deer season then I did deer.

Season should be backed up one week to provide more field time.

I own a cabin cabin in this unit and hunt this county a lot

I would like to see baiting deer and bear eliminated.

The area I hunt had more Wolf tracks than deer tracks

We should have a 4-point minimum on one side 4 bucks

NEED TO OUTLAW ALL BAITING EXCEPT HEALTHY FOOD PLOTS

We need to ban baiting and go back to real hunting

Favor longer season for gun. No antlerless hunt

I would like to see a zero harvest for our elk .

Please stop harvesting does... your ruining it

Wolf and bear population needs to be addressed.

Thank you for your service to our county

I would like to see a ban on baiting.

Outlaw deer baiting and deer feeding.

I would like to see an early season

Few deer on public land.

STOP THE BAITING !!!!!!!!

Open up wolf seasons

Shoot more wolves.
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<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8836</td>
<td>Get rid of baiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8837</td>
<td>DO NOT SHOOT DOE’S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8838</td>
<td>Stop the baiting!</td>
</tr>
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</table>

10977
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

908 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 352
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 181
   - I hunt in this unit: 868
   - General interest in this unit: 136

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 833
   - Bow: 493
   - Crossbow: 416
   - Muzzleloader: 373

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 25.28
   - Maximum: 67

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 669
   - Mostly Private Land: 100
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 41
   - Mostly Public Land: 15
   - Exclusively Public Land: 38
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 27
   - Not too crowded: 68
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 37
   - Somewhat crowded: 26
   - Very crowded: 17
   - Not applicable: 19

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 181
   - Fewer: 324
   - Same: 305
   - More: 59
   - Many More: 29
   - Unsure: 10

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>236</td>
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Report Generated:  

Shawano, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>336</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 358, Oppose 459, Unsure 91
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 411, Oppose 402, Unsure 92
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 96, Oppose 763, Unsure 49

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Hello, To start, I'm a passionate whitetail hunter. I hunt roughly 75.0% of the whitetail season, to fill my freezer and to chase that trophy buck. All year round myself and roughly 20-30 other hunters communicate, talking about anything and everything hunting. As an outsider looking in, below is my thoughts and opinions. Personally I believe Shawano County is one of the few counties heading down the right path. I personally don't agree with the current deer per sq mile in Shawano County. 15 years ago, I'd see min of 10 deer a night. in 2019, I saw maybe 5 a night. Me and my family own 240 total acres in Shawano, this land is 100.0% focused around deer hunting. When it comes to providing additional antlerless deer tags, will you increase your antlerless deer kill, sure maybe. As an avid whitetail hunter, I try to harvest 2 deer a year, because that what me and my family consume in roughly one calendar year. If you gave me 1 - 2 tags, Ill try and fill them. If you give me 3 - 10 tags, I'll try to fill 1 - 2 of those tags. How do you kill more deer..... more deer hunters. How do you get more deer hunters. That's a tricky question. The younger generation enjoys, video games, computer time, sports, activities with there friends, etc. Along with that, the people that are not real serious about hunting but enjoy it, are backing off because everyone's lives are getting more congested with work/activities. Younger kids will NOT become interested in a sport, unless there's action. Less deer, equals less actions, less deer may also mean smaller/younger whitetails. The world of hunting is evolving, we need to evolve with it. Adults and kids watch hunting shows on TV, YouTube, Facebook, etc., people are killing big bucks. Everyone wants to kill bigger more mature deer. Example: if you're a golfer, are you content shooting a 50 in 9 holes, or do you continue to try and get better. Letting kids do this youth hunt from 0 - 15, is laziness on our side and false advertising. Hunting before to much pressure with a gun, during warmer weather. Then you expect that same kid to enjoy hunting mid-late November in the cold, where he/she may not even see a deer. I appreciate everything we have hear in Shawano County, but we should continue to make it better. I don't know everything that goes on and by no means do I have all the answers. My thoughts on the future: - Less tag sales equals less DNR funding and less deer harvested. - Increase in tag sales equals greater DNR funding along with more opportunity for deer harvest per year. - A more mature whitetail herd will increase license sales/hunter interest. How do you get that, maybe an antler restriction. That'd force your hunters to harvest antlerless deer, while they wait for that buck that has 4 points on one side, per say. - As the whitetails become more mature, WI will be more of a destination for out of state hunters. More out of state hunters equals more out of state money to our Wisconsin business's. - Increase out of state license fees - Predator control One final thought to consider. Crossbows/crossbow season, I firmly believe this season should be restricted excluding older individuals and individuals with disabilities. The amount a deer wounded and/or poorly hit, which will kill the deer, is going to increase significantly. By poorly hit, I'm considering that deer that are not recovered by a hunter. Crossbow manufacturer's are advertising these bows shooting out to 100 yards. People WILL be taking these shots. Majority of the crossbow hunters are people that were rarely successful with a compound bow. Meaning they switched to give them an advantage, and when manufacturer's say they can shoot accurate out to 100 yards. You'd be lying to yourself, if you didn't think people were doing to try this. Your ethical hunters will be ethical, no matter what. Unfortunately, the world isn't full of ethical people. I know lots a hunters that have taken ridiculous/unethical shots with a crossbow, if these few people I know are doing it, it's happening more than you think. I hope you appreciate my feedback, as this is a topic I live for.
I understand the management of deer is essential and a touchy subject and a hard one to control and hard to make everyone. I understand that there is multiple demographics of people with valued opinions and necessities. 1. Farmers worried about crops 2. Small business owners who depend on hunting tourism 3. Trophy hunters 4. Meat hunters 5. Meat/hobby hunters Either way people have a lot of money stock into this no matter what there position is so a happy compromise for everyone is a necessity. I believe the quota of 2 doe and one buck tag for bow/crossbow and 2 doe and one buck for rifle is a happy medium. There is no reason for one person to be able to shoot 8+ deer throughout the season is reasonable a family of four should not be able to legally shoot 30 some deer. That is not using a resource that is simply disrespecting a resource. That is just unnecessary. On the opposite end there is no way a land owner should be put in the predicament that they cannot shoot a deer or a buck on there land certain years when they have hundreds of thousands of dollars and tax money stuck into it every year. They should always be allowed the chance to shoot der on land they pay for and pay taxes on. I also agree for farmers that crop damage tags were a good thing, and a necessity. It also truly is a shame that the land in the northern half of the state is not what it once was. What is the reason for the significant decline in the deer population. I could be like everyone else and blame the "W" word but I will not jump to conclusions like everyone else. As far as the deer seasons go I think the lengths are perfect. 2 months of bow season 2 week of a firearm season followed by one month of a bow season. The talks of extending the gun season is not the way to go "in my opinion" I am not sure of the statistics but I know I have to be close so please excuse me if I’m a little off. 75% of the deer shot during the rifle season are shot during the first 2 days and I would say 75% of the hunters only sit during the first 3 days. after that everyone is done hunting and quite frankly I would be to if I went up to the northern counties and seen a flash of a deer the first two days. The 19 day gun season absolutely will not increase tourism as 90% of people only are able to set a week or so off to the side for hunting, and only a certain amount of money each year so they cant burn it up multiple weekends. Everyone still spends there allotted amount of time and money, and 90% of people will not go after the first two weekends. With all of this being said I think the biggest thing that needs to be done is the predator control in the Northwoods. (I do not live in the Northwoods so It is not a influenced opinion) The only thing they have up there is snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and forestry. Something has obviously influenced the amount of deer up there, and I don’t believe it is to hared to realize what it is. The fact that there isn’t some sort of a predator season is each year is beyond me. I understand that they deserve to be here just as much as we do and they truly are an awesome creature that needs to stay in the area. But they do need to be managed. As our ancestors managed them on there own prior to all of these new laws, but I do think regulations and a form of law are a necessity to keep this under control. Hopefully some way a regulated action can be put in place.
In 2019, the amount of deer seen was less than the previous years. I feel fortunate to be able to hunt private land, even though our property is a small timbered area that is approx. 10 acres. It is bow hunted only, even during the 9 day gun season. We have seen enough deer to continue heading back into the woods each season. Our property is located just off the Menominee Indian reservation, so to have hunters with a pocket full of antlerless tags during both archery and gun seasons, along with folks hunting on the Reservation, it is becoming harder to harvest as well as seeing any amount of deer in our 10 acre plot. By putting a blanket amount of Antlerless tags in the county, I feel that there is a chance that you put even more hunting pressure (harvesting) in the areas that are maybe not as populated as other areas. Also, getting property access to hunt is becoming much harder to the hunter without deep money pockets. I haven’t hunted public property for many years in the county, so can’t say personally how pressured those public tracts are hunted. I think that to be better managed in the state, every county needs to be broken down into populated areas. Then you would be putting the antlerless tag pressure where it really needs to be. You would then take the pressure away from lower populated areas of the county. I grew up hunting in a group that chose not to shoot an antlerless deer. A trophy buck was a legal buck of a 3” horn or larger. I have many horn mounts that are scattered in my home that are of 1 1/2 year bucks. I still feel that way 48 years later, but do realize that some folks don’t mind shooting an antlerless deer. I just would like to see the antlerless permit pressure put in the areas of the county that are really considered overpopulated, not just have a blanket amount of tags for the county. 6 extra tags last year! I don’t know of any person that chose to fill those tags to fill all 6 antlerless. I feel that 4 extra tags are still to much, but remember, we only hunt on 10 acres. Thx for listening.

I hunt deer in Shawano County only and only on public lands, Navarino Wildlife Area and Wolf River Bottoms. Before they had the Earn-a-Buck seasons in the public lands I could definitely see the effects of too high of deer density with the undergrowth and tree regeneration. There were areas that would not grow in the logged off areas. That has turned around as the deer numbers dropped. There were years then that myself, my sons and my brother and his son would use all our free antlerless tags that were sparsely given out. There are many days now that I never see a deer and we hunt them hard. We are happy to each get at least one deer per person now and sometimes we’ll get a couple extra. Not last year. Out of 5 people we got 5 deer, my brother took a buck and a doe, both with a bow. I took a buck with the gun and only had one chance with the bow at a fawn and passed, my son never had a chance, but only hunted with the gun. My nephew took a buck with the gun and a doe with the bow, my buddy took nothing and only hunted with a bow. The tree regeneration is good on the public lands and most of the deer we see is on land close to the borders of private lands. I drive around Shawano County and see many private lands that have a definite browse height on trees along their farm fields. The private land owners are the ones that need to step it up on the doe harvest. I haven’t a clue on how to get the land owners to shoot more does, possibly an earn a buck on private lands only and making shooting a doe on public lands illegal. The only reason I say that is because during the Earn-a-Buck seasons I was told many times by land owners they were hunting public lands for does because they didn’t feel the need to shoot does on their lands. I found many bucks lying dead during the Earn-a-Buck seasons, some even gutted, so I really do not support a doe only season. Public and private lands need to be better managed separately, I am not sure how unless shorter public seasons are implemented. Thank you.
Leave the seasons alone they are working fine! If you take away the crossbow season and change it, it would mean less hunting Opportunities for my kids to hunt they are young and unable to use a compound due to the weight restrictions! Its bad enough that there is no baiting and its makes it harder for kids to get deer in range to get one so now to limit the season and make it shorter I could see my kids not going at all due to the frustration of not being able to get one in range and to have less opportunity would ruin them! As far as rifle season the 9 days is plenty of time to use a rifle to kill a deer and if that dont work you have 10 more days to use a muzzleloader! The problem is that people are only out there to hunt for horns and not meat so a longer season wont kill more deer its to make the “horn hunter” have more time to wait for their big buck! I hunt everyday all day and have no problem getting my doe tag filled and also shooting a nice buck and yes I do practice QDM most years I don’t shoot a buck with bow or gun but I would rather shoot doe’s help control the population! Longer season not the answer! Now for the holiday hunt. In my opinion I think that is ridiculous that were even considering it! I have seen buck shed antlers the first part of December and also seen bucks with antlers in February and to have a holiday hunt that late in the year could result in shooting a shed antler buck! If people cant kill deer in the designated seasons we have already then they maybe need to spend more time in the woods or think about not hunting just the trophy bucks! I sat in the phone conference in april and listened to the comments made some have valid points and some are just ridiculous! Instead of longer and more season maybe reintroduce the baiting again people would be able to kill more deer and help keep the heard down! I don’t see that the heard is overpopulated but the board does! Yes I own land and hunt in western shawano county that they are talking about!

In most parts of Shawano County, deer numbers are higher than the land can support. Over browsing is a major problem in most of this area. With that being said, the quality and age structure for deer (particularly antlered deer) is poor at best. I believe that most landowners are doing their part in harvesting more antlerless deer than ever before but there is still some room for improvement. Additionally, I believe that the DNR and CDAC should put more emphasis on creating an environment that is more conducive to improving buck age structure rather than harvesting antlerless deer. I would like to see some type of antler restrictions (i.e. 4 points on one side). This would protect most 1.5 year old bucks which would be a good starting point. Keep in mind, the better quality bucks that are in the area, the better the hunter participation will be and also new hunter recruitment. I would also like to see more public lands in this area. I understand that a lot of incentives already exist to make this happen (FCL/MFL Open, etc.) but more needs to be done in this regard. As someone who has their property enrolled in MFL Closed, it would be nice if more emphasis was put on improving wildlife habitat within the program rather than managing land for boards per foot. This would drastically help to support the higher deer numbers in the area due to the fact that the MFL program is so popular. It would also improve buck age structure as it would help create security cover so the deer don’t get harvested and can advance in age. Currently, MFL lands are typically wide open timber that doesn’t have enough browse (stems per acre) or cover for the high deer numbers. In other words, the MFL program contributes to poor herd health. Could there be a new tax advantaged program created that incentivizes herd health and manages the land for wildlife rather than boards per foot (other states have them including CRP programs)? Just a few things to think about.
I personally believe that the deer numbers are not correct. I have 280 acres that I hunt in western Shawano County that is supposed to be prime. We haven’t seen deer numbers in awhile. Also I talk to many people that are in the woods a lot and most people seem to agree the numbers aren’t there. You are always going to have select parcels with a lot of deer. When a farmer owns 500 acres or the guy in Tigerton with 700 acres trying to grow a 180 inch plus buck to shoot how are you supposed to control those numbers when they allow no hunters. The people that are suffering are the areas with small tracts of land and everyone is shooting does. Next thing you know those areas are running out of deer. It takes away the fun of the sport seeing nothing and I’m not one that needs to go out and kill everything but do like some meat in the freezer. I feel like the land that I mainly Hunt never recovered from the previous earn a bucks years ago. I am personally watching people that have hunted for 40 and 50 plus years that are totally losing everything for it with all the extra seasons. I think it’s time to just get back to the basics of normal seasons take the days off before gun season. If people want the extra chance at a deer I think the holiday hunt is perfect. If you struck out all year in general deer are pretty easy to pattern that time of the year. Also you can see just how many deer made it and have that last chance to manage the heard. One last thing I’ve put a lot of thought into. The youth hunt. I was always a fan but this past year I had a new view. After watching my lil cousin shoot a buck during gun hunting and the smile with everyone. A big part of the hunt the group you do it with. I think that almost meant as much as shooting the buck. The build up of opening night and waiting all those years means. Just seen a new perspective this year and might be something to think about.

A fundamental outside activity of WI residents is whitetail deer hunting. The number of WI hunters is sadly waning annually due to increasing costs, lack or outdoor enthusiasm, family tradition breakdown, etc. My family and I enjoy both bow/crossbow and rifle seasons year in and year out. I am not in favor of restricting the crossbow season to anything less than regular bow season (Sep-Nov and post gun season is great). I have gone plenty of years without bagging a deer during archery season so I don’t believe the deer herd is too low. The current/traditional coinciding bow/crossbow seasons allows for all 3 living generations to enjoy the hunting season and WI outdoors the way it was intended to be as an annual family event. Older hunters need to use crossbows and spend time with their children and grandchildren appreciating these outdoor traditions together. Once the family event is gone this sport will die! As is tradition, bow/crossbow seasons need to remain from September through the late November whitetail rut. If you restrict whitetail hunting during the rut you will cut hunters out of the most enjoyable and rewarding time of the season. The thrill is in the chase and observing the whitetail in its natural setting performing their natural breeding rituals. This is awesome to watch! Bagging a deer is just icing on the cake! Please don’t deprive hunters of this special WI annual experience. For those lucky enough to own private land, these proposed changes would drop the value of their land in my opinion. I am not a proud land owner yet but, I intend to be in the future me and my family. Just please leave a good thing alone!

My family has owned property in Southwest Shawano county for over 60 years. I’ve hunted on this same property the past 38 seasons. The land is about 50% cropland and that is rented for agricultural purposes. Over that time, the success rate for shooting a deer during the fall gun season in November has been spotty at best. Typically once the crops are harvested the deer movement patterns change drastically. However, we’ve seen the numbers of deer sighted in summer and early fall increase significantly over the past couple of years to where we have had to look for crop damage tags to help manage the population. Additionally, tree regeneration patterns for some of the wooded areas on our property has been almost non-existent due to severe damage by the deer. This year, the deer sightings on the open fields has been unbelievably high and we will need to once again look to do some harvesting of the deer using the crop tags before the damage is too costly. To help control the deer population in my area, I’m all for extended/additional gun and archery seasons, as I think the motivation to shoot the deer during the legal seasons in fall is much more popular with hunters than shooting for crop tags in 80 degree+ temps in July, August and September. I feel that if we are going to tell people we have a deer problem and need to do a better job managing that population - which is what you’re doing by offering the 4 antlerless tags with every license - we need to give the hunters incentive and extended legal shooting times to accomplish that.
I strongly oppose the chance that Shawano county be included in a Holiday hunt in 2020. I don't think deer numbers are strong enough to handle the amount of antlerless harvest permits that have been issued over the past few years. Even the decrease to 4 free tags is still too many in my opinion. I feel two free tags with each license sold would be sufficient. I see carcasses that have plenty of edible meat thrown away each year. With so many harvest authorizations, people take the choice or easier to remove cuts of meat and discard the rest and just go shoot another one or two, or SIX!!! I listened to the Shawano county CDAC meeting on the phone. One of the gentlemen on the committee stated he was in favor of the Holiday hunt and he brought the motion to recommend Shawano county be included in the holiday hunt in 2020. He stated that some people are concerned about bucks that have lost their antlers already, being killed during this hunt. He stated that was not a credible excuse as he'd seen bucks still carrying their antlers as late as March/April. I myself have seen that also but I've also seen (and have photos of) bucks that have already shed their antlers by Christmas, even the 19th or 20th of December, I live and hunt in western Shawano county where the committee talked a lot about "too many deer". I disagree with this opinion and would ask that the free authorizations be reduced to two per license and to NOT have a holiday hunt or extend the archery/crossbow season. Thank You.

The DNR wildlife biologist said that the deer herd is out of balance with the habitat and I agree. So why are we trying to maintain the current size of the herd? “Maintaining the herd” is irresponsible when it is out of balance with the habitat. I don’t care if you had previously set the “maintain” goal as a three year goal. The goal should be decrease. I think most hunters just want to shoot a buck and they don’t really care about the other 360 days of the year when the deer struggle to find enough to eat. So we suffer with smaller bucks and fewer fawns. Discussing how many tags to offer is silly when such a small percentage of the tags are actually purchased or filled. I thought six free tags was a step in the right direction. I suggest unlimited free tags and eliminate the bonus tags. I don’t think the herd will disappear and hunters will not shoot more deer just because there are more tags available. If the harvest approaches a reasonable herd size, then restricted tags might make sense again. Very few hunters will ever say that there are too many deer regardless of how many there are. They base their opinion on what they see from their stand, not very scientific. The sturgeon population is not measured by sitting on a dock and counting fish. Now is the time to begin managing the herd appropriately, before CWD causes more hunters to stay home.

This past deer gun season was probably the worst season on our land in 27 years of ownership. Myself sitting the first 3 days from dawn till dark didn’t see one deer, that’s a first. Weather for the rest of the season surely messed up the rest of the season, couldn’t even go up after Thanksgiving. Even through the bow season my sons and grandson didn’t see deer like we used to see. On our land around Bowler and Gresham area hunting hasn’t been the same since days of T-zones and EAB. For some years now no crop damage tags in Townships of Bartelme, Red Springs, Seneca, Herman, Richmond, Belleplaine, Pella, Almon, Hutchins, and Aniwa, none even in Navarino. Two in Grant, one in Morris, none in Fairbanks and Germania. We are not having that many crop damage complaints. We also have relatives in the Gresham area, all farmers with no problem with deer, so lets not get overboard with permits and holiday hunts. My main complaint is if you put in place a holiday hunt in end of December, which is still my prime bow, now crossbow hunting, open the season like other zones which extend the season to January 31, like Oconto county for one, farther north than Shawano Co, when the holiday season is implemented. Extending the season has nothing to do with snowmobile season, It’s only fair we get the same chance as other zones have. Thanks.
We own Property that borders Shawano county, and some that is in Shawano County. The fact that Langlade is closer to a reasonable doe harvest number. Versus Shawano County which has an unreal amount of doe tags is very frustrating to us. We have neighbors who feel that is necessary to kill every deer They see. Because of the fact that Shawano county has so many doe tags, and that some people are unscrupulous and will call in one shot in Langle County and register it as a shot in Shawano county is very much hurting the deer population in our area. I will leave the same message in the Langlade county page as I own property there too. But the astronomical number of tags given in Shawano county is very much hurting our deer herd. On top of this the cross bow hunters need to have a limited length of season. You have created an extra season for lazy hunters in our state. These people only do it because it is easy and not because they want to hunt seriously. We have had a large number of increased wounded deer by people who don’t take the time To track an animal that has been wounded. The mortality of deer wounded by crossbows is sickening in our area. It’s great that you are introducing more people to hunting, but the means by which it is done is hurting the normal hunters attitude.

Based on personal observation and several email conversations with a DNR wildlife biologist, It is my opinion one of our largest problems regarding deer numbers in the Central Farmland zone is due to the lack of Public land and the amount of private land owners that are unwilling to harvest does. Even though the count per square mile may be high in certain areas, in many others it is very low. Most of the hunters that I have discussed this with feel the same way I do and that we are being punished because of the private land owners that are unwilling to harvest does. While I understand the (6) deer per tag last year was to prove a point, in our opinion it only made matters worse. Areas that already struggle with deer numbers have many landowners that have no problem shooting all the deer they see and yet the numbers per square mile may still climb because of the land owners that will not shoot does. While I do understand this is a difficult problem and that crop damage and car/deer accidents in the areas with high deer numbers is a costly problem, giving out multiple antlerless tags is not the answer. Maybe earn a buck or some type of training/incentive program for those land owners unwilling to harvest does. Just a thought. Thanks

As always public land is hit much harder as far as hunting pressure/antlerless kill. This is esp true in Shawano County where there is limited public lands. I believe fawn mortality is due mainly to predators. Black bears are much more common than they used to be as well as a large coyote population. Wolves are also new on the scene but their numbers are relatively low in relation to the deer population in Shawano. The predator population has definitely increased since I started hunting. One reason is the reduction in trapping which has benefited coyotes and bobcats esp. Most areas of the county have plenty of forage for the deer over winter, standing corn etc. In the areas I hunt white cedar has and is pioneering out with little browse damage most years. I'm a Forester and cedar needs full sunlight and no hardwood competition in order to regenerate. There are areas of the county where this is not true, esp some western areas of the county. These are larger ownership’s with the result in reduced hunting pressure and extremely high deer numbers. There is also a higher wooded to ag land ratio. Not sure how your going to incentive these landowners to harvest more deer - and they need to, CWD is a major threat.

Last year was the first year where I hunt (South of Bonduel about 5 miles) that there were wolves in the area. Found dead, partially eaten fawns in spring. The neighbor and myself both had many wolves on camera through out the summer. He also found dead, partially eaten deer. Late in the early bow season, the week before gun season opened I had several wolves walk up on me while I was in my treestand. Most deer I seen through the bow season were more nervous than usual. My neighbor has food plots and told me that he had 16-18 deer on his plots every night. "Almost like clock work" through out the summer and early fall. I'm hunting 200-300 yards from his plots and don't usually see deer until the rut. He can concentrate deer on his plots but I am not allowed to throw out some apples. Shawano county is a no bait county but I wonder where all the corn and apples go that is piled at almost every gas station in the area. Certainly it doesn’t all go to areas where baiting is legal. Do away with baiting but also then do something about the food plots because the result is the same. It congregates the deer. Maybe social distancing could be implemented on food plots!! Thanks for the chance to give my views.
I've hunted my entire life in Shawano County. My family owns 120 acres in the central part of the county. My experience in recent years has shown the deer herd increasing. This is a good thing. It is just now beginning to recover from the decimation of antlerless deer that occurred during the 7 seasons of earn-a-buck you forced hunters to participate in. That was a horrible thing to endure as a hunter. Last year hunters in Shawano County were issued 6 antlerless permits with each license. I found that absolutely absurd!! I spend many, many hours each season in the field and the population is nowhere near that high! I understand the task of managing the herd is difficult, but killing all the antlerless deer is no solution. All the hours in the field I hunted last season I did not see 12 different antlerless deer total and I certainly had no desire to shoot them all! So, as a very concerned, veteran hunter and tax payer I ask you to go back to the drawing board and re-think the antlerless quotas.

Another suggestion is imposing an antler restriction for buck harvest. It will require hunters to make better decisions on harvesting and allow many younger bucks to live another year.

Predation from coyotes and wolves is hitting the fawn population hard. The wolf lovers don't get it. The DNR does nothing to keep the wolf population in check except to harass the coyote hunters, so they are beginning to give that process up. There are too many hunters, both on public and private land, that state that the DNR issues the free tags so why not fill them? The argument for "harvesters" who just want to kill a deer is that ... they gave me 6 antlerless tags so I am going to kill six doe. Going into winter the adult doe have been largely killed off and the fawns are left to survive the predators and learn how to survive the winter by themselves. Some hunters just cut off the back straps and hind legs and you can find the carcass alongside the road or thrown into the woods. Those hunters feel safe because they don't have to keep the animal intact and can register it "IF" they feel they need to. There are many deer being shot and NOT registered! The wardens are left dealing with the POLITICS of in-house DNR issues. The DNR has created another mess by overmanaging the deer herd and now overharvesting. The DNR has really screwed up the system, again.

The county management system is an extremely flawed management system. The northern boundary of Shawano county bordering Menominee county/reservation is big woods, whereas much of the county is farmland. Trust me, after hunting both, it makes no sense to apply a farmland management plan to a big woods environment. The two populations of deer are very different. Unfortunately, where we hunt gets lumped in with the farmland, and is extremely frustrating, and discouraging. We have lost, and our currently losing our younger hunters in our group because they simply don't like sitting all day and end up seeing very few to no deer. Personally I can't blame them. Seeing only one or two deer on opening weekend of gun season just isn't fun. You're not going get many younger kids to do something voluntary that isn't much fun. Youth hunts aren't the answer to hunter recruitment, a quality hunting experience is. A big part of a quality experience when you are young is the excitement of seeing deer. I can confidently say we currently don't have that.

I own 58 acres in north west shawano county. Between myself, my wife and my son, we could have shot 42 deer with the tags we had. Who ever is coming up with the number of tags available needs to be fired! Let's get real and have just a little common sense. No one considers the predators in our area that are taking out fawns and adult deer as well. Bears, coyotes, Bobcats and wolves. Why dont we give out more of these tags? How about how many fawns get chopped up cutting hay? Maybe ask some of these large farms in the area and find out how many fawns they are chopping up in the field. I do understand there are landowners who dont shoot does but others who I think are taking more then they have tags for... has anyone thought about people who dont even register deer anymore? Let's not be stupid! Hear is another two cents. Baiting is illegal in shawano county. Is a warden available when I start calling out many of my neighbors? Good luck!!
The deer population is a big concern for the public hunting lands. Public lands keep getting fewer and fewer. The highest harvest is in the western side of the county which is all private land. The public land in 2018 I was 1 deer and in the area I was hunting there were only 2 deer harvested during the entire gun season. During the 2019 gun season I did not see any deer. Talking to other hunters from around the state they all say the public lands for gun season are terrible for hunting. I believe that the reason for this is because private land owners are baiting and having food plots which has been attracting more deer away from the public lands. Even in the counties that baiting is illegal private land owners are still baiting, plus there is no regulation for food plots. The only place that anything is enforced is on public lands. The state needs to put an end to baiting and food plot across the entire state and enforce it on private lands not just public.

How accurate do you believe the total deer population is percentage wise. I believe it is high. Accurate #’s makes it easier to answer the questions on the survey. With this new tagging system and trying to figure the amount of dishonest people who dont register could throw off the d.n.r”s numbers. (or does the d.n.r. try to account for that?) Its hard for me to give accurate answers when i dont know if these are accurate #’s to base my answers on. I believe your #’s are high is what i’m trying to say. As far as weapons. I believe a hunter should have the right to use his weapon of choice. Hunting for me is getting the game in close enough to make a high percentage kill shot no matter what weapon im using. ( i cringe at the thought of wounded game suffering and deer dead on the roadside.) I prefer a crossbow because im getting old but i would gladly go back to a recurve or longbow if everybody else would give up their mechanical advantage.

Last year my daughter took part in the youth hunt for bow and gun. To do this I had to buy a license and together we were issued something like 34 tags together. We hunted and seen so few deer to years past and only harvested one doe the last day of season with the bow. For the youth gun season we never even set foot in the woods besides checking cameras because it was pointless to go because there’s NO deer and the few we had the wolves killed. Saturday morning of the youth hunt was a fresh kill of a spike buck the wolves had killed the night before. It’s sad to see the DNR wanting to decimate the deer populations to such a low level and what’s little left the wolves kill to the point I can’t even do a tradition like deer hunting with my 9 year old daughter in central Shawano county because it’s rare to see a deer with how poorly this resource has been managed! 34 tags that have to be taken to harvest one doe is beyond ridiculous!

I strongly believe all of the youth hunt and holiday hunts or whatever goes on is ineffective and counter productive to controlling the dear population. If Wisconsin would have a 30 day hunt the deer harvested would be much better. All the archery crossbow and “special” hunts put too much pressure on the deer, that’s why I believe a 30 Day season would be more effective and allow hunters to harvest and hunt when time allows and weather is more favorable. I know a lot of it is about generating money, but if harvesting and controlling the herd is the end game, let hunters hunt and harvest deer. Many other states have longer seasons, don’t understand why Wisconsin doesn’t adopt this instead of all the extra or special hunts. Hunter numbers are down, so let the hunters hunt longer without all the extra hunts. Archery season is rediculously long! Thanks for your consideration.

CDAC council, Western Shawano County is massively overpopulated with deer. In light of the fact that there are 3 active CWD positive captive deer operations in the Shawano County area, one in Oconto county that has reported 54 cases of CWD, one in Marathon county that has reported 104 cases of CWD, and one in southwestern Shawano County that has reported 31 cases of CWD it seems the writing is on the wall. We will be dealing with CWD in the wild population before long. Marathon County has had their first case in the wild this year. It was in the vicinity of the farm that had 104 cases. This is less than 10 miles from Shawano County. Given the disease concern, damage to agricultural crops and forest habitat, and lack of tree regeneration, please use all tools available to put as many tags as you can in the hands of people that will use them and give them as much time to use them as possible. Thank you.
The past ten years myself and most of the hunters I have spoken with in SW Shawano County have seen a measurable drop in the number of deer sited while hunting. Myself, and many of the hunters I speak with hunt no less than 40 hours during the rifle season and also participate in archery (with a compound or recurve, not the crossbow rifle). There is no doubt in my mind, and the hunters in my township that many more deer are actually harvested than are being reported/registered. The elimination of registration stations has given unethical hunters the ability to have no worry about registering their deer. It would not surprise me if no less than 20% of the deer harvested are no longer being registered. Most of the tradition of the Wisconsin gun season has been removed and along with it a sizable number of shooters who do not feel obligated to register their deer.

We need to leave the doe alone in this area. The neighbors get all the extra tags and plant food plots in there woods. Then gun hunting comes and they shoot the crap out of the herd. When they shoot 24 in a weekend do you think the herd will last no. I see less every year. And am about to sell my stuff. When I was 12 I could count 125 deer in a field and we would go down the road and see another 25 and so on. The land didn't change insurance companies just opened the wallet more and you guy's dont care. Not to mention the youth hunt. The dad takes the kid to the woods in October and the kid fills his tag or tags. Now dad and his kid are done. There not in the woods to help with the movement of deer. You again changed hunting for the worst. Thanks for missing with tradition. I'm glad I dont have a kid to witness your destruction of what was a great sport.

The deer herd is plentiful in Shawano County. We need the holiday hunt back to help down the population. While it was not asked in this survey, I want to again voice that I am NOT however in agreement with extending the gun season. There are too many city folks that come up for gun season. They never shoot the does anyway, and are always just waiting for big bucks. Regardless of how many days the season has, they aren't going to help control the population. Those of us that farm, and shoot to feed our families would still like the opportunity for a buck - but we are smart enough to take out the large does first. The farmers and people that live in this county year round know what it takes to control the population. We know the deer movement, so don't let the out of towners make the decisions for us!!

I have seen significantly less deer in recent years during the gun season. Since our recent winters have not been severe, causing high mortality rates, I attribute less deer to higher numbers of antlerless harvest tags being given out. There are less than half the hunters in the one and a half square miles that I am familiar with than there was ten or fifteen years ago, yet the deer numbers are much lower now. I have needed hipboots to hunt during that time period even though that same property could be hunted in leather boots long ago. Accessibility has become so difficult that most of us are just quitting. Maybe the deer are just staying on higher ground were I can not hunt. Thanks for your efforts. I know that you take a lot of criticism form all of the "experts" out there, but keep up the good work.

As a professional forester working in Shawano County I work with many private landowners that are unable to grow tree seedlings in their forest because of extreme deer browse. Deer are even eating things that are very low on their preference because everything else has been eaten. Many of our forests are getting older and will need to be replaced, but how will that happen with the current state of the deer herd. Many landowners must install deer exclusion fencing to establish any young tree seedlings in their forest. This is a costly and labor intensive project and can not be done on the scale needed. Current conditions are not healthy for the forests OR the deer. I strongly support adding the Holiday hunt. I support steps the CDAC has taken, but they need more tools to harvest more antlerless deer.
keep up the good work cdac! I would oppose any consideration of earn a buck and antlerless only season. this would directly effect license sales. according to dnr statistics gun license sales are flat or down slightly, but crossbow license sales are up 17%. this could be due to different factors. gun hunters switching to crossbows for nicer weather and longer seasons. youth joining in the hunt could be another. I would highly recommend "not" shortening the crossbow season as this would result in loss of license sales in my opinion. finally, I would support lengthening the gun deer season to start one week earlier. Michigan starts Nov 15- Nov 30. I hunted there season a number of times in past years and had gotten much more use out of my license. thank you for a job well done and stay safe!

Do not change the deer seasons, keep the traditional 9-day gun hunt the week of Thanksgiving and do not change any of the archery and crossbow seasons. The hunters in the majority of these areas of Shawano County Farmland do a outstanding job of keeping the deer population at responsible levels. This last year was a tough hunt because of the wet fall which restricted access to swamps and restricted corn harvests. So lets not get too radical with changes until the hunters in Shawano county have a chance to reduce populations to proposed goal levels. You may find that going forward with radical changes to seasons will have an opposite result, being the hunters will quit hunting due to rule changes. Hunters are creatures of habit, just like wildlife. Leave the season time periods alone please.

As an avid Hunter for 55+ years and a Hunter Safety instructor for 20+years I would strongly suggest and support a longer Deer/gun season as Michigan does from Mid November to Nov 30th to give more opportunity for Hunter/Harvest success during The Thanksgiving break where many folks go home and may not return to the woods again. This would serve as an encouragement for license sales and the goal of future herd control management. Many folks I encounter would appreciate this opportunity to engage their younger family members in the sport of Hunting and are now in competition with conflicting schedules with other sports activities which limit any time they may be able to enjoy Hunting...or the outdoors.. Thanks for your consideration.

I support the council’s recommendations for this year. If an enhanced antlerless harvest is needed in the future I’d support an antlerless only season. Because bucks would be protected you wouldn’t be able to use it more than a year or two without stopping as there would be a ton of bucks around. And I’ve never heard anyone complain about too many bucks, so that would be a good thing. I believe this is a far better option than earn a buck as earn a buck was abused here in the past and resulted in significant over harvest in some areas due to hunter density as people got stupid trying to validate their buck tag. Plus earn a buck wouldn’t work now anyways without in person registration as most people just go online and register does that don’t exist.

Deer predation by bears, wolves and coyotes has never been taken seriously. I am a 4th generation land owner, in the Town of Wescott, on 100 acres which is a mixture of oak and cedar with no significant croplands for several miles. About 5 years ago one of my trail cameras captured 5 bears in one photo. This same year we found several fawn skeletons where there was a lot of bear activity. We had two wolves on the property, bobcat and an ever increasing coyote population. The deer population was way down but management was based on croplands to the north and to the west of the city of shawano where undoubtedly the number of deer per square mile is much higher. Issuing numerous bonus tags for antlerless deer doesn't help in years of high predation.

I would love to see a longer muzzleloader season, preferably not proceeding immediately after the gun deer season when the deer have seen the most pressure they will see all year, later in December would be awesome. I understand the reason it hasn’t been later was because of the snowmobilers. I think I can count on one hand in the last ten years they’ve been able to snowmobile in December if that. I’d love to see the muzzleloader season December 24 or so through the end of the year or a week or so after the regular 9-day gun deer season. I was one of the very few public individuals that listened to the call in early April. I would agree with people not wanting to shoot does because they were fearing their neighbors would shoot a whole bunch.
Even though this unit is the 2nd. largest harvest in the state, over the past two years we have seen very few Deer. The problem is we hunt on a 40 acre partial, made up of hardwoods, cedar swamp and two 2 acre openings. We are surrounded by hardwoods on all 4 sides, which are all private property and then farmland on the exterior of 3 of those properties. It is very hard to compete with the farmland for one. There is very little movement of people anymore, nobody drives property as they used to. Also we can no longer bait the Deer with any kind of bait so it is very difficult to compete with the surrounding properties. When we were allowed to bait we were able to pull Deer into our property. I would like for the baiting to be allowed once again.

Thank you for providing so many "free" antlerless tags with each buck tag. This year, many more folks will be depending on venison to feed their families after losing money because of the virus and the extended stay-at-home orders. It is clear you are taking your duties to control the herd very seriously. I think you could offer the extended archery/crossbow season with very little effect on the harvest (even though we need to thin the herd more), but you would offer more hunting opportunities. January is normally a cold month and you would only give the die-hard hunters and more adventurous folks a few more opportunities, but there is no downside to this! Thanks again for your hard work.

The amount of deer harvested in 2019 was low but one of the biggest problems I and a lot of other people saw was how wet it was and warm. The swamps didn’t freeze and the amount of corn left up didn’t help in a lot of areas. On the 500 acres we hunted the amount of does was way down last year because of the wetness. I don’t think the holiday hunt is a good idea because all you will be doing is killing a lot of young deer. By Xmas is when we start to see mature bucks again during daylight hours. If you really wanted to control the population open muzzloader season up for 2 weeks starting on New Year’s Day or do what Michigan does and offer a chance to harvest a second buck but put limits on how big it has to be.

4 antlerless tags per hunt (archery, gun) is waay to high. I've been hunting this area every weekend during archery and gun and have never seen numbers this low. Antlerless tags should be 1 at most. Perhaps propose 1 buck per season total. Or if you are proposing increasing gun season length then have hunters apply for first week second week, etc to limit hunters in woods for better experience. Changes need to be made as hunting in WI is as bad as ever in 31 years of hunting. I hunt 11 other states and this is by far the worst managed state. Too much politics getting in the way with management. I.e baiting, cwd, etc. Baiting bans need to be state wide and enforced harsher...everyone seems to be baiting.

I don't believe our deer hunting seasons should be scrutinized EVERY year. As I drive down the highways I see quite a few deer laying along the side road. I believe these are deer that are not counted towards deer kill numbers but they are no longer alive. I also feel the same about predators, how many deer have they taken that don't get counted? I would really like to understand why the CDAC and DNR feel every year we should see change? I am concerned with one of the questions in regards to an antlerless only season. That scares me because once the question is floated out there it is not long after that it happens. In general I would prefer that the hunting seasons be left alone. Thank you!

I would like to suggest that not only Shawano county, but state wide, take a look at changing the detail of harvest tags. I think there should be a antler deer harvest size limit of at least 4 points on one side, and you should also have the choice of using both antler deer tags during archery season and/or if you do not fill you your antler deer tag during the gun season, you should be able to use that tag for late season archery. In my opinion, if you pay for a one time tag with all harvests on them you should be able to fill them during either archery or gun seasons. If both antler deer tags are filled during archery season then you would have only antler less for gun season.
Living where I hunt and can observe. We have seen far fewer fawns in the spring and early summer. There are 3 hunters here, who hunt all open seasons. Sometimes new youth hunters. Last 2 seasons we have seen more adult does without fawns then in the past 5 years. Also fewer does in general. We have wondered if rainy, icy winters have caused this or growing bear population. Spring predators?? We’ve seen as many as 5 bears in a group. (sow, 3 cubs, 2 yearlings,) a very large boar a couple times a summer. Whatever the case fewer deer last season. Bow season we saw a fair amount of young bucks, a few 2-3 yr olds. Hope these observations help your thought process for the season.

We use our judgement during the bow and gun seasons as to how many does we shoot based on our observations of the deer population in our area. We try to practice QDM so we normally shoot 3-4 times as many does per year as we do bucks. We also gauge how many does to shoot by the number of deer we will utilize during the year. We have multiple trail cameras out during the summer and fall in addition to spending time in the woods 12 months out of the year so we have a good idea of the number of deer in the area, not just what we see during the hunting season. With all of that said issuing more than one or two antlerless tags to me will not entice me to shoot more antlerless deer.

I did not see any information in the survey regarding the effects of predation or how the populations of predatory animals may or may not affect deer populations. It seems to me that the drop in the fawn population may be an indication of increased predation. Also, my personal experience seems to suggest that the early gun hunts (i.e. youth hunt) drive deer into hiding in advance of the gun hunt which has resulted in fewer deer seen by myself and the other hunters in my group. Also, I fail to understand why it is unlawful to hunt/shoot off public trails (i.e. Wiesaw trail) since this would tend to increase deer movement and serve to improve hunting conditions.

I wish you people would realize that your numbers are not even close to the right herd numbers. I’ve been hunt 30 years and my last 5 years of hunting has almost got me to just quit hunting due to there not being the deer you people keep trying to tell us there are. I use to be able to see at least one deer everytime I sat now I can go for days not seeing anything and I usually will sit the entire day. So your make believe stories about why license sales are down just stop lying and admit you are wrong. Just maybe get the herd back up where its suppose to be and people just might start hunting again otherwise people are not going to hunt to just sit in the woods.

No on the Holiday Hunt! You say opportunity, what about the opportunity you take away from people? A lot of people like to small game hunt at that time of year, now they can't. At that time of year, a lot of trappers are out there, now they can’t. The archery hunters that want to hunt bucks can't do it. Yes, some years the snowmobile trails will not be open, but what about all the clubs that go out to mark & clear the trails, they do it at that time after the crops are off the fields - now they can’t. All you are thinking about is deer, what about all these other things? The current deer season structure is just fine WITHOUT THE HOLIDAY HUNT!

Basically do not have time to go they all the information to make an educated guess. But in my experiences the number of deer I see or have heard that were harvested in our area are down considerably, I believe you can have all the numbers you want but will never have the real answer as to what's going on out in the wood if you do not listen to the fellow hunting enthusiast . Hunting in Wisconsin is no longer a FAMILY tradition like it was when I was young when it was hunters choice and you were lucky to get a doe tag every other year, then we had deer numbers that everyone was happy with. Thankyou I could say so much more but will not on these surveys.

We had roughly 20 tags for gun season...we saw two deer on our 40 acres of previously HIGHLY productive land. We shot two and let many go as they were just too small. We DID find 2 medium to large bucks dead on our property with very poorly placed arrow shots...no idea where the animals were shot...but they found places in our swamp area to suffer and die... MANY in our area experienced the same downward trend over the last several years.....We used to hear MANY gun shots now it is just a smattering. Mid-week we did not hear a single shot on a Tuesday. ZERO! There is talk of three from our party of five just giving up and not spending the money...
**Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>8888</td>
<td>Please stop all the antlerless hunts. It has become ridiculous. Please stop handing out so many antlerless tags with each license sold. It’s way too many. Please focus on limiting the number of public land antlerless deer that can be harvested. ***Those of us that focus solely on hunting public lands do not see the numbers of deer those on private parcels see on a given day. Please stop the antlerless hunts. Please continue to ban baiting. It messes with the flow of deer movement. Thanks for listening to a die-hard, public land bow hunter who truly loves our public lands and our deer hunting opportunities in Wisconsin.</td>
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<td>8889</td>
<td>I hunt Shawano County public. Navarino public hunting grounds in particular both with crossbow and rifle. Overcrowded hunting pressure, I have a honey hole that has produced 3-4 deer a season most of the last 10yrs. 2019 I saw zero deer during the bow and rifle season with reduced sign in my area. Fewer hoof prints, browse, poop, rubs and scrapes. I feel the deer numbers have dropped dramatically over the years. 4 deer harvested down to 3 down to two down to 1 and finally no deer sighted with less sign. I would like to see fewer doe tags issued for Shawano County for the next 3 yrs and make hunting fun again by seeing more deer.</td>
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<td>8890</td>
<td>I no longer have access to private land and have bow and gun hunted public land in Shawano County, in particular the Navarino Wildlife Area, for the past 9 seasons. As we are all aware, this area is heavily hunted. Is there any way to improve the deer food sources and/or reduce doe harvest in the Navarino Wildlife Area to increase the deer population? I have 40 years of hunting experience, spend a great deal of time in the off season scouting this area and hunt on a typical year, 20-30 days. It is a beautiful woods, but seeing a deer has not been a frequent experience for me and my son. Thanks for your consideration.</td>
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<td>8891</td>
<td>I own land in the section of Shawano County formerly designated zone 47. The other former zones in the county, which more aptly depict &quot;farmland&quot; have a huntable population of deer. Unfortunately the area I hunt no longer does as it's mostly big woods with many predators and harsher winters north of Hwy 29. Would like to see old zones return, back tags, inhouse registration. Also would love it if Madison respected the input from their field wardens. They're the folks that know what's going on out there. This is my first time giving input and it's just part of my bucketlist. Don't really expect anything to change.</td>
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<td>8892</td>
<td>A holiday hunt would cut into other recreational tourism dollars like snowmobiling. The seasons are already way to short without having to wait until January or later to open trails. That's one reason why a lot of people object to a holiday hunt, why can't you have a longer season in November like other states do. It is hard for a working person to get a deer when they can only hunt weekends, that is four days for them. Extend it longer in November so they have more of a chance. There are also a lot of special hunts that go on and cut into the ability to get the trails ready we don't need any more.</td>
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<td>8893</td>
<td>The only thing that ever seemed to affect deer numbers was earn a buck! If you have a doe only season nobody will hunt. The numbers taken in holiday hunt minimal cold and weather will keep most people out of woods. Most people have enough venison already by then. Won’t go out in bad weather to shoot more they don’t need. Also I am a snowmobiler member of a club most of our trails go through private land. We will not be able to open or even brush and mark trails to February. Try pounding stakes in frozen ground. All for a holiday hunt that won’t come close to the number of dear you need to harvest!!!</td>
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<td>8894</td>
<td>Special interest groups are destroying our hunting heritage. The deer numbers are far lower than what our central farmland can support and I feel this is another added reason as to the decrease in our youth participation which is the future of hunting in a Wisconsin. We need to stop the over harvesting and allow for the population to grow so that there is more opportunities for all hunters in effort to slow down the yearly loss of licensed hunters. Leave the season timeframe as it is, lower the number of antlerless permits and help our state regain its hunting heritage. Lee Robenhagen</td>
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**Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020**

**Shawano, Central Farmland**
We saw many deer on fields, in the evening, before season began. After bow season started, the deer mostly waited til after dark. Saw very few deer while bow hunting. The same during rifle season. I would propose a deer season where you could use any type weapon you choose, you get one buck tag and as many doe tags as deemed necessary. Start it at the beginning of October and end in mid December. This would allow the efficiency of a rifle for those with limited time to hunt. Would still let hunters use other weapons if they choose. The one buck per hunter would let more bucks get older.

I think maintaining the herd is appropriate. After heavy harvest for a few years, this past season was how I think it should be. I saw a few deer each sit with equal amounts of bucks and does. However, I disagree with the public vs private doe tags. My family hunts/owns 40 acres less than a mile away from 400 acres of public land but no longer hunt there because we cant. I used to hunt on the public land as much as I hunted on ours. It is a very disappointing we can no longer utilize a public resource for deer hunting that our licenses/taxes pay for.

I support having an Antlerless only Holiday hunt that would be the last hunt of the year and there would be no further hunting of Antlerless or Antlered deer after the Holiday hunt. I feel that there will be a greater level of participation by the private landowners in the Antlerless only Holiday hunt if it is known that bucks or Antlered deer cannot be harvested after the Holiday hunt. This will also allow snowmobilers and predator hunters to have more access to private lands immediately after January 1. The current deer season is too long already.

Zone 3 for the last several years has not been included in Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt. If this is because of snowmobile clubs than it needs to noted that the snowmobile trails have been unable to open during this holiday hunt anyways due to insufficient amount of snow fall for several years now. The clubs should not have control whether or not an antlerless-only hunt is granted. The facts listed is enough to include zone 3 to in the holiday hunt. If zone is is not include I will surely be disappointed in our DNR Deer management.

Quit changing things every year...you wonder why more and more people are leaving the sport. There is way to much bureaucracy going on here. Every year you think you need to "adjust" this or "adjust" that. Keep things the way they were years ago, before earn-a-buck. You license sales would go up, which is all you really want in the end anyways. Deer camps have went from talking about all the great memories, to what the DNR has changed this year and how we have to keep up with those changes.

I feel you are giving out to many doe tags. This happened years ago and depleted herd. Then no one was seeing deer like they were use to. You cut back and herd regrew so people saw deer again. It seems like you have forgotten this and are making same mistake all over. No deer means no hunters, no hunters means no license sales which have been going down. Give out maybe one tag per person or license and let herd grow. If people see more deer while hunting then maybe they will want to keep hunting.

I personally own and hunt farm land in this zone. It seems as though the amount of wolves in our area are constantly on the rise. The wolf issue, I believe is the main reason for lack of deer sign. We will have deer and when the wolves cove in, you cannot find them. Please work on helping us landowners get back the right to hunt and trap these animals. I believe there is room for both wolves and deer on our land. We do need to have the right to manage the predators as much as the deer.

I think you should look into predator numbers more. I know the DNR never wants to hear anything about this, but it does impact the numbers and the decline in hunters. I have seen more coyote and wolf tracks than deer tracks the last two winters and have seriously given thought to quitting deer hunting. There was a reason they had a bounty on wolves years ago. If you want the revenue from the deer licenses start putting the deer hunters first instead of the thrill of seeing a wolf.
8903 The hunts need to be spread out more. The reason for low numbers this past year was due to weather, the season pushed back a week later from the time rut started, as well as there being to much pressure put on the deer. This made deer sit all day and move around during the night. I can not recall a season where it has been so slow with deer movement in my years of hunting. This seriously needs to be considered not necessarily the amount of tags given out to individuals.

8904 I strongly oppose a Holiday Hunt for the following reason: My family members and myself are all bowhunters. Most of us have extra time off from work during the holidays and would like the opportunity to fill any unused buck archery tags during this time. If there is a Holiday Hunt our opportunity to tag an archery buck are eliminated. I live in Brown County and know a lot of other bowhunters that absolutely HATE the Holiday Hunt when they have it in Brown County.

8905 Regardless of how many antlerless tags you issue, hunters on private land are only going to take a certain amount of deer. Offering six tags as last year or four tags this year is ridiculous. Two tags should be ample and is plenty. Other issues are the bow season opens too early. Seems like bow hunters have the most influence on many of your decisions. Why can't you extend gun season on the front or rear of the current season? Many of us do not bow hunt.

8906 Please reduce the deer population in this area. It is impossible to grow trees and regenerate forests without fencing, and I am not a fan of building/maintaining fence. Unfortunately, no matter how many antlerless tags are available, some hunters refuse to harvest doe's and are unaware that the population is excessive in this area. I support crop damage tags for individual areas with excessive deer damage, please let these permits be available year round. Thanks.

8907 Private land owners need the holiday hunt as an opportunity to harvest antlerless deer. Many private land owners in the county do some sort of QDM and that usually to them means wait for a big buck, and in turn not shooting does at all. A later antlerless only season would bring those people back to the table and harvest some much needed does on private land. The snow mobile trail excuse is not a valid one as the trails are seldom open that early anyway.

8908 I do not understand the debate over the use of cross bows. I personally do not own a cross bow, I use a compound bow. However, I feel that cross bows are an efficient weapon to harvest a deer and the use of them should not be limited. The cross bow/archery season should run concurrently and should not be limited. After all, isn't one of the objectives to get more hunters involved in the sport? Limiting cross bows is only going to drive hunters away.

8909 I hunt navarino state land and spend 30-40 times in the woods each fall, north and east of townline rd, north end of lessor- navarino rd, south end of McDonald rd. Everywhere we hunt the deer numbers are very low. I have not talked to a hunter out there that is happy with the few deer if any that they see. It is great deer management if you don't want hunters to shoot deer. Very poor management if the goal is for hunters to harvest a deer.

8910 I would just suggest lowering any antlerless tags for the year 2020. Due to west of Shawano lake is a bit higher deer population than just east of Shawano itself. I would maybe recommend lowering it two antlerless tags per weapon of choice for Shawano county. If someone bow hunts and gun hunts, that's still four antlerless deer harvested. And I think more hunters would not be as opposed to it and not argue four tags per weapon of choice.

8911 Between archery and gun hunting in 2019 I could have harvested 14 deer. there is no way that most ethical deer hunters would do this. I know we have a small core family group of does and buck that would be devastated by this although other deer would potentially move in. This over harvest would impact the quality of our hunt for years to come. Sorry but I just do not see that amount of deer and damage they are so called doing.
I believe the Shawano CDAC and DNR staff are doing the best job possible with the tools they have available to work with. The State Legislator needs to bring back the option to hold a Earn a Buck program Hunt as well as bring back in person registration to facilitate the Earn a Buck process. All deer hunters need to get along and stop bickering over seasons, weapons, and what they think everyone should or shouldn't be shooting.

Leave the season alone. Give one buck tag per hunter. Stop party hunting for bucks. That would solve the problems. 90% of gun hunters dont know how to hunt. If you can't get your deer with how long the season is you suck. I pass loads of deer hunting. Gun hunters cry about not getting bucks. If you want less bucks killed one buck tag per hunter. People that want more meat would shoot more does. Also no on earn a buck.

Would love to see the number of tags reduced and/or an antlerless only season. We have a neighbor in the area who in the past 3 years has harvested 30+ deer on the smallest parcel in the area. Due to the number of tags available they are within their right however. Ideally a system allocating tags to a parcel based on size rather than an individual hunter would resolve this but that is probably out of the question.

Please consider a “bonus buck” type scenario like other states have where a gun buck tag could be used in bow season or possibly additional buck tags could be earned depending on the amount of antlerless deer one shoots. I believe this would be a huge motivator for keeping herd in check. Another idea would be additional land owner tags based on amount of acres owned. Thank you for your work and time on this.

SHAWANO COUNTY HAS A WIDE VARIETY DEER POPULATION. PRIVATE LAND IN THE PELLA & CAROLINE AREA HAS ALOT OF DEER, WITH NO PUBLIC LAND.WHERE HARVESTING DOES WOULD HELP. BUT AREAS LIKE NORTH OF GRESHAM OR BOWLER, THE NUMBERS ARE DOWN. THERES MORE PUBLIC AREA AROUND HERE BUT LESS DEER. I THINK MORE PRIVATE LAND DOE TAGS NEED TO BE GIVEN, THEN PUBLIC. OR YOU HAVE TO BREAK DOWN THE UNIT INTO SMALLER SECTIONS.

With so many tags available, I have spoken with a number of hunters that in my opinion are taking anything in order to fill their tags. The deer are not getting a chance to mature. My time in the woods this past year was higher than average, and I did not see a single deer during hunting hours. This is discouraging and hard to keep the next generation of hunters interested in continuing year after year.

I would be in favor of trying three things. 1. Private landowners would be able to fill their tags when they desire on their selected spots with any choice of weapon. 2. Have the gun deer season start on the 15th of Nov. each year and run for 20 days. 3. Crossbow hunts during the rut to be run as the bow seasons were years ago. No crossbows for anyone under a certain age, or with a disability.

Season structure is fine and has been working for years. Do NOT mess with whitetail season structure ESPECIALLY the 9 day rifle season. You WILL lose a lot of hunters (myself included) and this will become counter-productive because it will be very hard to get them back. Do not let one year of bad hunting conditions ruin the entire future of Wisconsin whitetail hunting because you overreacted.

It seems as though Shawano County has largely old growth woods with little regeneration. Deer numbers appear to be very high, higher than hunting is managing. The woods are heavily browsed, crops are damaged and even in the last few weeks it is not unusual to see 20-40 deer in a field. I think that all opportunities to harvest deer should be available in order to reach quota/population goals.

We used to have a deer population of 1 million in WI, now after spring births it will approach 2 million. The way to bring it down is with an early (late Oct) doe deer hunt and possibly an April doe gun hunt to adjust populations in counties that have too high a population and have a high amount of crop damage, and a high number of car/deer collisions and higher costs for insurance companies.
Extended late hunting seasons greatly affects and obstruct snowmobiling! A great source of tourism I enjoy. The more people you can get into the woods at the same time will in my opinion increase the harvest numbers. I have a limited amount of time to devote to the hunt and stretching out extended seasons makes for a sleeper opening weekend gun deer hunt! not nearly the activity of years ago.

Over the last 12 years my hunting party has only taken bucks. We are lucky to see 3 to 5 deer in the 9 day gun deer season. This has been this way for 12 plus years. We used to see 20 plus a day. Theres just to many tags being given out. It's hard to get the younger generation to get involved when therers nothing to shoot. They get bored and dont have interst in it. Thank you for your time.

The last 3 or more years my hunting land has been flooded. So the deer haven’t been using it as much. Even late season it didn’t freeze up until late. So there may be a lot of deer out there. They are not by my woods. And I haven’t seen them on my out to the woods or back home. I heard more shooting last year then the year before but still didn’t hear much good from the neighbors.

It is very sad that you keep asking for more doe permits and i have sat on my land the last 2 years for more hours than i want to remember. and seeing a total of 2 does in that time.i have tag alder swamp with river frontage and in years past seen many deer using the trials. but no more, everyone goes out and sits on THEIR land and do not want the deer to do any traveling.

If you wish to fill more tags in this unit you need to find a way to force farmers to removing crops in a timely manner. It is clear to me that the same fields every year are standing with corn through the season even though 90 percent within a 10 mile stretch have been removed. I do not know if these are anti hunter or farmers taking advantage of the crop damage money.

I feel we need to lower the levels of anterless deer in Shawano county. Due to the forestry within the county being ravage by high deer population levels. I also encourage the expansion of the crossbow season to Jan 31st because it provides more opportunity for hunters to hunt. I would also like to see an expansion of the rifle season within the state of Wisconsin.

Offer separate tags for bow, crossbow, gun and muzzleloader. More $ for dnr programs and more opportunities for a hunter to harvest a buck with multiple weapons in multiple seasons. To be honest, the doe population has been targeted for some time now and we really haven’t seen much effect. I say we offer more “buck opportunities”. Less males means less breeding.

Would like to see private land that is essentially dormant; (no residence or living structures) opened up to hunters by giving owners incentives (tax breaks, DNR incentives on licenses) to allow access to hunters. Especially for archery/crossbow hunters. These weapons are safer and no noise disturbance compared to firearms; if this is a concern to the land owner.

I hunt on 3 different properties in the central farmland zone and deer numbers have been steadily dropping over the last 4 years due to MORE predators. Everyone I talk to wants to see more deer not less! Hunting generates a lot of local revenue, and land sales. The DNR should start listening to the hunters or people will take their money and hunts to other states!

I believe the use of crop damage tags should only be allowed after gun deer season. Its pretty disappointing to find out you neighbors shot close to 40 does via crop damage tags in the summer time only to see fawns running around the woods all fall. Because of the ag tags are group did not shoot one doe last year. Saw very few adult does to begin with.

We hear from the foresters and then the land owners with the timber or are trying to grow trees harvest a few deer and complain about there numbers but don't let people hunt on there land were there are high density of deer but the rest of the county pays for these folks you will never get the deer pop down in them areas until they change their attitudes.
I would like to see Wisconsin adopt a management system in which a hunter would be issued 2 buck tags and anterless tags (per management quotas). The hunter could then harvest the animals during archery or firearms season. This would spread the number of hunters out during the year and allow hunters to harvest their deer with weapon of their choice.

No talk about the increase in bear and wolves in the unit and the affect it is having on the deer population. Bears number one food source in spring are fawns and the bear population is growing and they are moving further south every year. Seems like the DNR does not like to talk about the wolves that around also and the wildlife affect they have.

Late gun seasons when rut has been completed truly hurts the success of harvesting a deer. That’s what happened in 2019 and many hunters were discouraged. We will continue to lose hunters if you stay with the traditional 9 day hunt before Thanksgiving. Let hunters have a chance at a decent buck and they will stay engaged with deer hunting. Thanks

Reopen wolf hunting and trapping. Wolves are Spooking deer from my area while I am hunting. The deer are there, but are getting spooked daily. Please maintain crossbow hunting for all for the entire archery season. Crossbow hunters are the only group on the rise. We need to encourage new hunters and there are plenty of deer to go around.

I use the Disabled areas to drive out and hunt. There was excessive abuse on these lands from people that had fake papers on their windshields. This completely messed up opening day for the actual disabled hunters. I couldn’t even find a place to sit. Please put up signs with proper wording by the gates, so there is no confusion this year.

Very concerned about the high deer numbers and the ecological damage. Forest regeneration is extremely difficult and a farmer that I know has significant crop damage every year. We need to lower #’s in order to be sustainable into the future, otherwise mother nature will do it for us via disease or some other form of population control.

Need to get a handle on the predator problem in this state and county. Too many wolves and coyotes in and around our hunting lands. Also, get rid of the baiting and feeding bans. They have nothing to do with public or private lands, they all came from deer farms in and around our county. Punish the deer farms, not the every day hunters.

Many of us are worried about recruiting new hunters. One of the complaints we hear from younger people is that the hunting rules are overly complex - it makes them feel vulnerable to breaking the law. Please consider ways to simplify while still maintaining good game management practices - even if it means some level of compromise.

If you are even remotely concerned about stopping the spread of CWD it’s time to address the deer farms!!!! They are by far the leading cause of the spread of this disease in our state. Individual deer farms have had multiple cases of CWD on their farms and they can still sell and trade their animals. TIME TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE

The only recommendation I strongly oppose is in regards to the holiday hunt. If you are going to have the hunt then please extend the archery season. It’s my favorite time to be in the woods because of the low number of other people in the woods. I may participate in the holiday hunt if we are not successful in the regular season.

There are way too many violators in these areas. Many evenings bow hunting there are single shots right at dark. This has been going on for years. It seems like it is getting too difficult to manage private land areas. We have found multiple deer shot just before season on the property we hunt. Large bucks that were gut shot.

Please consider going to a shotgun only status in Shawano county. Population density is increasing and the ability to grow more mature bucks would be a benefit. Shooting a deer at 3 to 5 hundred yards is not necessary. Also, get rid of crossbow for all. Only for those that have a medical excuse or those over a certain age. Thanks!
Why have the 2 hunting zones, private and public. We should be able to hunt, and take deer on either. Your info already shows most deer are taken on private land. Some of us have public land bordering private, and the permit would allow the taking of that deer, as they go back and forth. Bring back the registration stations also.

I would like to see the Crossbow season during the November rut reserved to people with the rules of several years ago. I believe you had to be 65 or have a disability. The younger hunters should have to resort to the older rules. Bow only during the rut. This might bring in more passion for archery as it was intended to be.

First off the holiday hunt is ridiculous, being not able to shoot a buck with a bow when that’s one of the best times to shoot one is late season will madden many people. Then if you do that you might as well extend the bow season so we can hunt bucks longer seeing we lost a week instead of leaving us with a week, what a joke.

We have seen a drastic reduction in the number of deer seen and have been told by farmers that local farmers are killing large numbers of deer assumingly with special permits for crop damage. This is unacceptable, and should be stopped until the herd can recover. I’m talking 20 deer in a day to two deer over a 5-8 year period.

No Holiday Hunt or extended archery!!! This is going to take away and limit other outdoor opportunities such as coyote and bobcat hunting, Fisher and otter trapping, and snowmobiling. Landowners do not want anyone on their land when deer seasons are going on. Deer hunting is long enough and we don’t need to make it any longer.

Most archery hunters are only trophy hunters. They have a long season to hunt make them have earn a buck or move muzzle loader season infront of regular deer gun season. The Doe heard will be culled in high population areas. This will let areas with deer damage have a opportunity for more hunters to harvest a big buck in rut.

Some local areas are harvesting too many antlerless while other areas a short distance away tend to have really an overpopulation of deer not sure that is micro manageable without landowner support. Is there any thoughts on one buck per hunter for the year regardless of harvest method? Maybe would encourage antlerless harvest

Public land such as Navarino has the potential to hold more Deer. Public land without any research obviously has a higher number of hunters per square mile then private. There fore there should be much less Antlerless tags issued to public land which would provide better hunting opportunities on them year after year.

Eliminate the muzzle loader season extend the gun deer season to include the existing muzzle loader season. Have the cross bow and bow seasons start an finish at he same time. Allow baiting if product is spread to a larger area similar to a food plot, a food plot is a unnatural man made food source.

There are not enough deer in Shawano County to warrant the excessive antlerless tags that are being given out. Deer sightings are down, in both bow and gun seasons. Predators are everywhere (wolves, coyotes, and bear). Need to push for more predator control and relaxing the overharvest of antlerless deer.

Wolves and coyotes are a real concern. Wolves do not belong in our area. Coyotes are overpopulated and there are few cottontail rabbits, no snowshoe rabbits and literally no grouse. Want turkeys? BUY tags as they are all over the land and over-forage the woodland areas. Why are the turkeys over protected?

There is such a large deer herd in Shawano County that in 100 acres of hard woods there is not a single tree that can get above a foot before a deer has cropped it. Turkey hunting this spring I observed on average 50 deer per day. We do need to do something to protect our forest and agricultural land.

See fewer deer every year. Also, DNR stopped planting crops on Navarino area where they always planted crops. This helped the deer build up enough reserves to survive the winter. Now these fields are useless weed fields where you don’t see a deer or even a bird. What a waste of land and resources.

If there are antler gun deer permits given they should be on an earned basis in my unit Central farmland. Harvest an antlerless deer and then when registered online the antlered deer permit would generate. Two deer per Hunter unless a they are a land owner over 100 acres. Same rules for archery.
8959 You guys let the farmers kill too many deer last year. Farmers killed 17 dozen fawns off the field next to my land. That's disproportionate... I don't know if he got so many tags because he has so many fields around the area and he just used them all for that one field or what.

8960 Propose 1 buck a year limit. This will encourage hunters who have taken their buck to harvest more does and not hold out waiting for a second buck. This will increase the quality of bucks which is what a lot of hunters are concerned about and will lead to increased harvest numbers on does.

8962 Leave the crossbow, gun, muzzle loading seasons as they are. People plan their vacation times around this. Do not extend the gun season. Do not extend the archery season as this would keep the snowmobile trails closed and that brings more revenue to the area than hunting does.

8961 As a farmer trying to grow crops... it is essential to kill more antlerless deer. In our area, the ratio of does to bucks is proly 10:1 thanks. I also feel crossbow should be able to be used trough out the bow season. What difference does it make what weapon you use to kill a deer?? thanks

8963 I think crop damage tags are a joke, when you see herds of deer feeding on there silage bags. To me I consider that baiting as do many other people but the issue is never addressed. Dnr is more worried about a couple of apples or a gallon of corn vs silage bags which draw herds of deer.

8964 I do not favor the Holiday Hunt or extended season for archery. I am a snowmobiler and enjoy the outdoors this time of year so if you extend the season, many of our land owners would close their property to snowmobiling until the bow hunt is down. This would hurt our sport tremendously.

8965 During the 2019 eifle season I hunted 7 days. I saw 1 buck, that I shot opening morning, I then witnessed more than 40 antlerless deer the remainder of my time hunting. My family harvested 4 antlerless deer and 1 antlered. No one else in a group of 4 saw an antlered deer besides myself.

8966 The description of antler less deer should be changed. A buck fawn should not be classified as an antler less deer. To have a healthy deer heard the old dry does need to be culled. The buck fawns should be classified as bucks. This will deter people from shooting everything that moves.

8967 I am not seeing the number of deet that I did in previous years. When I started hunting all land was open. Now owners think they are the land owners deer and wont allow others on the land. Qualiry deer management to me is a crock. Ever harvest is a trophy bid, small, or whatever.

8968 The number of bonus tags to purchase should be increased because; a. they have filled the bonus tags given with each license purchase b. they hunt in multiple counties (my personal reason) c. would encourage hunters to travel from other counties d. increased revenue for DNR.

8969 I oppose starting the regular firearm season earlier than current. The majority of firearm hunters only hunt 2 or 3 days of the opener days anyway. There is also a firearm muzzleloader people can hunt or the crossbow season/archery..... Leave the archery/crossbow as is....

8970 I do not agree with Holiday hunts. I would go along with longer Gun season. Longer bow & Muzzleloaders. Also bring back baiting so I can see a deer. I am a bad hunter, & need to bait. CWD is of no threat to anyone. Just the DNR! They may loose their job! No CWD no JOB.

8971 I didn't get a chance to offer my thoughts on allowing crosbows only in October. I do not think I should be discriminated for using a crossbow. I also do not endorse closing the archery season before the rifle season. AND I DO NOT WANT A 19 DAY RIFLE SEASON. Thank You.

8972 I just retired and would like to try bow hunting with a cross bow but if the bow season is not going to run into November (including the rut) then I guess I'll just continue gun hunting. Meaning that I would only buy one license for gun and skip the bow license.
8973 I feel there is a problem with places to hunt. Most places that are privately owned are not accessible to other hunters, I know that there were attempts to open private land and I have not heard how successful that was but it is a major issue with hunting.

8974 Shawano county needs to just give two bonus tags with each license...predators need to be controlled as the unit borders low deer density units to the north...buck season with crossbows should be shorter, as it is hurting the quality of the gun season...

8975 Pretty much the same story as years past, private land numbers are very high, public land numbers are too low. If farmers are receiving crop damage payouts they should have to open up their land to public hunting. Baiting needs to end once and for all.

8976 I’d rather see a buck only year. Baiting should be legalized again. The large amount of seer stay in one spot because there is none or limited hunting pressure so it’s almost discouraging going hunting because the opportunity for so many is very poor.

8977 I think the public land should be managed separately. There may be an overabundance of deer on private land, but that is not the case on the public land, I am specifically referring to the Navarino Wildlife area, which I have been hunting since 1989.

8978 I wish it would go back to applying for a doe permit like in the 90’s we saw a lot more deer giving out way too many antlerless permits these days none of us private landowners are taking that many I hunt on 160 acres and we took 2 does last year.

8979 I believe we should go back to smaller management zones instead of doing it by county. That way we can manage each zone better. For example Shawano county is large, and the western half of the county has way more deer than the eastern half.

8980 Please just add earn a buck again. The quality of deer was better when more does were harvested back 10-15 yrs ago. Do not make an 2020 antlerless only season but instead require hunters to to earn the buck tag by assisting with herd control.

8981 Wolf numbers are increasing. Killing more fawns and adult deer every year all year long. Decreasing our deer populations which in return bring in money. Decrease wolf populations and that will increase our Deer populations. Easy and simple.

8982 If you want to reduce the number of deer in Shawano county, let people bait using the 2 gallon limit. As stated in the video, there has NEVER been a positive CWD test in a wild Shawano country deer. Close the deer farms... stop the spread.

8983 I don’t need more tags to help with population control, I need more opportunities. The gun season should be extended to give me more opportunities to harvest a buck or doe. More tags does not ensure I will see more deer when I do go out.

8984 If proposed dates are that late in season, you won’t get quota with holidays, early December is best as they are looking to replenish food after rut. I see more does early December then later as they seem to come out only after dark..

8985 1st there are too many antlerless seasons, bred does are getting killed off in January, 2nd you are giving too many antlerless tags per license where some hunters kill everything and the real hunters only shoot what they need.

8986 I recommend keeping the archery and crossbow seasons as is as well as the gun and muzzleloader seasons... Sometimes the rut does not hit the gun opener, ut often does. Most gun hunters only hunt the opening 2 or 3 days....

8987 I would really like to see a minimum size put on bucks which can be taken. Such as 4 points on one side. This would really increase the size of bucks taken and could even increase the amount of antlerless deer taken.
Anterless tags are hard to manage for those of us that hunt in more than one county AND hunt both private and public land. I’m not sure how to structure better but would be nice if there was a little more flexibility.

I appreciate all that you do for the environment. I personally feel that the numbers 1 to 2 miles west of highway 47 around Navarino and Nicholas area have dropped tremendously in the recent years. Thank you again.

I would like someone to explain the difference between a food plot and a bait pile. They both draw deer to spot for harvest. It is a big disadvantage to hunters that do not own large plots of land.

Reopen the wolf hunt and stop reintroducing them where they don’t belong. Quit wasting money on Elk. Stop insulting the average sportsman’s intelligence as they probably know more than your biologist’s ever will.

I would like to see a minimum 3 points on one side harvest threshold for antlered deer. I am in favor of a shortened cross bow season (no cross bow during the rut) I am not in favor of extending the gun season.

We use the anterless only tags for our land and the lands around ours because we practice QDMA and try to get our buck to doe ratios in check. We usually hunt a buck for 4-5 years to manage bigger bucks.

I’ve heard rumors that crossbow hunters would not be allowed to hunt with a crossbow during the rut, if these rumors are true I will not be hunting the 2020 season, or for that fact I will never hunt AGAIN.

Please restrict crossbow use during rut. New crossbows shoot as accurate as shotguns of the past. Please consider earn a buck tags again Pistol only season, muzzleloaders get their own season Thank you

I would like to see Wisconsin raise our non resident tag prices. How Iowa does there seasons splitting them up works very well especially on public land. Less people in the woods. Iowa is doing it right.

As a disabled individual (Wheelchair bound) and having to hunt from a ground blind I have not been able to harvest a deer since the baiting ban was put in effect. I think I will hang up my crossbow now.

Been hunting for 20 years and my chance to harvest a deer has declined each year. My hunting group has seriously considered and have already been a patron in out of state hunting due to WI hunting.

get rid of the wolves, leave the seasons alone, enforce the laws on the books already, as for baiting, open it up, if a farm can plant a crop or food plot, but cant hunt over alittle corn, makes no sense

I feel we need to find a way to encourage more hunting of coyotes since there is so minimal trapping. Coyotes are major predators that are completely uncontrolled in the central farmland.

If deer numbers can not be better controled in our area we will never have a forest regrowth. I seen 4 deer all of gun season. In Jan. the were 70 in the same area. That number is way too high.

I CROSSBOW HUNTED OVER HALF OF AVAILABLE DAYS AND GUN HUNTED ALL SEASON. I SAW 1 SPIKE BUCK AND 1 DOE. HUNTING THE SAME LAND. THIS IS THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DEER SINCE I HAVE SEEN SINCE 1954

No holiday hunt!! Found many sheds last year before Christmas. We could be shooting bucks that have lost their horns already. This would be defeating the intend of the hunt to begin with.

Thank you for all your hard work, it is appreciated! I think crossbows have been a positive addition for the enjoyment of our sport. I would be opposed to any restriction on their use.

I see many deer all year long--but see very few during gun season. I would prefer the gun season being held for two weeks--the week BEFORE Thanksgiving and the week of Thanksgiving.

I believe “earn a buck” is a very effective management tool and should be an available option. Management decisions should be made based on verifiable data, by trained professionals.
On our land in the town of Washington, we have cedar and white pine re‐generating, which tells me that we do not have too many deer (at least in our little piece of Shawano County)

fyi, I saw a marked increase from predators this winter. On last year fawns over any previous years. With pictures of bobcats and coyotes. I thought numbers were down last year.

Car kills in this unit are always higher because of late night traffic on two major highways. Also farms are less in numbers so deer tend to congregate on farms near highways.

I support antler point restrictions, 1 buck per hunter and/or some form of earn a buck to help lower the antlerless population and increase the age structure of the bucks

I believe that we all have to work together. I believe we need to try to incentivise grow bucks bigger. Only shoot bucks with a certain number of points as an example.

Bow season is too long. Back in 1957 if you shot a buck during bow season you couldn’t shoot a buck during gun season (too many big bucks are shot during the rut)

I enjoy having the crossbow season running simultaneously with the archery season. The crossbow season is not favorite. I have been hunting exclusively on private land.

Need more public lands. That average hunter that does not own land has a hard time harvesting deer. The deer avoid the public lands because over hunting in my opinion

Maybe some incentive for landowners to shot some Doe's. Where I live the deer ate all my shrubs this past winter. Two miles away where I can hunt I saw very few deer.

There are a lot of deer in my area, the problem is they are all on private land and the land owners will not allow people on there land to hunt. Solution? Unknown!

The biggest issue with this unit is the large amount of land being pulled out of forest crop and sold so the amount of public hunting land has dropped drastically

The herd in Shawano county seems to be healthy and abundant. The plan seems to be working with space for a holiday hunt to allow for extra antlerless harvests.

I feel the wolf's in my back yard has the deer numbers very low either kill wolf's or stop shooting does and if u can't see that maybe it's time for a new job.

Youth season is too early. Harvest has been very disappointing! Move it to the 3rd weekend in October. It won’t be 80 degrees and the deer will move more.

The last couple years we did not see as many deer and I believe it had to do with a lot of the farms took crop damage tags. Hopefully that trend changes.

We need to control the Bear population, they are killing a lot of fawns. Hopefully we will someday be able to eliminate a lot of the wolves in the county.

To increase deer harvest, allow up to 5 gallons of food to be used to bait deer. Otherwise the deer remain hidden until after dark thru much of the season.

Lots of deer damage on agricultural crops. Also no new regrowth in my woods. Any tree that sprouts is only a foot high because deer browse it off

I would like to maximize the population. I think it would help hunters to see the most number of deer for youth hunters to enjoy hunting more.

I believe leave all hunting seasons as is especially crossbow due to I have a class A disabled permit and can't always get out later season
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9028</td>
<td>If you really want to do something - Put a restriction on buck harvest/No 18 month old bucks should be harvested or 2.5s for that matter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9029</td>
<td>I wish now hunter’s would stop pushing crossbow hunting seasons to be shortened. I don’t crossbow hunt, but hunters need to stop arguing</td>
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<tr>
<td>9030</td>
<td>Please stop spending tax payer dollars to grow trees. A lower deer population would allow for a healthier herd and better quality deer.</td>
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<td>9031</td>
<td>Find a way to open more private land to hunters too many people protect the deer from hunters and allow them to severely overpopulate</td>
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<tr>
<td>9032</td>
<td>Northern Shawano county has nowhere near the deer density that exists south of hwy 29. To treat the county all the same seems flawed.</td>
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<td>9033</td>
<td>Extend the the gun season to increase deer harvest using gun by starting the gun season EARLIER than the weekend before Thanksgiving.</td>
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<td>9034</td>
<td>If gun season gets extended, I will start traveling to another state for hunting all together. It will damage the deer population</td>
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<td>9035</td>
<td>I would like to see an extended gun season, which would incorporate part of the rut in every season. More of a structure like MI</td>
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<td>9036</td>
<td>I would like to have the crossbow season continue and run concurrently with the regular bow season and not be shortened at all.</td>
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<td>9037</td>
<td>Start the gun season one week earlier, (the season would then be 16 days long) with the six Antlerless tags the same as 2019.</td>
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<td>9038</td>
<td>Having just the 1 nine day gun season limits the opportunities for a kill if we end up having a bad weather opening weekend.</td>
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<td>9039</td>
<td>If they continue with the high number of doe permits split the county. The east side of the county is decimated already.</td>
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<td>9040</td>
<td>I feel that baiting should be allowed on private land. What is the difference between having a food plot and baiting?</td>
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<td>9041</td>
<td>I feel that the number of doe tags should be the same amount whether you hunt on private property or public property.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9042</td>
<td>I would like to see an earlier opening. Gun season, not a longer season. Move the 10 day window forward one week.</td>
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<td>9043</td>
<td>I see 20 plus deer a night on 20 Acres. The forest will only grow ironwood and ash. We need to decrease numbers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9044</td>
<td>Too many predators and not enough deer. No place to hunt unless you are rich enough to own large tract of land.</td>
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<td>9045</td>
<td>Maybe bringing back earn a buck would assist In reaching doe harvest goals. Some areas are heavy with does.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9047</td>
<td>Have not seen the number of deer as in past years. Harvesting a deer not a priority to me. Seeing deer is.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9046</td>
<td>There is very few deer in the public land throughout the county, specifically the Navarino Wildlife area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9048</td>
<td>I would not recommend shortening the bow/cross bow season. I saw this was a possible option for 2020.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9049</td>
<td>Its hard to group the entire county as one. Some areas of the county have many more deer than others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9050</td>
<td>Please maintain the current season opening schedule and weapon choices regardless of the hunters age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9051</td>
<td>Predators are having a big impact on deer population and movement. It is getting worse every year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9052</td>
<td>Would like to see early gun antlerless season before rut, and a late gun buck season after rut.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shawano county should be divided into smaller units as the area I hunt is very heavily hunted.

I think more antlerless deer need to be harvested to keep the bucks moving and chasing.

In person registration stations should be used to get a better count on the deer kill.

Would really like to see the quality of the white tail deer go up over the quantity.

I have noticed pockets of 40 to 50 deer per 80 acres what are you doing about this ?

Shawano has a lot of deer and every opportunity to harvest them should be available.

One buck per person per year, no party hunting, registration of game at stations.

Don't let anti bow or anti crossbow groups influence any decision making.

Wolf predation was terrible they killed half the herd south of Bonduel.

Bring back Earn a Buck as an management option. Seeing too many Does.

Add a doe only hunt in October. Increase gun season to 16 days.

Open the rifle season on November 15th and run it for 2 weeks!

Do not go to an extended gun deer season leave it how it is.

I like the idea of extending the gun deer season to 18 days!

There are too many deer in the southwest part of the county.

I oppose the lengthening of the 9 day gun season in any unit.

I don't believe the deer numbers are as high as they think.

Excessive amount of predators in area of wolf river basin.

Please continue the special 10 day muzzleloader season.

Raise the age of crossbow use. To 60 years and above.

Need state control of wolf population reduce numbers.

Only one public land doe tag per hunter per year.

Too many coyotes and now we have wolves to.

Thanks for the opportunity to have input.

I would like to see a longer gun season.

There is not a need for a holiday hunt.

Deer numbers are going down every year.

We need to shoot less antlerless deer.

Allow stands to be kept in the woods.

Don't mess with early bow season.

Allow for 2 bucks per license.

Make the gun season longer.

Way too many doe permits.

I like the season as is.

No 16 day gun season.

Open a wolf hunt.
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 277
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 58
   - I hunt in this unit: 354
   - General interest in this unit: 78

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 313
   - Bow: 212
   - Crossbow: 144
   - Muzzleloader: 123

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 22.16
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 137
   - Mostly Private Land: 76
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 45
   - Mostly Public Land: 39
   - Exclusively Public Land: 52
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 36
   - Not too crowded: 83
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 35
   - Somewhat crowded: 32
   - Very crowded: 16
   - Not applicable: 10

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 71
   - Fewer: 126
   - Same: 152
   - More: 25
   - Many More: 8
   - Unsure: 10

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmland Zone Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>167</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

- If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
  - Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 153 Support, 208 Oppose, 31 Unsure
- If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
  - EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 231 Support, 130 Oppose, 31 Unsure
- If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 32 Support, 333 Oppose, 27 Unsure
- If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
  - Should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID 153 Support, NOT VALID 208 Oppose, Unsure 31

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? **Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sheboygan, Central Farmland

The above statements and responses are invalid without allowing for an explanation for each. The responses can be interpreted for either ideology and that is why I answered "Not at all" for each statement. From a dedicated and serious hunter in Sheboygan county: First of all, I would like to take a moment to thank you for the time, mental energy, and commitment to our county and state’s deer population and overall health of our herd. Deer hunting in Wisconsin is not only my passion, but it also impacts me daily in my property management decisions, food plot designs, strategy scheming, and even my, nearly daily, food eaten with my family. I am 32 years old. This past season was my 21st year hunting in the state. I have killed a buck all but one year out of the last twelve years and for every one buck I’ve killed, I kill an average of 1.3 does. I say this to communicate that I am not just a trophy hunter. I have killed some very nice deer, does included, over the years but I can tell you with complete confidence, not one of the many deer I have killed were by accident. I work hard for and earn every deer I kill. Many opportunities are there for those who are willing to work for them! I have heard the whining and complaining from many fellow hunters about low deer numbers and not seeing deer. Personally, I don’t buy it and I don’t sympathize. Sure, they may be putting in the time during the season sitting in their stands but they aren’t putting in the time outside of the season. For those who own land or have access to private property, which is the vast majority, they aren’t doing the property management projects to improve habitat or food sources, they aren’t putting in the time for off-season scouting, contemplating new strategies or stand sites, or creating mental back-up plans and strategies. But, I will tell you, they are talking. They are exerting mental energy by complaining that their stale efforts aren’t producing impressive results. Do not sacrifice tradition to attempt to appease these lazy hunters. No one is entitled to a deer or a trophy, and true success only comes to those to work for it. At the conclusion of last season, I was mailed the end-of-season hunting survey. In the survey, I was asked the question to the effect of, “At the beginning of the season, how confident were you that you would successfully harvest a buck?”. I answered this question with the greatest confidence allowed. In fact, I can confidently say right now that I will kill a buck this coming fall. This confidence comes not in the properties I hunt but in my preparation. By the way, I killed a buck last year on public land. Let me get to the point. As a true deer manager in the state of Wisconsin here are my recommendations to my county and state decision makers: -Keep it simple, stick to tradition, be open and honest-informed hunters are happy hunters. -Don’t cater to the squeaky wheels by fundamentally changing what has worked. -Don’t be afraid to allow deer numbers to increase - hunters who see deer and experience success will keep coming back -Accurately and honestly communicate estimated deer numbers - these numbers must match what hunters experience in the field or skepticism will ensue -Be open and honest with the reasons and motivations behind management plans - this will build trust, buy-in, and compliance -Continue supporting hunter recruitment strategies such as discounted fees for first-time buyers, and continue with the youth hunt season - this will promote license sales and a new generation of hunters -Keep phone-in registration but require backtags with licenses visible - convenience with accountability (this is appreciated by those who operate honestly) -Do not change the 9-day hunting season structure - don’t change tradition, keep it special -Do not add a holiday hunt - at minimum a four-day doe hunt is acceptable but by this time serious hunters already have their freezer full -Do not extend the bow season through the month of January - again tradition, risk of killing shed bucks, added stress on deer during a crucial month, and finding a dead fetus inside does leaves a bad taste Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
The alleged growth of the deer herd in Sheboygan County is laughable. There may be strong deer numbers on private land but for those of us hunting public land during bow season, the chance to harvest a deer is almost unbearably bad. I grew up in Sheboygan County. I began hunting it when there were decent opportunities in the late 90s, and now when I return as an adult nonresident hunter, no one has a good thing to say. My family still hunts public land there annually and my dad, who is an excellent and historically successful hunter and knows the public land there as well as anyone from 60 years of boots on the ground, struggles to get consistent deer sightings. Please stop hammering the deer and reduce the antlerless quotas and eliminate antlerless seasons. I've heard there is a proposal to lengthen the gun season and start it earlier in the season. You would destroy what's left of the deer population there and ruin public land opportunity completely, not to mention take away the only time bow hunters in Wisconsin have a fighting chance to shoot a deer and enjoy their time in the woods. Please don't do that. I know I would never return to hunt Wisconsin if that was the new season structure. Gun hunters don't need more help. Finally, please get rid of crossbows during the early archery season other than for those with disabilities or senior citizens. You're not recruiting new hunters with that and already crossbow kills have overtaken traditional bow harvests. Enough is enough. Push them into the gun seasons where they belong or at the very least don't start them until gun season begins and let them run through the end of the calendar year. They don't need to be outgunning everyone during the early bow season.

I feel that for too long we have had too big of an emphasis on eliminating our doe herd. We offer way too many "free" harvest authorizations and then add the opportunity for several bonus authorizations on top of it. Harvesting a doe earlier in the season was always one of my personal objectives which allowed me to be choosier while hunting mature bucks. As of the last 5 years I have not even had the opportunity to harvest a doe and was surprised when I did see one from the stand. While I agree that there are certain isolated pockets of large deer populations including does, many of these are "unhuntable". These pockets of deer reside on private tracts of land that if hunted at all, are only hunted by the landowner/family. Many of these circumstances also include ownership that have a no doe harvest mentality. In these circumstances it doesn't matter if we offer no doe tags or a million, the does will not and cannot be harvested there. With the ever growing troubles of over crowded public land opportunities I feel that doe harvest is still necessary, but may best be suited with the "old" hunters choice permit. With that a relatively equal balance of harvest would most likely be seen, while hopefully increasing public land populations slightly. As someone who has been hunting hard and smart here for so long, I can honestly say my seasons have been declining in quality each year, and I'm sure there are many others similar. Without wanting to lose any more hunters in the system, and in the sake of preserving our resources, I hope that you take my comments into consideration. Thank you

Last year I was able to harvest my very first deer. Years before I didn't see much In The way of deer. But I am now seeing a lot more yearlings and healthy does I feel taking away crossbow season is a major mistake if the dnr dose this. I feel with the crossbow hunters like myself have a better chance at harvesting a deer. It gives more experience. I even had a doe young one put her nose in my ground blind last year when I was out hunting for a buck. I am not sure who was more scared her or me cause I honestly dozed off. Lol. But last year was one for the record books. With early snow and also some thunderstorms one hunt turned into a storm chase for me also sith some great pictures and cool experiences. All in all I believe the deer population in and around city of sheboygan is great little high in some spots. I also feel if the dnr would engage more children into bow hunting they will learn something's also. The day I harvested my deer I was also lucky to find some chicken of the woods. Major score when I fried them up with tenderloins. The area I hunt and harvested my deer is full of wildlife. Even had a flock of turkeys scare me while tracking. Them young ones sure know how to fly. I can go on and on about my hunt. And how I feel about this next season. And I am praying I can have another awesome year like last. Thank you for the time to give my feed back and I think this is the best way to do that.
It's unfortunate that 8% of Sheboygan is public hunting. I've done o.k. while bow hunting however It's near impossible to find any gun hunting areas that are not over crowded. Sure, 10 minutes down the road is the kettle moraine northern unit which experiences extreme overcrowding during the nine day gun hunt and another tag to buy. It's becoming overly myopic from a tag stand point and land prices are surging well past the upper middle class level while Sheboygan is primarily a lower-middle, to middle class, blue collar culture. The real question is; how does a middle class resident of Sheboygan afford 40-80 acres at 8-10 grand an acre? With limited public hunting, Sheboygan's hunting is not conducive to the income of the culture or residents and I believe that is why many residents are moving or buying land elsewhere which as we know directly contributes to the deer harvest. I don't know the answer, but that's a prevailing issue that I did not see in the presentation. Lastly - a common assessment that is made from fellow public land hunters; from private to public lands percentages, land prices, proposed deer hunting changes, the appearance is that the DNR is catering to the affluent and inherited land owners where as the sub-culture of non-land owning residents make up a majority of Sheboygan's hunters are only in a position to stand by and obey the regulations that are put out.

I have hunted sheboygan county for 36years generally same area within a 1/2mile. I have seen the deer numbers dwindle. I can remember when I first start hunting opening weekend of gun season I would see 20 to 30 deer in a weekend. Last year i seen 1 all weekend. I hunt from first light to dark I sat in stand 22hrs and seen 1 deer. That's pathetic!!!! You people have the general public hoodwinked. There isnt as many deer as you say. I sit in the stand this past year and said to my self this isnt worth it! I sit here cold for what? Year in year out same thing very little amount of deer. Now for driving in vehicles looking for deer so pathetic I dont even do it anymore! I would do it almost every night. why waste the time or the gas? Also I drive 60 miles a day to and from work in the last year I seen 2 deer. My daughter and stepdaughter and stepson went hunting with me for the first cpl of years but they stopped because they seen NO DEER!!!! I know your sales are down and low numbers of new hunters. I said to myself if things aren't changed by the time I'm 55 I'm done and I know quit a few people feel the same.

I have noticed the number of deer on public land has been dropping throughout the last few years; but have also noticed a large increase in deer populations on private land. I believe this is due to the high hunting pressure on public lands, especially during the 9 day gun deer season. The deer simply get pushed into closed areas or private land with no access. They only come back to the public lands at night, and become nocturnal. The problems I see that have always been a problem: There are a lot private land owners that only give limited permission or none at all. There are also a few private land owners that do give permission but only allow you to shoot bucks or you will not get permission again. You would think the private land owners would take a bigger responsibility in herd management to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease. Your own statistics shows that public land only comprises 8% of the land but yet is harvesting 24% of all the deer. The way the system works now is you wipe out pockets of deer population on public land only to be filled by the deer that disperse off the private land or closed areas when the seasons close.

In my opinion, Antlered deer harvest should be restricted to a minimum standard of outside the ears in order to harvest, it would help establish larger bucks and help the states tourism industry. Let them grow, should be the theme song. 2nd baiting should be allowed in every county regardless of CWD concerns, Most archers are weekend warriors, unskilled and unpracticed, baiting would allow the novices a better more humane harvest opportunity. We need a quick cost effective CWD testing solution. Finally I would suggest getting rid of the dangerous practice of driving deer, I know the statistics bear out much safer hunting over the past 25 years, but i believe its mainly due to elevated hunting and downward traveling bullets. I think over all the DNR does a remarkable job with the wildlife population in Wisconsin, I’ve seen the changes and a job well done over the past 40 years, but i think our greatest resource is the whitetail deer and I feel respectfully that this resource is woefully mismanaged. Thanks for the opportunity to reach out and stay safe!
Sheboygan County is where I hunt. The Sheboygan marsh specifically between Glenbeulah and St. Cloud. I used to see a lot of deer. I never shot or even shot at a lot but it was fun to see them. Since all the doe tags are handed out just left and right it’s amazing to see a couple opening weekend and then good luck after that. And most guys shoot the first thing they see no matter what sex it is. They don’t identify it at all. I was watching a fawn last season walk towards me. It was maybe 50-60 lbs. at 40 yard some idiot blew its shoulder out right in front of me. It ran off in the cat tails. The guy walked up to the edge of the cattails and then turned around and didn’t look or trail. My hunt was over right then because I yelled at him. He said he wasn’t getting wet. It’s sad how much this happens. Stop giving out doe tags like free candy and let us hunt again! Please. I want to see deer and so do my kids. They want to stay interested and also be safe. By knowing it’s a buck and identitying it I believe makes a hunter more honest and ethical.

For too many years, I believe there has been a steady decline in deer numbers. I believe this is due to a number of factors such as natural predators such as coyotes and wolves, but also an aggressive insurance company lobbying effort to reduce deer populations. From a number of hunters I’ve been in contact with, their are two types: those who selectively hunt and prefer a small hunter group atmosphere, and those who are weekend warriors who get together in drunken groups and try to kill as many deer possible. I don’t say the latter group wastes their harvests, but it is this mentality that over harvests an area and hurts deer populations the most. Lower numbers of deer sightings causes fewer licenses to be purchased and consequently fewer deer being harvested. Proper deer management would remedy this problem and in my opinion would require fewer antlerless tags, aggressive predator hunting and increased access to private lands for public use. This would appease both the hunter and landowner/insurance company concerns.

I realize that these comments are more Statewide than specific to the CDAC, but I hope that the CDAC will have more influence with the State than an individual might. Rather than increase the cost for Non-resident hunting licenses, consider lowering the cost to increase the numbers of out of state hunters. If the goal is to reduce herd numbers, it is counterintuitive to also (directly) reduce the number of hunters. Oversimplified, the State would be better off selling two Non-resident licenses at $100 than one at $160. This plan would increase the revenue while also increasing the chances of reducing the deer population. Additionally, for the purpose of hunting licenses, I would propose that owners of land greater than 120 acres be considered "Residents" even if their primary residence is out of state. These individuals still pay real estate taxes and would be more likely to help control herd sizes by being encouraged to hunt rather than potentially discouraged.

I have seen over the past few years the number of deer decrease dramatically. Too many tags are sold every year and there just aren’t any deer left. Public or private. Also, crossbows should absolutely NOT be available for use by all hunters!!! Only those who absolutely need it. The population has been decimated by people running around with crossbows during archery season. With modern crossbows they may as well use a gun. The crossbow season should also not run the full length of archery. Only a month or two at most! The deer hunting in this unit has been horribly mismanaged and it’s sad because I struggle to even see a deer. 2019 I hunted everyday for 6 or more hours and it took until the last evening of muzzleloader with 3 minutes left to see a deer. I didn’t want to shoot it because it was a small doe but I had to feed my family with something. This is the reality of deer hunting now.

I feel too many tags are given out with licences. Theres no reason to distribute multiple metro doe tags. Also I feel bonus doe tags shouldn't be offered. I want to see the deer herd number go up so us hunters who spend a lot of time and money on our sport have success in the field and can take pride in a healthy hers number. I am not a fan what so ever allowing any age to use crossbows I wish it would go back to the old way by needing a handicapped permit. Too many deer are being killed by cross bows. Also i feel with no registration stations and back tags now many deer are not even being registered. Archery season used to be so loved and now everyone does it because of crossbows taking the sport out of the game and increasing the kill rate and overpopulating the woods with hunters. Baiting should be banned state wide and I would hate for the gun season to be extended more than 9 days.
The presentation was very good, very informal. I enjoyed seeing all the data. I understand the recommendation is to maintain population in the county, however, I would like to still see Sheboygan "maintain" at a slightly higher level then 8-12k deer. Therefore I am not in favor of increasing antlerless harvest on public lands. I am fortunate enough to hunt some private land for gun season but have no viable stand option for bow on private. Therefore I hunt public primarily for bow season and would like to see higher number of deer on public lands. I also believe most hunters would prefer to see higher numbers of bucks to does and the holiday and bonus antlerless tags do not help that if yearling/fawn bucks are being taken during these hunts. I do not hunt the holiday antlerless hunt and would not purchase a tag if Sheboygan county ever went to an antlerless only gun deer season.

I'm glad there is an increase in bonus harvest authorizations. I hunt in multiple counties and could not obtain a bonus authorization for Sheboygan because they were sold out. That meant I couldn't help with your large quota last year, and watched does walk that I didn't have authorization to shoot, due to hunting in another county and getting my farm zone tags there. Please issue more bonus tags, so people like myself can purchase them and shoot the doe I see on public land that you want to help decrease the population. Now I have to decide what county has more bonus tags and guess which one I will have the best chance to harvest the most doe. Please keep the holiday hunt as well. I feel the woods has a chance to settle after the 4 day antlerless hunt before the holiday hunt. This allows the deer to move and a better chance for us hunters to harvest them.

Limiting our opportunities with the weapon of our choice during archery season is absolutely absurd. Long Bow, Re-curve, Compound or Crossbow - we are outdoors and enjoying God’s gifts. Harvesting and consuming a resource in the most efficient way possible for each person is IMPORTANT! Please do not limit our opportunities to use the weapon of our choice. "The QDMA gurus" that think crossbow hunters are shooting too many bucks are 100% upset that more people are actually in the woods when they previously had this time period to themselves. My family both crossbow and compound hunt along with a couple outings a year with a re-curve so I'm not just supporting the crossbow hunter. If an arrow/bolt leaves the weapon when fired then the archery season should be open for all string weapons - no restrictions or time period lulls. Thank you.

I feel that the antler harvest has been way too high for more than 10 years. The majority of our bucks are small with very limited growth of horns do to their young age and poor genetics. I would highly favor shutting down deer hunting in Sheboygan County completely for 2 years. Regard this of what our vehicle insurance companies say, or a deer numbers are nothing like they had been in the 1980s and nineties. I’m also out in the farm fields a lot in our dear do very little damage in comparison to Turkey damage and raccoon damage. In my opinion it's about time that we allow the deer herd in this part of the state to rebound and actually mature so that hunters have an opportunity to actually see a deer that may be 4 or 5 years old Rather than cow tell into the pressures of insurance companies.

The biggest issue with the 2019 Deer season in the Sheboygan unit was the rut was already past by opening day of gun season. There were no deer seen as they were not moving since rut was over. The season was simply too late. How many tags are available is meaningless if the deer are not moving because the season is too late. Second, I strongly oppose the open use of cross-bow hunting during the archery season. The data clearly shows buck harvest during gun season is way down and buck harvest during archery season by cross-bow is way up. Why bother hunting during gun season if you have little chance at a buck? Cross-bow use during archery season needs to go back to being for the elderly and those with disabilities.

This is on the topic of baiting. As I understand the thought of protecting the herd I don’t believe deer farms should count as affected county which I believe is a lot of the findings especially north. Further the thought of banning state wide I strongly oppose as well as many others. I gun hunt up north in price county people voting from southern county’s should not influence the north. Further, the idea of banning a two gallon baiting and allowing all these lan owners to put in food plots is absolutely ridiculous. The plots will bring in more deer than two gallons ever will. So don’t take that option away from hunters who can’t have plots. Thank you.
Many states offer a late season muzzleloader hunt. Could this be implemented as a "earn-a-buck" for the holiday season? For example, if I harvested an antlerless deer during the holiday hunt, I would earn an additional buck tag for a late December/January muzzleloader hunting season that is only valid for that season (the normal gun buck tag would not count). It could be done by first come first serve and there would be a limited amount of buck tags offered in the county. Just a thought to try and hype up the antlerless holiday hunt. This suggestion would be completely separate from the traditional nine day gun season.

Consider I do not want to be a biologist or a lawyer. I want to hunt see deer with my kids and have an opportunity to shoot them. I live on the border of several countries with public land. Choosing what kid what tag where to hunt private public. It all becomes a little much. I have a job and it is not a pro hunter. The more laws the more complex the rules the Less likely I will hunt wild game with my family. If I get invited to hunt in a different area I should be able to just go and have my 10 year old read and explained the rules to me. I may quit hunting and take my kids to high fence good opportunity on my time frame.

There were some pretty lean years with regards to the deer population in the area of sheboygan county that I hunt from about 2010 through 2016. We have recently started to see an increase and it is really nice to at least see some deer while on stand. The doe only and holiday hunts are the ones I dislike. I don't want the population to decrease again like it did when we were on earn a buck watch. I feel like when the populations get so low it is really hard to encourage new hunters to take up the sport because it is no fun to sit on stand only to see nothing or very few deer. Good luck with your decisions.

With 8% of the land in Sheboygan county being public and accounting for 24% of the total harvest, that tells me the public lands receive a great amount of hunting pressure. Deer sightings on public lands the past few years have been pretty low the past few years. I have been seeing .05-.0625 deer per hour in the stand the past 2-3 years while hunting public land. I still managed to harvest an adult deer in each of the past 2 years, but it takes a lot of time in the woods to accomplish that and you cant be selective if you want to put some meat in the freezer.

About the only large area in southeastern WI to have an opportunity to Hunt where you don't sit down and see a hunter 100 yards from you. Even in Sheboygan County hunting is over crowded in certain area and it really takes time to find a spot where someone isn't already there or stumbles through the area you hunt every day. It's frustrating but understandable when you don't own the property. Need more land availability. I see deer, rarely ever a mature buck. Bucks are typically 1-3 years maximum. Many hunters shoot the first thing they see.

Leave the crossbow season the same, running concurrent with archery season. Everyone should be able to hunt with there chosen device. If you want to recruit new hunters let them have their own choice. Stay with traditional 9 day gun season , that is more than enough time to harvest a deer. Lastly don't limit archery or crossbow hunting during the rut. You still have to hunt hard and put in your time to harvest an animal. This is a peak time for activity, what a better way to recruit new hunters and retain them for the future of our sport.

Depending on season changes I may choose to hunt in another state soon. Having to choose between public or private and which zones I can only hunt is ridiculous. I only need to shoot one deer now but other family members wish to hunt also but with these regs we no longer hunt together due to number of hunters in certain public areas and not enough deer in small private area we own. Way to many different seasons. Way too many permits given out has eliminated a lot of does. leave hunters choose their weapons and let then all shoot one deer.

Many people east of highway 57 argue there are very few deer and that we should limit our doe harvest. There isn't nearly as much suitable habitat compared to the western half of the county. Walking through the woods my father and I are seeing heavy browse lines and many more deer than in the past. Please consider keeping the holiday hunt and the 2 doe tags issued with each license. These tools are helping out some landowners who are trying to do the right thing to maintain a healthy forest and deer herd.
I enjoy my right to hunt and own firearms. I consider my rights under the Constitution as very important to my enjoyment of outdoor sports and I would like to see the Wis DNR provide support for supporting and defending the Constitution. Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide feedback on my deer hunting chances of success. I own private property in Sheboygan County and hunting on my own property is a fantastic way for me to provide my own success in deer hunting and small game hunting.

The numbers are just way too low and the amount of time and effort it takes to see deer these days is large. The fun is slowly fading from this sport. Stop killing so many does and let the population recover. Buck only in Sheboygan county for 2 years and the numbers and enjoyment will rebound. Guys with private will always have high numbers so they are not effected ever from more permits. Only the public land hunters where anything that moves is shot. It's sad.

In my opinion the reason we are not seeing as many deer is 1) The hunter population is getting older 2) The day of deer drives is almost gone, which moved deer all day long 3) A lot of hunters have nice little shacks they sit in all day, and by that they don't move around in the woods, only going to and from there stand. The deer are there, but we trained them to head to cover where maybe no one can one into, or the hunters are to lazy to go after them in these areas.

I, along with many other avid bow hunters, strongly oppose altering the gun season and any other actions that would negatively affect bow hunting opportunities, especially those during the peak of the rut. Wisconsin is one state that has the gun season set up the right way. There is plenty of opportunity for gun hunters to shoot deer during the 9-day season. There is no need to harm bow hunters by expanding the gun season or moving it to earlier in November.

Keep crossbow season completely concurrent with regular archery. Otherwise you will need to limit archery by levels of technical advantage, % let off, releases, sights, etc. The crossbow option has opened up warm season/ rut hunting for hundreds of people that wouldn’t spend the time or money on more traditional archery gear. Crossbow legalization has had a positive effect on hunter involvement and deer herd management. Please keep it as it has been. Thanks

I would like to see two changes. 1. Keep the youth hunt BUT the child is done after harvesting their first deer. They don’t need special privileges every year tell age 16. One and done period!!!! 2. Raise the price of the deer hunting license. One buck tag good in all archery, crossbow, rifle and black powder seasons. When you harvest your deer your done. No group hunting allowed at all. No person needs to harvest more than one buck!!!!

No holiday hunt or extended seasons. Where I hunt in the north west corner of Sheboygan county. Deer numbers have been going down for years. Also, no extended hunt into January. I am a snowmobiler. Many landowners will not allow snowmobiling until all hunting is over. Half the snowmobile season is over by Jan 31st. No 19 day gun hunt either....9 days of not seeing any deer is bad enough let alone 19 days. Don't mess with tradition.

My overall concern is the framework of the proposed deer seasons. Certain groups feel they should get preference of hunting times vs other weapons. This issue only pops up with deer hunting. Turkey seasons allows you to choose your choice of method to harvest a turkey: gun, bow or crossbow without this bickering. These split proposals divide an already declining group of outdoorsman which is not healthy for the sport overall.

I would like to keep gun season the way it always was. If you cut down the season for bow/crossbow that would be fine. I would bring back the back tags. There are people that trespass all the time. On land that they have no business on. I hear from others that people ain’t calling in their kill. To much stuff people getting away with. It’s comes down to baby sitting your hunting land. That’s no fun

I did not like the fact when the Holiday hunt was going on in 2019 you could not use your unused buck archery tag. I did not partake in the Holiday hunt because if I saw a buck I would not have been able to use it. People had a lot of time off over the Holidays and when you can’t even try to fill and unused buck archery tag it is disappointing. I do not believe in the Holiday hunt to begin with.
Please extend the Western edge of Sheboygan County metro sub-unit back to Hiway 32—as has been in past years. I hunt private land between Hiway 32 and Interstate 43 and I am disappointed the Western boundary of the sub-unit was moved East a couple years ago to Interstate 43—making the sub-unit narrower and thus cutting out my extra sub-unit hunting days.  Many thanks for considering!

There are too many hunters taking fawns during the gun hunt which in turn leave a lot of deer gone for the future hunt! Also with land in Michigan which opens on the 15 the if November I do not want seasons to start the same weekend!!! So keep the seasons the same!! Also the rut runs about the same time so to let by bucks get bigger we need to leave the season the same!! Thanks

Please maintain availability of CWD testing. Provide more insight about actual CWD instances, if any, for the unit in which I hunt. My opinion is that we need to reduce the deer herd (bucks and does), to reduce the chance of CWD spreading. If hunters are afraid to harvest deer due to CWD, the herd may get out of control. We do not want to waste this great resource.

Antlerless tag levels could be higher to encourage more harvest to reduce car-deer accidents, disease (CWD) transmission and tree seedling regeneration. Increase of public land bonus tags from last year is a good thing. Free metro zone tag is also good. Need to bring back October antlerless season for more herd management tool options and recreational opportunity.

I think the gun deer season should start on Nov 15 where ever it falls and stop following Thanksgiving. Maybe some tradition in Wisconsin but the rut is always over by the time gun deer season is open. This leads to bucks be bedded down and only kicked up if pressured by hunters. Other states do this type of season that does not follow the holiday. Thank you

The high wolf numbers and low deer numbers in much of northern Wisconsin has forced many people to hunt public land in Sheboygan County. Causing crowded hunting conditions on opening weekend of gun season and low deer numbers. Its also causing more hunters to hunt/harvest more deer during bow season in Sheboygan County instead of hunting Wisconsin northwoods.

I'm happy with last years season structure and hope it stays the same. The only thing I would support limiting is the crossbow season. I believe they should get a month to hunt with crossbow then open it back up after gun season. Too many crossbow hunters think they have a rifle in their hands and end up wounding deer in my personal experience with them.

Been seeing a downward trend in the number of deer being seen even though i have been improving habitat and planting food plots. Neighbors in my area are seeing similar trends. Thinking theres been to many does harvested in the last 5-10 years and now its really starting to show in the population in my area.

The issues with public land and hunter harassment is large in the county/zone. I have been approached as a female by private land owners who border public land and been interrupted during a hunt. This definitely affects my hunting and enjoyment of coming to Sheboygan County to (attempt) to harvest a deer.

Many fewer deer, driving an increase of people trespass and illegal stands issues. Baiting as well is prolific on state land, people hunting well before and after allowed times. I did not feel safe in several instances walking into and out of state land as people were actively hunting in the dark.

I've hunted this unit for 21 years and every year we see less and less deer. In my opinion they're handing out way too many antlerless tags. I would like to see it go back to 1 doe tag per license archery/ crossbow and firearm. There's no reason i should get 2 plus antlerless tags each year.

Too many times I've seen deer drives that drive deer from public hunting grounds onto private land. Once driven onto private land, the deer are shot by waiting "hunters". While this practice isn't illegal it is unethical. The object of my writing is to make this practice illegal.
Your deer count is very inaccurate it all starts there. That's why hunter numbers are down. Who wants to go hunting if you aren't going to see a deer. End your cwd talk. I hunt in three other states and don't here much about cwd. IM sorry haven't seen a deer with cwd yet.

The deer herd gets plenty of pressure with the 9 day plus muzzleloader season. Adding a holiday hunt puts unneeded pressure along with a higher chance of fawn and pregnant doe harvest. Hunters have more than enough opportunity with seasons open since mid September.

I think there are too many deer and the quality of bucks is low. I am concerned about cwd having negative impacts on the deer herd. From my backyard on multiple nights I saw herds of 30+ deer in the field behind my house. This can't be good for the spread of cwd.

We have less deer in 2019 seen, We also snowmoble late December in the northern state area sometimes in sheboygan country. I think it's to cold hunting late December for many people. If late hunting season many land owners don't allow snowmobiling the same time.

From personal observation and conversation with another hunter, in the specific area I hunt (western edge of Sheboygan county, just north of SS) zero fawns were observed last season. Adult deer population was about normal. I have no idea why fawns were absent.

A word of THANK YOU to all of you at the DNR and those who are working with the DNR to preserve our wildlife, our hunting and fishing habitats. From the smallest to the greatest work, the Sportsman and women thank you. have a great and safe summer.

I'm strongly against the holiday hunt. I love late season bow hunting people have enough opportunity to shoot a doe during the regular gun and 4 day antlerless season. I'm also an avid muzzleloader hunter so please do not extend the 9 day gun season either.

Killing more anterless deer doesn't solve the cwd problem. I've hunted in other states they also have cwd but not killing anterless to the extent that Wisconsin is. People want to see deer when they hunt. Maybe that's the reason the license sales have dropped.

I have noticed extremely large herds of deer concentrated in fields near me late this winter. (Only on a few occasions over a few days). I have never noticed herds this large/concentrated 60+ deer in 20 acre in the 30 years that I have lived here.

Stop changing what zones can harvest go back to one buck tag per bow one buck for gun and two antlerless any county. The private and public is making it difficult for hunters to dictate where we hunt especially if we hunt three to four counties.

Crossbow season should be its own separate season and not run with archery season. This is the worst decision the state ever made. Not sure when I will buy a tag again, if ever, and I definitely teach and preach to others every chance I get.

Last season the rain kept the corn on the field so the deer were in the corn which made seeing deer where I hunt almost impossible, I hunted everyday except Thanksgiving during the gun and I seen two deer with no shot opportunities.

The seasons should definitely not run out into January!! It is too detrimental to hunting in general!!! The long deer seasons and deer leases are ruining small game hunting!!! This is not opinion it is FACT!!

Thanks for having a holiday hunt! My daughter will be out of state for college this year. She has hunted six seasons in row, and the holiday hunt will be the only opportunity for her to hunt next season.

I believe it would be beneficial if the deer season was moved up earlier in the year. By the time gun season rolls around, the rut is pretty much over and the deer have settled back into a routine.
I wouldn’t like the Holiday hunt like this last year. Deer populations are way too low and your extending the season interferes with snowmobiling and the possibility of shooting bucks without antlers.

I feel the number of licenses issued is driven more by money gathered for the DNR/state versus the true number of deer in our state, and the need to regulate/depopulate them.

I would like to see the number of antlerless tags included with a license dropped to 1 while increasing the number of bonus tags available to help fund management efforts.

I enjoyed my hunts here last several seasons and continue to see plenty of antlerless deer and feel the cdac is on the right path to maintain or reduce the herd. Good job.

I don’t believe harvest numbers are accurate due to individuals not calling and registering their harvests. I strongly believe we should have registration stations.

Way too many antlerless tags are being given out. I buy as many as I can afford and don’t use them just to try and save the deer the dnr is trying to eradicate.

You need to do a better job of leasing land for hunting. Most of it is just bare fields with no hunting available the only benefit is to the landowner.

They should make specific rules on how hunters are able to hunt on property lines. For example they have to be 50 yards away from the property line.

It would be nice to see more youth (under 16 years of age) opportunities outside the existing youth hunt and regular gun deer season.

I am in favor of continuing to run the bow and crossbow seasons at the same time. I strongly oppose shortening the crossbow season.

Please extend the gun deer season and halt all hunting for a week prior to beginning of gun deer season to help with deer movement.

Get rid of all extended hunts like the holiday hunts, scrap the longer gun season idea, go to 1 buck one doe tag per license.

I saw very few deer if any while hunting northern Kettle Moraine unit. I always see them on the roadside after shooting time.

To many doe tags free so some people feel the need to fill them all cut back on that and keep the seasons the same.

9 day Gun season license higher for out of staters 7 day muzzle hunting No youth hunting and NO special seasons.

I feel more deer the better, to a point. I do not like the holiday hunts. I do like the extended bow hunts.

I enjoyed the holiday hunt - conditions were very good and few hunters. Please keep this hunt available.

Well done Research, Good Video, easy to listen to and very understandable. Keep up the good work.

I am opposed to an antlerless season, however I would like to see bucks harvested be a 6 pt or higher.

Need to stop handing out permits like candy. Will start losing the youth. Encourages Brown is down.

With all the different seasons, the deer are nocturnal you might as well have a night season also!

I feel the crossbow season should be part of the GUN season, NOT archery - because it’s not.

We pay good money for all this and could use instant on site cwd tests at multiple locations.

Go back to the old way of deer hunting party tags. Deer herd numbers were better in State.

So not think we should be changing the hunting seasons, or separating crossbow season.
Please keep the online voting in the future as a lot of us can’t make the meeting

I would like to bring back back tags and in person registration

Like all the deer hunting season to remain the same as 2019

Have the beginning of archery season start September 1st.

Do not extend the deer gun season. 9 days is long enough.

Eliminate the 4 day antlerless and holiday hunts

The crossbow season needs to be shortened.

Maintain current season length

Extend gun deer season
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

933 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 750
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 122
   - I hunt in this unit: 847
   - General interest in this unit: 173

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 752
   - Bow: 610
   - Crossbow: 291
   - Muzzleloader: 267

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 19.5
   - Maximum: 61

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 383
   - Mostly Private Land: 219
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 138
   - Mostly Public Land: 53
   - Exclusively Public Land: 49
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 5

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 55
   - Not too crowded: 134
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 109
   - Somewhat crowded: 75
   - Very crowded: 58
   - Not applicable: 28

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 82
   - Fewer: 219
   - Same: 446
   - More: 126
   - Many More: 48
   - Unsure: 12

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

St. Croix, Central Farmland
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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I am an experienced deer hunter. The 2020 season will be my 55th season. The last 18 years I deer hunted in St. Croix County. For 8 of those 18 years, I hunted private property during bow and gun season and I successfully harvested deer or I chose not to harvest a deer. The last 10 years I have exclusively hunted public land in and out of the Metro zone, and public access land only because I no longer own private property for hunting. The last 10 years I have not harvested a deer because I have not seen a deer on public land to shoot. I can no longer use a bow and I dont have a crossbow so I rely on rifle and muzzleloader season. Public land is so burnt out after the archery season. Interesting that if there is snow cover, there are very few deer tracks to find. I have seen two does during hunting hours while I was on public access lands. I was hunting along a fence line and the does were on private land next door. The deer population you want to reduce is not located on public land, if anything it is transient on public land. I could go out with twice the amount of free antlerless tags and still not harvest a deer on public land. You folks need to do a better job with the private land owners and encourage them to allow hunting on their lands. How many of the members get out and talk to the hunters that do not register a deer and ask them about the quality of their hunt? Coming to a conclusion by professionals that there is not the interest in harvesting antlerless deer is just wrong. Get out and talk to the people that are hunting. Relying on a "matrix" to provide information on which to make a decision on how to control a herd is the wrong thing to do. Use the matrix as a useful tool, not the determining factor. How about closing the Willow River State Park’s non hunting areas to visitors other than hunters during rifle season, including the south side field and wooded areas south of the paved road that goes to the dam? There are a lot of deer there. Every evening many deer leave the park to feed in the residential areas south of the park. You want to reduce the deer herd correct? This is a place to start. Oh, one more thing. If you choose to make St. Croix County an antlerless harvest only, I doubt it will impact hunters that already use the little public land that is available. They will still go there and hunt. The private land hunters may not like it but who is going to thwart the non ethical slob hunters from poaching a buck anyways. Nobody has to transport deer to a registration station anymore so a buck or doe for that matter possibly never leaves the property until after it is butchered. In my opinion that is the worst decision the DNR ever made. It skews the harvest count which......goes into the matrix! If you want to try "earn a buck" again, only use it on private property. The ethical hunters hunting private land may follow the law and comply with it. Lastly.....this whole "public land" "private land" designation may be good for the DNR matrix folks to get their harvest numbers accordingly but that can be done upon call in registration. I don't like it because when purchasing a license, it locks down a hunter to one or the other. What If hypothetically..... I buy a license and I get two free antlerless tags for public land. Then a neighbor or friend invites me or allows me to hunt on their private land. I cannot legally harvest a doe on that private land unless I BUY a bonus tag for private land. Or maybe a neighboring land owner next to a PAL invites me, while in the field, onto his land or the PAL land owner invites me onto his non PAL designated land. I cant legally harvest a doe there with my public land tag. Help me out here, you want to reduce the herd so allow me to get a free antlerless tag for public land AND a free tag for private land if I so request it when purchasing a license. This gives me more options. Right now it is one or the other when getting the free tags. You cant get one of each. That is ridiculous. My hope is that someone reads this and seriously takes this to heart to consider. I really doubt that anyone cares about what I said.
Thank you for the opportunity to learn with this online format and provide comment, the numbers in the presentation are really interesting. A couple passive comments on this approach, I would really enjoy some more commentary on the interpretation of the numbers from Jed, I can tell he likely knows a lot more than he is saying but is directed to keep it simple, I wouldn't mind some more judgment of the numbers/trend/data analysis verbally from our local professional. Second, if would be nice if the CDAC recommendation could be explained more verbally rather than just a yellow box with two paragraphs at the bottom of this page. Specific ideas support/explained with visuals and commentary would be more informative. Next, to the recommendation of the antlerless only hunt, I completely disagree in a constructive manner. I realize this recommendation is built off of a number of metrics and datasets. I use the same approach for many of the data analysis I do in my day to day career. What I can say to start is that metric/datasets typically are poor in taking into account the human behavior and actions. A antlerless only season would be greatly detrimental to a lot of hunters motivation to take part in deer hunting in general. I for one, would likely not carry a gun or bow in the woods of St. Croix county if I cannot harvest a buck when presented the opportunity. I know of many other hunters in this county that feel the exact same way. Why even take part if I cannot harvest a antler animal when presented the opportunity? I hunt for meat as much as I do for horns, I don't have a wall full of trophy animals, I have been hunting from the day I could and grew up in a St. Croix County hunting family. I have been through earn-a-buck, northern zone buck only hunts, and all the special hunts (zone T) etc etc. I have always trusted WIDNR throughout these special circumstances. The antlerless only I cannot support, and would completely stop hunting in St. Croix County in general. Again, you are telling the general hunting public that if they are presented a opportunity at a animal antlered animal that they have to pass? Taking away the harvest of antlered animals and trying to replace that with antlerless animal is not possible in my mind. Do you suspect that the motivation to harvest extra antlered animals in lieu of no antlered tags available to increase, I for one don't think so, and I think the result would be less harvested animals overall. I don't understand how out of all counties in WI St. Croix is the only proposed for antlerless only? Aren't there similar counties with the same metrics/datasets? A constructive approach to harvesting more animals would be hunters and game managers alike finding avenues to accessing the largely privately held hunt able lands of this county and acquiring new parcels to make open to public folks. I know of new parcels that are being bought, but I think more can be done as family farms are starting to go away and more parcels become available. More of our hunting tax dollars should go to land acquisitions so game managers can play a more significant role in the counties deer population. Or as I mentioned above an incentive to private landowners to provide public access to reasonable hunters to reach quota goals for the county, there has to be some type of approach to champion for the future of hunting. Please take into consideration the impact on the hunting families of St. Croix county when you tell them they are headed to the woods to only harvest antlerless animals. While tags sales will likely not plummet statewide, hunters enjoying the woods of St. Croix County will likely decrease, and I would be one of many that will not hunt the county if it is antlerless only and travel to other parts of the statewide. Again, I completely disagree with the antlerless only recommendation, and would be happy to talk to the CDAC, it is hard to provide all my thoughts in this comments field. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input.
In the past 18 years of living in this county and 15 years of hunting this county, previously Pierce co., there has not been a considerable increase in overall deer numbers, let alone the doe numbers. In reality, it's been either consistent or lower than it was. I primarily hunt private land adjacent to public land - don't forget many of the public lands in this county are WPAs (federally owned), so hunters can't leave stands overnight. This leads to many areas off putting to hunters. Also, this county is very suburban, meaning there may be pockets of deer close to towns or on relatively small parcels off-limits to hunters. I've had seasons in the past where I saw 'zero' or only a few deer, including does, but this was back when I was hunting more public land. I work in MN and in my commutes along the 94 corridor, as well 65, I've seen very little difference in vehicle kills either. Fawning and rut do bring about a spike, but when comparing the numbers in almost the past two decades, I can honestly say there's very little difference. I'm an avid hunter - my friend and I have almost a dozen cameras setup throughout the year and we enjoy driving around to look for deer in a several square mile area in New Richmond and East of there. We don't shine at night, but go out during the last hour or so of light throughout the spring, summer and fall. My observations from those adventures mirror what I see in our hunting area and what I see around home or while driving/commuting, no significant increase in deer numbers, but either consistent or somewhat lower.

You're dealing with a hunting population, primarily of the older generation. I live alone, one deer a year is plenty for me and if I harvest a buck in archery season, I become more selective during gun season or I may target does, but they can be just as elusive as the bucks come gun season. I don't shoot deer, including does, for sake of just shooting them or to meet someone else's presumed quota numbers. It still takes time and work dealing with the animal, even if I were to donate it. A decision to allow only buck harvest in the county will have unintentional results - it's just a 'scare tactic' IMO. The DNR will lose credibility and hunters will either hunt neighboring counties or MN. I will not deer hunt in St. Croix co in 2020 if I can't target bucks. This mirrors a liberal agenda - more government involvement dictating what they 'feel' is best for everyone. You will take the enjoyment out of hunting for people if you don't allow them the freedom to make their own decisions while hunting - that is what hunting is all about. I would be very open to only allowing people to harvest/register one buck during the entire deer season, like MN, and not allowing party hunting - not just for St. Croix co., but even statewide. Everyone has a pocket full of doe tags anyways, and there's no reason someone should forego their buck tag so someone else in their party who already shot a buck can shoot another. There may be incentive for some archery hunters to take a doe instead of a smaller buck so they can keep their gun/buck tag open. Or, if they do want more than one deer for the freezer, they'll me more likely to target a doe, instead of another buck and potentially not filling it. The holiday hunt and extending season has very little effect IMO - people are typically burnt out by end of gun season and are focusing on family/holidays and/or ice fishing. The deer are pretty much nocturnal or are afraid to show themselves until mid-December anyways - they need a couple weeks to settle down after the gun/muzzle-loader barrage.
I feel an antlerless only season might be a bit much since I recorded a higher number of bucks last season without shooting one all year. I failed to see any antlerless while in position on public lands in St. Croix Co. The majority of doe seen were on private lands feeding on the high crop areas and staying together for the most part. I think a 1 buck 1 antlerless should be instated next year for the county throughout the entire season. From bow opener through gun with the exception of metro bonus tags and maybe 1 bonus or a lottery system for the later holiday hunt. The public lands were extremely difficult to hunt during the gun season as hunters just walk/drive around in search of any tiny area they cant see orange or other hunters vehicles. Not sure how to solve that issue but there isnt a lot of respect for being in a stand or blind and although being noticed still there is moderate traffic and noise without regard. There are deer getting struck by vehicles across the county and I actually hit one myself. It's difficult to issue these types of warnings or permits with such little decent public land to hunt, but with the private land owners party hunting next to the public lands I've seen places where there are 5, 6, 7 deer strung up at once. I can show you places where people dump carcasses for over extending their limits on private land, to make it look public. I shot a buck with bow last year and tracked it to private property but was unable to get permission to track any further. (I believe the landowner saw/found my deer and concealed it overnight then refused to let me track it the following morning) that's ok with me I just dont want anything to go to waste but with the tight quarters for public hunting within the farm zone and private lands the numbers harvested are being improperly reported by party hunting within the private community. Some kind of lottery system could work but it's difficult to say as I'm seeing more and more deer driving to and from work at night along the county roads. It seems like the population in my area is doing fairly well, but I believe an antlerless only season may bring on more traffic incidents and stronger hunter pressure from the public side of things. I believe private land owners wouldnt adhere to antlerless only atleast not willing to follow guidelines. Not all but there are some. It's a difficult task for any outdoor enthusiast to reconcile and find solutions, but I believe some form of lottery could be a better start before going completely antlerless. Maybe 1 deer either sex for archery tag and antlerless only for firearms with the exception of a lottery tag to some.

It seems as though the "management" of the herd is directly tied to being able to use the antlerless tags on deer that live on private land. Private land owners are managing "their" deer(or land) as they want to. With 2 or 3 antlerless tags being given with the license plus more available to those who want them, it seems that people are harvesting as many deer as they want for their freezer. It does seem that some people would shoot more if they had access to those animals that live on private lands. I did not like earn a buck but it worked as a management tool. I think the DNR should be doing what is best for the herd and not worry so much about the hunters. I do realize that is easier said than done. The antlerless only idea for St. Croix County is not a good one at all. Many people, myself included, like venison and will shoot a doe. But if you take away any chance of shooting a mature buck, many people will not hunt in St. Croix County at all. They will hunt elsewhere. Because they still will want to know, that if they see a big buck, they can still shoot it. By removing hunters from the woods that would shoot does, it is counterproductive to getting the deer numbers down. Try some form of earn a buck if you want antlerless deer removed. Regarding crossbows: I've never used one. I used to be a passionate bowhunter but gave it up because it became "competitive". It seems that people are more proficient with a crossbow. My brother in-law only wounds 2 or 3 deer every year now that he uses a crossbow. He used to wound 4 - 6. I'm not exaggerating. I've lost them too, but not nearly as many as he does. My point is, people are harvesting more animals with the crossbow because it is a more proficient weapon. I know the elitists hate that crossbows are allowed in the woods at the same time. But, people that hunt with a crossbow typically don't like to hunt when they are "uncomfortable". So the best time for them is October - November with all the other stick and string people. I hunt the regular gun season with my muzzleloader. It's my choice. If bow hunters want to use a vertical bow, that's their choice. I don't complain about the neighbor using a .300 Winchester mag. That's his choice.
When I first heard that St Croix County was considering an antlerless only season I thought it was a joke. Once one of my boys confirmed it was true we were all upset that something like this is even being considered! I own several properties in St Croix County and have spent thousands of hours managing these properties for Whitetail Deer. Two of the properties are in the metro unit and the other one is outside of the metro unit. We’ve invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in three different properties, equipment and gear. Habitat management and hunting is not just something we do for a couple of months each year. It’s a lifestyle and something we do year round as a family. We look forward to shed hunting in the spring, watching the does, fawns and bucks all summer, giving the bucks names and trying our best to harvest those trophy bucks each fall. As part of our overall habitat plan for each one of our properties we look to keep a balanced heard. When my sons heard your proposal of an antlerless only season they were upset and very disappointed. They immediately were not motivated to execute our habitat plans because the bucks they were looking to chase next season would be off limits. Now the kids are spending less time outdoors, not supporting their passion and not building that important thing called work ethic. Is this the type of reaction we’re looking for? Is this going to motivate more people to take up or continue with the sport they love and increase doe harvest numbers or push people to hunt elsewhere? Based on the doe harvest numbers that were reported in 2019 it appears we are approximately 1,000 short of our antlerless goal. The more logical solution to the problem is to implement earn a buck for the 2020 season. Since 1,732 bucks were taken this would be an easy way to harvest the additional antlerless deer needed to hit our county quota in 2020. Having said this the “earn a buck program” can be an effective tool when used appropriately but if overused can over time have a negative impact on doe numbers and hurt the overall deer population as many of us witnessed not too long ago in Wisconsin!

1. I primarily bowhunt the metro subunit. I see very few deer. I feel lucky if I see a deer per hunt during Sept and Oct. So if I see one, it’s unlikely I will shoot it - unless it’s a big buck. If I see a doe in Oct I generally will leave it alone in hopes of attracting a buck later. This is fine with me. But I’m not going to continue to shoot antlerless deer when already I see very few. I’m not opposed to shooting antlerless deer, but I go to Pierce or Dunn County to do it because I see far more deer in those counties. 2. Deer in the Hudson/RF area seem to be afraid to show themselves in the daylight. Might already be too much pressure on them. In other parts of the state I’m very surprised at the willingness of deer to show themselves in the field. Rarely happens around Hudson. Maybe this is why we don’t see deer during Sept/Oct like we do in November. 3. In the Hudson/RF area it’s just too difficult to get on land to hunt. Most landowners will not grant permission. Either their family hunts it during gun season so they don’t want bowhunters taking the deer, they already have a bowhunter, or they’re unhappy with the suburbs creeping into the countryside. 4. I participate occasionally in the Holiday Hunt. It’s nice to know it’s coming in case I need to to get one more deer for the year. 5. The January archery season is fine and I do get out in January but it’s very difficult to hunt due to the weather. It might be fine for guys who can sit in a heated blind and open a window to shoot a deer at a feeder, but that’s not me. 6. It’s hard to accept that deer browsing of red oaks is a concern. In most of the areas I hunt around here the proliferation of buckthorn appears to prohibit the growth of oak trees far before a deer might browse them off. But then again, I’m not a trained biologist... 7. I think there is a significant impact on the herd from people living in the suburbs and having corn piles in the back yard. This pulls a lot of deer from the hunting areas into the housing developments and takes them out of the hunt. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion.
I think trying to decrease the antlerless herd is needed. If one buck either bow or gun would be allowed and requiring at least one antlerless being taken (I know earn a buck) would be be more palatable to me. I have property next to a large tract of state land and I observed more hunters hunting pheasants than deer during the deer gun season. They had dogs. A problem with our county is the housing developments are in prime habitat areas creating challenges for hunters to remove deer from these sanctuary areas. The last two bow seasons for me have had high deer sightings. Being the gun season has been late (end of November) deer sightings were very low. Once they have left my hunting land they no longer are able to be hunted by me. The deer are not being moved around like in years past because hunters that own a small huntable parcels of land build a stand and go to that spot and are not moving deer around. My observation over the last 15 years of hunting st Croix county is less hunters, less land privately owned that is hunt able and deer that adapt to hunting pressure very quickly. It is not that we don’t have enough hunting opportunity’s. I am retired and I start bow hunting about the end of September and hunt till the end of the gun season in November. I hunt almost every day during bow season and everyday during the 9 day gun season. By then I am hunted out. You have a real challenge to just plain get people to shoot more deer. Shooting them is the easy part. The work starts after that. (gut it, drag it, load it, haul it, process it.) for a lone hunter to do this with out help can get old fast and for hunters to loose interest. Has there been any thought to some sort of a lottery for buck tags in the county? At least it would be a different tool that wouldn’t look like earn a buck. I think keep the free bonus tags like it currently is but limit the county to one buck with either gun or bow not both and you have to take an antlerless deer to shoot a buck. Yup I said it, earn a buck. Thank you for your dedication and time.

I disagree with the current recommendation to only allow antlerless deer harvest for the upcoming season. This may very well reduce the overall harvest by causing people to travel outside the unit/state to hunt bucks which would not accomplish the goal of more antlerless harvest. It would also drastically reduce the amount of time people are willing to dedicate to hunting, and archery hunting specifically. Hunters would just wait until firearms season, shoot their antlerless deer, and then go hunt in MN or other parts of the state to shoot a buck. This would be a loss to the heritage of hunting and hunting recruitment in St. Croix county. I also disagree with the current recommendation to NOT participate in the holiday hunt. This is the perfect opportunity to harvest more antlerless deer. I personally had to miss most of the 9-day firearm season last year due to family commitments and holiday travel. If I would have had the opportunity to participate in the holiday hunt I definitely would have and I probably would have filled more of my bonus antlerless tags. I think this county could successfully participate in the holiday hunt with minimal conflict with snowmobile clubs and their members. The majority of participation is done on private land already, so the distribution with the snowmobile trail system should be minimal, especially if we have another very mild winter like we did this year. I am a WI snowmobile trail pass buyer also, and I would much rather be hunting in late December! Pierce County is able to accomplish this and they are very similar to us regarding climate and snowmobiling opportunity. I also think there is a huge opportunity to talk to more hunters about the options to donate deer in St. Croix County. I did not know about this until I brought a deer into my local processor. With a marketing campaign to talk about the need to harvest more antlerless deer and the damage they are doing to forest regeneration, I think there would be more participation and use of the available bonus tags.
Hello, thanks for hearing me out regarding this topic... I strongly disagree with the CDAC's recommendation of an antlerless only season in an effort to reduce the antlerless deer population in St Croix county. In fact, I do believe that this would be counterproductive in reaching the goal of deer reduction as it would dissuade hunters to actually go out in the woods to harvest deer. Not all hunters are meat hunters that can appreciate a fine doe/antlerless harvest; you would be pushing these types of hunters away from the sport all together if there was never the ability to set up for a buck during the season. With dwindling interest in the sport to begin with, this could be a very slippery slope. I have harvested a plethora of deer in my 35 years of hunting to appreciate every one big to small, however, taking away that potential chance of a "buck of a lifetime" or a personal best/trophy while out on any hunt, I have to admit, does make me less excited about going through all the costs and effort (Land, gear, licensing for myself and two boys). Perhaps an EAB (earn-a-buck) incentive program would be a more productive tool in achieving your overall goal of more antlerless deer harvested. Scientifically and statistically speaking, EAB has been the only management tool which effectively reduced deer numbers. Some other incentive or repeated communication about supporting the vitality of the local heard by harvesting more antlerless deer, and continued free antlerless tags, I feel would be a more successful approach than an antlerless only season. Also, maybe look at the most densely deer populated areas/area that is most impacted by high deer numbers (like a metro sub unit), and have a firm management tool in place specifically for that zone within the county. Thank you.

I have noticed a sharp decrease in the Doe/Fawn population on the Western side of St Croix county over the past few years (Somerset area and also Hudson metro sub unit). I believe this is the result of too liberal Doe bonus tags allotments to hunters the last few years (2+3sub). There is an insane over abundance of young bucks in the 1-2 year old range. With MANY cameras afield, it's been very common to see a 4 or 5-1 ratio during the last 2 years from August-December. On one 80 acre parcel in recent years it's been as high as 10 different bucks to a 2 doe 2-3 fawn ratios. Another 80 acre property I've seen much the same #'s (I mainly hunt on 3 different 80 acre private parcels in this area). I've hunted for well over 40 years and I've never seen a deer heard this unbalanced. I think your much wanted doe kill has yielded the results you desired already and needs to be limited for a while. I've viewed your statistics/goals and believe they are both way to high for my area. They should be reduced to say a 1 + 1sub unit # vs the 2 +3sub # they are now. I, being an non resident, would not hunt if it was an antlerless only season. Having worked in the archery industry for years I know an antlerless only season would be disastrous to the sport (even for just 1 year). Buck hunting is and always will be the hugest driver to most sportsman. In this day of dwindling hunter #'s it would actually drive the deer/doe #'s higher vs reducing doe populations. Low hunter #'s always yield a higher deer population. Side note......The coyote population from my area is extremely high. I have not seen any fawn mortality issues from that yet. Doe's from my area usually have twin fawns and it's actually rare to see a Doe with a single fawn.
A couple of things that I am concerned about is the doe only season that is going to upset many hunters and may drive people away from interest of deer hunting. Deer hunting has already revolved into a rich man's sport over the years and several people are already upset with the dnr with all of these changes in the seasons all the time.

Alot of deer problems such as eating back yard plants or bushes is people have moved into the deer’s habitat by building in woods and areas that deer have populated for many years. Car deer accidents could be cut down with smarter driving, I see it all the time people dont even slow down when there is deer on the side of the road better awareness would cut down accidents.

Over browsing is a result of less food sources is where I dont understand the ban of feeding deer especially minerals it would be beneficial for them as it would be just like humans taking vitamins to maintain a healthy body. I fed minerals back when we were allowed to and I could see the difference in the deer on our property. I also think that there should be some kind of restriction on how much a woods can be harvested, it shouldn’t be allowed to clear cut a whole woods. Doing so takes away habitat from all animals.

I dont believe that a doe only season will be the answer to this population control I would rather see a earn a buck versus a no buck. That has been a tradition of going deer hunting in wisconsin with chance to harvest a nice buck that is how it was when I started hunting 37 years ago you could only shoot a buck so dont take that away. I dont have a problem shooting a doe as I have harvested several over the years but I enjoy that opportunity to bag a nice buck if opportunity is presented. I say no to a doe only season.

I own and farm around 1300 acres I don’t know where the deer numbers come from in the area’s I hunt there’s not that many deer. In the last 20 years the amount of hunters has gone down private land that I previously hunted has been bought and divided up people now have there 5 to 20 acres some hunt some don’t the deer seem to know where they are safe and that’s where they stay. If my area changes to antler less only or the crossbow season changes I will not buy any deer hunting licenses nor will my buddies that hunt with me so what good is it to change the deer hunting regulations when no one will be allowed to hunt anything I have. We don’t hunt any public land because it gets a lot of pressure around my area and the traditional bow hunters who are crying about crossbow hunters can shut up because they are not going to hunt anything I own anyway so why does it matter what type of bow I use on my private land when myself and my friends are the only ones hunting it so either we harvest deer or they live in piece for another year.

In my best deer hunting spot the neighboring farmers all hunt and don’t allow anyone else on it either so the cry baby bow hunters loose again. It makes no sense to extend the 9 day gun season either because what we have seen in the last few years is that after the first weekend our deer sightings have dramatically decreased a little more every day after day 4 you could just as well put the guns away because the trail cameras show how fast they become nocturnal I would be in favor of moving the gun deer season a week earlier to maybe catch the end of the rut otherwise leave it alone on my land if it isn’t broke don’t try to fix it. Why are we always trying to reinvent the wheel?

If you go to a doe only season this year for bow and gun then I think you will see a lot less licenses being purchased. I probably wouldn't hunt. Then think of all the hunting sales that wouldn't be made at your local sports stores. If you were considering not having a buck season in order to grow bigger bucks, then that might be better received than trying to reduce the doe population only. Extending any season until Jan 31 makes no sense. As a hunter-when gun season is over-after hunting bow and rifle, there are very few days that I would go out hunting. We only have so much time and extending the season into Jan would not be for me. If I get my buck during bow season, I only go rifle hunting to keep the family tradition alive. There seems to be a lot of attention to the use of crossbows and the number of deer harvested. I hunt with crossbow, and have not killed deer every year. Doesn’t matter what you hunt with, you still have to put your time in the tree. I have hunted in Ohio with family members in the past and they have always been crossbow. What they do is issue you a buck tag once-so when you fill that tag, either with bow or gun, you don’t get another buck tag that year. One buck per year. They have some big bucks too. So maybe Wisconsin should stop trying to change the length of season for crossbow hunters and focus on deer management by issuing a one buck limit per year and still have all the doe tags available. You not only will have more does taken but you should have more mature bucks too. If I am successful in bow season and get my buck, and only have doe tags for rifle season, I will be shooting does.
I regard the St Croix antlerless, I strongly support a earn a buck in the county. I think its very silly that legislature has a say in the earn a buck decision. Should be something in place for an easy earn a buck process. I also strongly recommend if you are very serious to limit deer near the Hudson metro area, have an archery season/ muzzle loader in the Willow State park. About ten years ago Hudson had one and there was a harvest just in town of about 70-75 bucks and mostly does. The west side of the county just by my experience and talking with to my acquaintances are highly concentrated as apposed to the east side and always have been and in recent years as property gets cut up in small parasols, its very hard to hunt for various reasons we all know about. This is the very reason the west side has so many. I forsee a reduced license sales in St Croix and hunting activity for 2020 if you institute a doe only. I only live a few miles from a neighboring county. That I can hunt. We in St Croix County are not used to this and never happened in my time until now. Your previous questions are kind of hard to answer because we have no idea of the deer count in general. How am I supposed to answer a question on how many tags should be given out here an there. I feel some of those are in vain. What is good for an area does not mean its good for the other area. Blanket laws in general are rediculous to many variables. Example the Covid rules, people in infected areas should be more restarined than those in rural areas. Whats good for the goose is not always good. Thank You.

I oppose any extension of traditional seasons and an antlerless only season framework for St. Croix County. St. Croix County should be happy that there is plenty of opportunities for hunters to harvest several deer (buck or foe) across all seasons. Other counties like those in the northern part of the state that do not have even a fraction of deer that this county holds do do to dangerously high, unmanaged, and ever growing wolf population, would be ecstatic to see the numbers we do. Think about new hunters this year. Young kids to adults. Looking to shoot their first deer and you’re going to tell them they can’t shoot that nice 10 pointer that steps out broadside at 20 yards? Sounds discouraging to me. We’re trying to broaden and grow this way of life, not diminish it. Talking about the regrowth issue, I live by 900+ acres of public land and the DNR is consistently logging it out. Why? So bird hunters can get priority while the DNR doesn’t do anything else to boost pheasant numbers? The woods are now fields that grow 6ft tall. How’s a deer hunter supposed to see a deer in 6ft grass? Hard to hit quota when they can’t be seen, and no forest and vegetation regrowth can occur if you’re wiping it out. I’ve never seen deer chomping on dried out CRP field grass. Other factors you cannot accurately count on top of hunters deer harvest numbers are winter kills, car collisions, and predator kills. Please withdraw this silly proposal of an antlerless only season for St. Croix County, and keep all seasons at normal length.

If an antlerless only hunt is implemented, myself and others will simply not hunt in St. Croix County until a buck tag is once again available. I believe that implementing an antlerless only season will only make things worse with regards to population numbers by forcing hunters to go to other areas of the state to hunt. I also will not be hunting with my son in St. Croix County this upcoming season if the antlerless only season is implemented. I want to give my son the opportunity to shot his first buck and if I can’t do that in St. Croix county I will take him elsewhere. I know I am not alone in this opinion and hope that the CDAC will realize this is a mistake and look for other ways to achieve its population objectives. If the DNR and CDAC’s goal is to get more hunters and retain the hunters we already have, then limiting hunters options and making the hunting experience less pleasurable will only hurt their efforts. I would strongly support giving hunters more options to harvest deer and not limit them and create bad experiences that could drive hunter numbers lower resulting in lower harvest numbers. I also believe the biggest factor in the lower harvest numbers last year was the result of too much standing corn that allowed the deer to remain hidden from most hunters throughout the gun season. I believe this will result in greatly increased harvest this year without the need to alter the season this drastically. Let’s not overreact just because we had one bad season.
People need to stop blaming crossbows for the reason why the gun harvest was down. If you don't hunt private land you are basically screwed. Way too many people hunting every piece of public land. You keep wanting to add more antlerless hunts and are now trying to take away the crossbow hunters rights. Studies say hunting is in the decline, well opening up the youth hunting as was introduced in recent years is a good plan to grow the sport. Now stop trying to limit crossbows to October only and do not extend the gun season. We already have a 9 day gun season, followed by the muzzeloader season. Then we have antlerless only hunts. There is more then plenty gun hunting opportunity, the trouble is all the private land is where the deer are and only a few get to hunt private land. The DNR also cuts down all the trees and burns all the thick grass then somehow expects the deer to still use that land. Why would the deer use a piece of public land when there is no trees or grass to bed in. Either you want the deer, or you want the birds. You want all the deer shot but then plan on restricting crossbow hunters and the new idea of closing all hunting for up to 5 days before the 9 day gun season is pointless. Stop messing with regulations, give it a year or two more and see what the results are. There is ample opportunity for all types of hunters right now. Some years are just bad, don't take one down year for gun season and try to change all the regulations. Leave it alone.

I'll keep this response somewhat brief but overall I think the deer regulations in St Croix county are done quite well. However, not having a buck harvest ticket during any season, not even a "one and done" seems drastic and against the spirit of the hunt, it removes the magic of the "what if". If you're a hunter of great presence then you experience wonders everyday, every moment when you are afield, the woods and fields around are homes are a bounty if you simply stop and look around. I often take kids or my 66 year old father hunting, each of them, on each day that we get to go hunting ask me about any big bucks I've been seeing and what I think the chances are...it's like "The Night Before Christmas"...now we're totally content shooting does, we love it, they are beautiful and the meat is first class, but we all love dreaming about what might come down the trail next. If there's no buck harvest then so be it, well dream that much more for 2021, but I would recommend there is at least one per hunter. I watched the 20 minute video related to all of the deer statistics in St Croix county but failed to see any relationship as to why we would drop the buck harvest, everything, for the most part seemed stable. Thank you for your time, no matter the decision, if based on betterment of habitat and overall conservation, then you'll have my vote. Thank you for the opportunity to write my opinion.

1: Have meetings, and take an actual thought about the effects of party hunting, and deer drives. In my opinion, I know I'm not the only one, that deer drives, gravely affect hunts for others. Solo hunters like myself, adults apprenticing to teach, and help observe during a deer hunt. If being kept legal, time windows (10-2) or something,, or set dates during the season like the last weekend.(last effort to fill tags). 2: Certain counties and/or zones need a better buck population. People just don't see them. Too much buck harvest, just to fill a buck tag. Very few close to respectful. I'm a firm believer that in time, if the 3" rule goes away, and people are made to really focus what they are about to harvest, will bring better herds, safer hunting. My thought has been for a long time to start counting points. If I had my way, it would be 4 points on one side for a legal buck. My area has great potential, let it show. 3: Face to face deer registration. You and I both know people poach now more than ever, or shoot whatever on whatever tag they have, if they get registered. 4: Legal shooting hours. The legal hours have to be changed. When the time is over, I can still see through the woods, and across a bean, or corn field. I even hear shots 15 min past "legal light". I've walked up on deer MANY times in the evenings after legal light that I can see clearly.
Thank you all for your time and effort in trying to keep a healthy, balanced deer herd in St. Croix county. Below are some comments and feedback regarding the recommendations:

**Antlerless only for duration of hunting season:** This is a creative idea and certainly will get a lot of attention, would likely detract hunter interest if they are no allowed to harvest a buck in any season. Even if the antlerless harvest per hunter increased, there is a strong chance the overall participation drops to mitigate the antlerless harvest increase per hunter. (Earn a buck seems like a better way to increase antlerless harvest while allowing opportunities to kill a buck)

**Over browsing increase and increase in deer population.** Is there a way to provide more opportunities for hunters and increase harvest? A few key points that were noted in the presentation were the over browsing trend increase, trending deer population, and public land harvest being 9% of total harvest while on 5% of total land mass. Are there ways to encourage increased hunting opportunities on private land? (outside of VPAs, Ag Damage tags) Public land has notable pressure, but the deer population is increasing, while many hunters are seeking opportunities to harvest deer. Is there a way for the CDAC/St. Croix County to facilitate increased use of private land with deer density issues for public access?

I lived in Saint Croix county for over 30 years. I have watched the DNR cut log plow and burn the public land next to my house for nine years in a ROW! Recently they just started up again while the ground is still frozen you’re ruining the habitat for Deer. Oak Prairie Savannah’s Cater towards bird hunters and it just pushes the deer onto peoples private land. And I have seen a drastic decline in deer numbers. Why do you cut down anything that resembles any sort of cover? Why do you take whole creek bottoms And mow them flat like a putting green? Why do you ruin habitat to create oak prairie Savannas? I have even seen the Army Corps of Engineers back there building fire lines for the next year is burn... why? Doesn’t the public land belong to everybody and not one person’s personal agenda and love for oak Prairie savannas? How dare you complain about the lack of reforestation when you are the ones spending our tax dollars on our public land to slash and butcher and make sure you have a budget for the next year to do the same. The public land is for everybody please leave it alone. And to say that there’s more deer than what us hunters are seeing is a complete fabrication these deer don’t exist and never have! We all see more pheasants than deer because that’s The habitat you create. Third generation Life long ST.Croix county Resident.

Thank you for conducting this survey and your efforts to maintain a healthy deer population. I am strongly opposed to the creating an "antlerless only framework". Not only does this take away the rights of hunting and joy and excitement of taking a buck, it creates a situation where my 11 yr. old son would have to pass on a buck during his first every mentored hunt. I do not agree with this logic. Not to mention, St. Croix County would be the only county in the state to enforce an "antlerless only" framework. We all understand that there are are deer population concerns around the metro zone and Interstate 94, but there doesn’t seem to be overpopulation concerns in the general farmland zones. Instead of forcing hunters into an "antlerless only" framework, why don’t increase knowledge and expand our efforts into venison donation to local food banks. If we have learned anything from COVID-19, it is that there are many people in need of food in our county. Also, if there is a surplus of food, for example the dairy industry, when we put our heads together, we can come up with a solution to not waste it. I am sure there are hurdles in the donation program, but if there were clear guidelines and a quality program put forth, I believe our county would benefit from a "surplus" of venison. Thank you for your time and consideration.
I have been an active participant in conservation, including but not limited to deer and deer hunting. To propose an "antlerless only" season would not only add to problems of deer population in St.Croix.Co but it would greatly have an impact on the future population. The numbers we can't count yearly are winter kill off, predator kills, car related kills, and weather conditions during the traditional 9 day season when majority of hunters and harvest take course. I watched personally, the impact on the northern zones when zone t, youth hunts and an abundance of antlerless tags were given out. Year after year. That with addition to an out of control wolf population and harsh winters lowered the deer herd population to numbers almost in huntable. It took over 10 years to see deer again. To start implementing this system would be a direct preemptive blow to the current and future population as well as a personal blow to hunters like myself that DO there due diligence and harvest several antlerless deer within st croix co on both public and private lands. That being said the antlerless only season would be opposed from this life long sportsman, conservationist, woodsman, and deer hunter. As it would NOT be in the best interest of the herd, hunters, or our future success in the area.

I hunt exclusively private land in Metro sub unit. I have little interest in harvesting does. I believe I have gone approx. 4 seasons without harvesting a doe. Avid bow hunter. The long archery season (Mid September to end of January) is too long for just ONE buck tag. I would like to see an option for archery hunters to obtain 2 buck tags, in lieu of the 5 or so bonus antler-less tags we receive with our license. Hunting from early Fall to middle of winter almost affords the archery hunter 2 seasons in which to hunt. The late season can afford some great opportunities to be in the woods, but not if my tag is filled in October. Having the opportunity to possess that second tag means more time in woods, which equates to more $ being spent in the hunting industry, shared hunting experiences and extended family hunts. Would love to somehow see an option for this to be incorporated. OR, the opportunity for an archery hunter to fill the archery tag of a family member - for the sake of selling more hunting licenses - something that I would estimate is on a steady decline (license sales in general). So my recommendation: Metro Unit specific, Archery only - option for TWO buck tags in exchange for the 4 or 5 bonus tags given out now with each purchased license...

I own and hunt on roughly 40 acres of agricultural and woodland. I carefully observe deer numbers and behaviors year round. In 2012, I consistently observed a localized herd of about 30 deer. This past Fall of 2019, there were only about a dozen deer staying in the area at the start of the archery season. This winter of 2019-2020, the herd that I have observed on a daily basis now numbers just 4 yearling does. There is HEAVY and growing hunting pressure in my area. Hunters in my immediate area selectively harvested the larger/older does. I also have direct knowledge of hunters shooting multiple deer after not recovering their first doe(s). One of these deer was found by another hunter within 24 hours of it being shot. This large doe was left to go to waste. Given an average expected mortality from vehicles and predators, there may be but a handful of fawns of the year, and 1 or 2 yearlings/two year olds at the start of the 2020 season. If anything, my part of St. Croix county should revert to a buck only zone for a few years. Frankly, there is almost no deer herd to “maintain.” Frankly, $5200.00 is a lot of property tax to pay to hunt a “herd” of a small handful of fawns this Fall. Thanks for considering some direct field observation.

I oppose the antlerless/doe only hunting for all seasons in St. Croix County. I feel this will result in less hunters in the field in St. Croix County, as many will opt to hunt in other surrounding counties where they are allowed to shoot a buck and antlerless deer. I hunted both the archery and gun seasons in St. Croix County and only saw three does during the entire seasons. I did not shoot at the does, but I would now, knowing it is important to help control the antlerless heard. I would support a Holiday Hunt and additional advertising/news stories in St. Croix County on the need to harvest more antlerless/doe deer in St. Croix County. Lastly, I am a Crossbow hunter during archery season. I support the use of Crossbows in St. Croix County and throughout the state. Crossbows are much more accurate. I know many compound bow hunters who practice and are excellent shots, and wound bucks and does they do not find. I would rather have a successful kill each time I shoot. I have not lost a deer after a crossbow shot. Crossbow kills are slowly rising in St. Croix county. I would support their use if we want to control antlerless deer population in St. Croix county. Thank you.
Obviously the objective is to increase antlerless deer taken in St Croix County. I might be wrong, but I believe WI has currently seen a decreased number of hunters (primarily gun season) than in years past. I don't believe hunters should be penalized by not being allowed to take bucks. So with a decreased number of hunters, the question is how do you increase the antlerless kill rate? Has anyone thought about what incentives could be taken to increase the antlerless kills other than not taking bucks? I like the idea of currently being able to have deer taken to qualified processors for donations to the food shelf, but how about putting small bounties on antlerless deer, which can then be taken to food shelf processors if wanted. Continue to provide shirts, hats, hoodies, etc., as rewards to hunters who bring in antlerless deer to food shelf processors as well. Win-win situation- knock down antlerless numbers, feed the underprivileged, hunters earn $ or rewards for assisting. I don't have enough room in my freezer for more than one deer per year! Thanks for allowing us a voice and best of luck figuring this out- please don't take away our buck season!

Honestly I think an antlerless only deer season for the entire year is preposterous! I for one would not even buy a hunting license in Wisconsin if this were to happen. I would not purchase one for my son either. I know a lot of other hunters in my community that feel the same way. There are already fewer people hunting statewide and county wide so I don't understand the theory behind this. I thought the goal was to try and get more people in the woods, not push them away and hunt different states and areas. I would not have a problem having earn a buck implemented for archery and gun season and think that is a better way to achieve what you're trying to do. In my opinion, that would give hunters incentive to harvest does and still have the opportunity to harvest a buck which is the reason a lot of us live for the sport. I put a lot of time, effort, and money into managing the hunting land and deer herd that I enjoy round and hunt September through January. I guess I do not understand the drastic measures that are proposed in St. Croix county. I completely disagree with a year of antlerless only hunting. Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

If St. Croix County is antlerless-only this year, I will not hunt in the area. Instead, I will go to neighboring counties (Pierce) in pursuit of both does and therefore, have the opportunity to harvest a buck. Imposing antlerless-only harvest can have the opposite effect of the results the committee wishes to achieve. Many hunters are in the woods hoping to harvest a buck. If they do not have that option, they may not go at all and/or hunt where it is legal to harvest a buck. Thus, the hopes of decreasing the deer population in St. Croix County may in-fact, increase the population. If the board really wanted to incentivize hunters to shoot more does, I would suggest providing some form of reward/benefit. This may be monetary, so much money for harvesting and registering a doe to help drive up numbers, or for each doe harvested, the hunter has their name put into a lottery for a chance to win a number of prizes. In conclusion, making the area antlerless-only will not only make me not hunt in the area, but it may derail other hunters and be counterintuitive to the board’s ultimate plan. The antlerless-only plan should not be adopted.

Get youth / women and older folks in the woods! I am a bow hunter, a gun hunter, a crossbow hunter and a muzzle loader hunter. I have heard rumors of limiting archery and crossbow season which is a terrible idea. We continue to loose hunter numbers and allowing people to hunt with crossbows especially will allow them to spend more time in the woods during the year when the weather is better. This will keep kids interested and allow older folks the opportunity to hunt a longer season. Not everyone has the time or the strength to accurately shoot a standard compound bow. The crossbow allows for people to make better and more lethal kill shots but you still have to get them into close range. I hear people compare a crossbow to a gun which is simply ridiculous! when "overall" deer harvest numbers start to exceed the goals then start looking at how to lower it, but from what my research has shown me we are not seeing that statically right now. On another note, putting the muzzle loader season 3 days after the rifle season is a very poor decision. very few people get out for this season which should be put into mid December.
The biggest problem is for people who want to harvest deer to find deer!!! Your demographic shows only 5% of the county is public hunting, and of that not all of it is even hunt able. So on the 5% of public land that is flooded with hunters opening morning and push all the deer out of the property. Maybe let some of the grass lands that there is so much of in the county grow into some timber instead of burning it off. And maybe the game and fish can plant some crops on the dnr land to hold more deer there for hunters instead of the deer all resorting to private lands only. Deer will go to food. Wisconsin dnr give deer zero food on public lands. Give the public places and land to kill deer on and they will!!!! There are so many different avenues that you can take rather then an antlerless only season. As you will are in these responses you will get less hunters with that route and more violations honestly. Furthermore with the current way to register deer by phone how can you even go off the numbers. It is such an inaccurate and flawed system. How many deer were killed that people just didn’t call in?!?!

I don't feel the antlerless season is a reasonable way to get people to shoot more antlerless deer. I spend a substantial amount of money on the hunting land I own, creating deer habitat that has increased the number of deer on the property substantially over the last ten years. This last season, the number of 1.5 to 2.5 year old bucks has exploded, which is the next step to having increased numbers of 4.5-6.5 year old mature bucks. I only hunt for trophy bucks and have worked hard to create a property, where they want to live. My family and the other hunters, I allow to hunt the property have been keep the doe ratio in line on the property. I am also confused why the DNR is considering this plan since the percentage of 1.5 year old bucks over the last 3 years averaged 60% and 1.5 year old does averaged 34.33%. Seems you should offer extra buck tags, using the old Earn a Buck system, for shooting bonus antlerless deer. If you implement the antlerless only season, I simply won't hunt!!! If it becomes a long term plan, then I will stop spending the time and money on deer habitat.

What was presented in the audio file from the biologist is opposite from what I see when I’m in the field. I run over 20 trail cameras on public land around st. Croix county spend well over 30 days in the field from september til December. I’d be more then willing to bring the film from my videod hunts on public land to show along with trail camera photos to prove what I have for herds on these plots of land. I was planning if anything we would have a buck only season. As on multiple properties I have 3 to 4 bucks to 1 doe. If you would not like video but rather see first hand. I’m willing to offer to bring you out to the woods of some of these places I hunt this fall n u can see for yourself. To be honest I’m kind of upset from what I have seen. I understand this illustrates public land and private land numbers. But some of the numbers are very upsetting and do not add up from what I’ve seen(Red oak, fawnrates, and % of harvest).

Maybe I missed it but what was the driving factor to make St. Croix County the only county in the state to have an Antlerless only for every season? If you’re looking to try to reduce population okay maybe an Earn-A-Buck might work. But I think you’ll drive hunters out of the county to surrounding counties, to have a chance to get a buck. Me personally I'll probably hunt private land 5 miles north of me in Polk county. Not to mention I thought we were in a Maintain status, so why would we try to over kill on doe's this year? As far as the Oak tree samplings reducing, have you guys considered Oak wilt into your models? Less full grown oaks dropping acorns would probably lead to less samplings. At least here around Somerset, Oak Wilt is devastating some areas. Overall going only Antlerless for the entire season seems ridiculous to me and a bit extreme. But like I mentioned before I don't know why these extreme measures are being taken because it wasn't really laid out that well.
Going to a does only season is not going to force people to shoot more does but find other ways to tag the bucks they shoot and skew the numbers for neighboring counties. The problem with the county is there are a lot of private land areas that do not get hunted and hunters sit in stands not moving deer around during gun seasons or hunt in other counties due to available land to hunt during gun seasons. With the change to doe tags being valid only in the county selected people now have to choose a county. My family of 3 had doe tags for 5 counties last year to better our odds of shooting a doe to put in the freezer but by no means would we ever fill every tag purchased because that is wasteful. I am fine spending a little bit of money on a tag to increase mine or my kids odds of shooting a doe but by no means do I want to teach them to fill all 5-8 tags each for the season and not be able to utilize the animal they harvested. To many tags equals low numbers of kill to tag ratios for the DNR.

If the DMU is not meeting antlerless harvest the next step should be a holiday hunt, not going to an antlerless only season. Because St Croix is the only county with this restriction it will likely lead to less antlerless harvest as the number of hunters will be reduced when they go elsewhere. In addition we have 3 out of state hunters from MN that come out every gun season and they shoot at least 1 doe each, but they won't hunt this fall unless they have a buck tag too (the cost of the license will discourage others too). They ask every year why we don't have a holiday hunt too, so they would shoot more antlerless deer if they had the opportunity. I'm guessing the snowmobile lobby is against a holiday hunt, when that becomes the reason why we have an antlerless only season I forsee trails being closed. What the CDACs and WCC need to do is lobby the legislature to get earn a buck authorization back. That's the only effective tool I've seen used to encourage more antlerless harvest.

I am technically not opposed to antlerless deer tags. I think we have fair population of deer in my unit but the public land is a joke. Might as well put up tickets lines cause it's wave after wave of groups doing deer drives. By the third day no deer really stay on the public land. I can't stand that you have not put an antler restriction on bucks. I'm not truly for trophy hunting but you could put 4 pts on one side rule that would accommodate the trophy hunters as well make people think before they shoot when we live in a world full of complete morons. You could also try limit the number of non resident hunters or at minimum limit the tags drastically given to them as well as raise the price. It's a slap in the face what our Dnr does with our deer tags and bear tags. Just line on up and give us your money, everyone is equal in this state even if they don't live here and pay taxes as well as give to the local economy 365 24/7.

As a life long resident of St Croix county, one who has seen the population growth and one who worked in the hunting industry for 14 years, I believe antlerless only would be a disaster. Those that choose to not shoot does will move to a different area, or shoot a buck and not report it. I believe earn a buck would stand a better chance of success, or make the entire county a metro unit giving extra tags to those willing to shoot does. For every home owner who complains about deer browsing problems there is a landowner who doesn't mind and like the deer and don’t allow hunting. They even feed the deer. The western area of the county is highly populated and this makes it difficult to find spots to hunt. Provide a list of home owners that want deer removed from their property that hunters would have access to. That way, hunters wouldn’t have doors slammed in their faces and get discouraged, which leads to not trying any more.

Having antlerless only hunting during the season is absolutely preposterous. We saw on the 2 separate public tracts we hunt on pretty close to 1:2 buck to doe ratio. We personally saw 23 different uniquely identifiable bucks with many many more on trail cameras. The heard is very healthy, even on public lands. Eliminating the opportunity to hunt antlered deer will drive most people to hunt in other counties. I also own land in Taylor County and would have to hunt exclusively there. The public lands we hunt on had plenty of young forest regeneration and had healthy deer populations. My son hunted for the first time last season and seeing deer and being able to harvest a deer is the most important thing to keep him interested. If you truly want hunter recruitment to increase moving to an antlerless only hunt in 2020 would be the worst thing you could possibly pass. I really hope you read this feedback and take it into consideration.
The biggest thing you NEED to consider is one we all speak about every year. There is a large number of private land owners that consider there land of example 200 acres to be for one person only hunted privately or another example is all the 5 to 40 acres privately owned that are deer havens during the hunting season. We as hunters are doing our part, but the fact is the more private land that is Posted and not hunted, that is where the deer spend the hunting season as we are trying to harvest them. Most hunters are true hunters and will shoot does and bucks, but if you eliminate the bucks, I believe strongly people will not hunt St Croix county due to the fact they cannot take a buck. Also, there will be poor judgement people that will still kill a buck and tag it a different county. You need to encourage more hunting seasons for antlerless in St Croix county but not punish those who still want to shoot bucks.

Hunting numbers are decreasing and fewer and fewer people are getting into hunting. Discontinuing Antlered Hunting will erode the quality and attractiveness of hunting. Fewer hunters, fewer fees, fewer supporters of wildlife and wildlife programs. Crossbows have brought more people into deer hunting and their enjoyment of the experience has increased with the ability to hunt more than a gun deer selective day season during winter/holiday season. Better deer management to accommodate this increase in interest would be a better solution. Require a doe first would help manage the population better than no buck. Deer populations in developed areas and cities are increasing and areas to hunt become more difficult. Your data is selective and suggests it gives you enough information to determine that one county which is right next to another county should not have antlered hunting. Stop micromanaging.

It is my opinion that if you take away a buck harvest permit you will diminish the amount of deer harvested. Due to people that are out to just try and fill a tag without worrying about the antlers. Also my kids are just getting involved in hunting and we hunt in st. croix county cause it's our home. This would definitely have an impact on our younger generations interest in hunting. I feel if we gave out more tags or made the whole county a metro sub unit you would have a larger deer harvest than if you were to take away the opportunity to get the buck or doe you were trying get just for the love of the hunt. Personally if we dont have that chance to hunt for bucks that we all dream of neither me or my family will be hunting in St. Croix county this year. Please reconsider what you are projecting and think about the future generations that are we are trying to get involved b4 it's too late.

I'm completely against the antlerless only option for St. Croix country. I would prefer to see an earn a buck program in place to get deer numbers back in line with the DNR's goals. I've got 2 youth hunters and it would be great to have a 9 day youth season to have a longer time period for harvesting. Or if the county decides for the doe only season allowing youth below 16 years old to harvest both bucks and does. And especially for younger hunters the thought of not being allowed to hunt bucks isn't an exciting option. We all at an early age dream of buck hunting. Both of my youth hunters commented that they might be ok with sitting out the year without having a buck tag as an option. And that doesn't help with anything that's trying to be accomplished. With the expansion of housing some kind of taxpayer break for homeowners allowing hunting on their property for allowing hunting.

I hunt both st croix and Dunn counties private and public land ever since the earn a buck seasons they implemented years back the deer herd has only gotten worse. I hunted many hours this year and rarely seen deer with the current seasons it is impossible to enjoy hunting like it used to be the youth hunt falls during the best time of the year so it completely ruins the rut and these kids get false hope of what deer hunting is when they kill with rifles before the normal season. Every one of the doe hunts can be thrown away also its time someone gets control of the state and gets us back to where hunting is fun and deer numbers are back up where they should be it is sad to see how bad the Dnr has ruined this state whitetail hunts. Why don't ya issue a ton of turkey kill tags there are way more of them that's an issue then whitetail are anymore. Thanks to your wolves.
The issue is not the number of deer living in St. Croix county, it’s the number of people living in St. Croix county. Plus the increasing number that don’t hunt. Unfortunately there is probably no fix for either. I understand that you are trying to raise awareness of the issue and it hopefully will succeed. I just hope this doesn’t occur because if it went to antlerless only that would make the situation even worse. Hunters will leave for areas where they can shoot does and a buck if it walks by. It’s not that many miles to another zone. Hopefully this stay at home order will make families cook more meals at home and carry the thought to shooting a doe for meat. Our lifestyle needed some correction and this could be just the change we needed. I suggest we try another year of the status quo. Maybe in the future, the entire St. Croix county could be a metro zone.

My honest opinion is that the total harvest of deer will go down by implementing an antlerless only hunt and there is very little chance of hitting the 3200 quota. Prior to watching the video I would have thought the opposite; however, it is clear that there were already many unused antlerless tags so I do not see additional demand for harvesting more does. I believe that total participation will drop and it would be significant during archery season for more serious hunters. I watched the video and did not see an option for potentially using the option to earn an additional buck tag for the harvest of an antlerless deer, I think that would have much more of the desired affect you are trying to achieve. Also it looked like youth are much more excited about harvesting antlerless deer and perhaps an extended youth season would be another option.

If you think having an all antlerless season is going to reduce deer population, you're wrong. Do you realize how many people you have irritated by even recommending this and how many people won't hunt this season, therefore reducing the number of deer taken. Who comes up with this stuff? Sure seems like a few individuals who want county wide big buck management rather than actual whole deer management. When are we going to get rid of online registration? All you’re doing is promoting poaching and falsification, but I suppose that you would rather have people out there illegally taking deer, that way the population is reduced somehow being the car insurance companies are paying you through the back door to reduce the herd. Remember, you are paid through the tax payer dollars and this is our county, not yours. Do something decent for once.

I oppose the antlerless only season as I don’t believe the number of deer in the metro area where I hunted last year are as robust as in the past. I saw 8 deer all season, none within range of bow gear. I hunted many days from sunrise to sunset and never saw a deer the entire day. During the gun season I saw no deer and heard very few shots in the area so I don’t believe I was the only one not seeing deer. 2018 was down in deer sightings from 2017 for me and 2019 was way down. I hunt private property close to public property which gets hunted heavily during the gun season, so again the lack of shots during the gun season I believe is indicative of fewer deer numbers. I am not opposed to shooting does and don’t trophy hunt. I like to eat venison! But the past few years have been hard in terms of deer sightings and opportunities.

Possibly stop letting insurance companies dictate the outcome of hunting in with the money they are giving you! You are ruining the Wisconsin hunting tradition for young kids and anyone that is coming into this sport. You want more license sales? Here’s an example how - stop trying to have every deer killed possibly if you didn’t and the deer numbers would be decent you would have young kids and new hunters coming into this sport seeing deer and actually wanting to be in the woods because they are actually seeing deer! It’s pretty bad when multiple people spend a weekend in the woods and don’t see a single deer! Antlerless only in ST. Croix county with fewer deer numbers than multiple neighboring counties? Wow you are really doing an amazing job with worrying about future license sales and the future of habitat and hunting!
I would look to have one streamlined season with no special hunts except for the youth hunts. I believe we can eliminate the holiday hunts and need to streaml ine the seasons statewide. We also don’t need 10 different tags, nobody needs to harvest 10 deer. I hunt in 60M, the deer population in my area has been declining over the last few years. I believe there is more poaching and there is less people registering their deer now with the convenience of online registration. It feels like a lot of tinkering every year, the North part of 60M is not the same as the East, West or South part of the 60M zone and that goes for the same about the county. In my opinion the deer population is lower than it should be and we don’t need all these different tags. I would like to see more deer like the good ole days. Thanks!

The first years I hunted this area it was amazing compared to where I hunted previously; many trophy bucks, many mature and immature does. The herd was very healthy. Once the DNR implemented the "Earn a Buck" stategy the situation changed dramatically, the trophy bucks all but disappeared and the doe and fawn numbers dropped very much. The hunting has not recovered from this. I feel the excess agricultural permits around the 210 acres I hunt have had a major impact along with poaching. What has happen is a shame! I doubt with the continuing over-harvest of the doe population that I will ever see the great hunting return. I also understand based on reading and observation that the DNR failed to take any advice from the consultant from Texas that was hired to try to improve the hunting experience in Wisconsin.

In St. Croix County instead of an antlerless only season, would it be possible to implement an earn-a-buck season? I believe an anterless only season will actually deter hunters from obtaining licenses. My personal experience bow hunting only on private land in St. Croix County for 2019 was seeing a large number of does to bucks and yet there were certainly enough buck sightings to have adequately harvested a buck. In addition, would it be possible to have a license issued so that it was for anterless and / or buck, you could harvest that deer at anytime; archery, gun, Holiday Hunt, etc. But once you harvested your alloted deer, you could not harvest another deer unless you had the additional tags for more deer? Thank you for your work on preserving deer / habitat for St. Croix County and Wisconsin.

Over the past 10 years, there has been a general decline in the quality/age in general of deer. It seems that in this area, the overall decline in deer numbers and opportunities for quality hunts have eliminated a lot of hunters. In my opinion, in order to maintain hunter numbers, there needs to be more focus but on habitat improvement incentives and other strategies to improve hunting opportunities for hunters. I think some sort of long term approach to improve the quality of the deer hunts is the best thing that could be done in order to maintain hunter numbers as necessary to control the herd. For example..IA...having 2 separate gun seasons, spreads out the numbers of hunters and seems to provide better hunting opportunities in both seasons as the hunting pressure isn’t as intense as in WI.

It makes zero sense as to why you would be proposing a antlerless only season for this DMU. We have been seeing declining numbers for years now due to the number of tags being given with license purchases. If anything it would make a lot more sense in my opinion to have a buck only season as it only takes one buck to service many does during rut while a doe can only have so many fawns. If we implement a doe only season the amount of fawns would drop immensely resulting in even less deer for the DMU. I’ve always wondered why we keep trying to change a system that isn’t broken. Don’t be surprised if you see a dramatic decrease in license sales for this DMU if you decide to go with an antlerless only season. In all though I’m just a hunter that’s in the woods almost every day so what would I know.
We just lost a whole year class of new Hunter Education Graduates. I am one of the Robert’s Hunter Ed instructors, and have been so for 25 years. This is going to be a significant factor in this fall for hunter participation and harvest numbers. If St. Croix Co. goes to antlerless hunts only, you will see a mass exodus of hunters to Polk, Burnett, Douglas, Bayfield and Washburn counties. Either that or hunters will stay home and not even bother to buy a license. Many hunters will give up hunting if the opportunity to shoot a buck is taken from them. Many of these hunters will quit even if a Earn-A-Buck is brought back. Declining numbers of hunters and effort by those that do buy a license has much to do with DNR not reaching quotas and a new dead deer every 1/2 mile on I-94 all summer.

thank you for all your efforts and conservation. I admit car deer kills is excess north of Somerset. I counted 8 carrkills in past 6 months within a mile of my home. Question? has there been a study on LED lights and car kills? Little of this land is accessible to hunt due to urban sprawl. Crossbows assists with efficient harvest due to small tracts or lots to hunt on. Deer move later due to human activity. Extending hunting hours 30 min. would yield in greater harvest. I would support a Earn a Buck Program but I realize hard to enforce and lead to non registered deer. Can organized hunts be conducted in Village limits similar to what they do in Hudson? feeding yields much greater harvest of deer in these high human population areas. Please do not prohibit. Thanks for listening

You will loose hunter numbers if no bucks for harvest and deer herd will double your numbers show it. No one will sit and or hunt and watch a buck (any size) walk by to shoot does only. How about extra buck tags issued for the county if there is this huge problem we as hunters don't see? I saw more bucks in 2018 than 2019 on camera and hunting. How would you like to tell a youth hunter, first time hunter or anyone you can't shoot that buck in front of you! I have a daughter that has 2 years of youth left and a daughter that just turned 16 and will have her first bowhunting experience this fall. Telling a youth hunter you can't shoot a specific deer is asinine. That is not a hunting experience. We had exceptional standing corn in fields and a late rut topped with weather in 2019.

If an antlerless only season framework is implemented in St. Croix county, I strongly feel as though the county will receive less hunters traveling to hunt it and even locals who typically hunt public lands will just hunt elsewhere. I personally will not spend my time hunting in a county where I don't even have the opportunity to shoot a buck. By decreasing the amount of hunters in St. Croix, I foresee issues meeting the antlerless harvest quota. Additionally, I feel as though creating an antlerless only season framework in St. Croix will increase the amount of illegal harvest and poaching of bucks, temptation is too much for some people when a nice buck walks under their stand and even if it wasn't their intention, I feel as though some of those bucks will end up being poached.

Speaking as a hunter who is willing to and typically does shoot antlerless deer on a yearly basis, I do not believe you should try to force people to shoot does. I also primarily hunt to help feed my family however the potential opportunity of getting a chance to harvest a trophy is ultimately what keeps me in the woods. If a doe only season is implemented I will not hunt in this county nor will I permit anyone to hunt on my property. I am all for increasing the number of antlerless tags offered as I personally would welcome the opportunity to harvest more antlerless deer myself. However I will not hunt in an area or during a time (including doe only hunts) that at which point I may have the opportunity of a lifetime to harvest a trophy and am unable to because of a law.

I find it ridiculous to go to a antler less only season. Stop attacking crossbows for killing some deer when that is exactly what the dnr wanted when making them legal. Cutting down all the trees on public land, burning the grass every year, eliminating any hiding spot for the deer to try and make every dnr property a pheasant habitat is also hurting the public land hunting experience. Between bad property management and all of the people that come to our area from out of state to shoot the deer and all the public pressure it's no wonder the deer leave the little bit of public woods that remains. The deer get chased out and hide on private land where no one allows anyone to hunt. No number of tags, no special seasons, no antlerless only seasons is going to fix that.
Please reconsider the registration of deer at registration stations. I think there is a lot of abuse and that people are not registering what they kill. The deer population gets harvested hard in my neighborhood but the DNR doesn't see the numbers because people don't register. Therefore, our numbers of deer are down from what the DNR says. This is why I am not in favor of any more than one antlerless permit. Too many get taken already. Whatever you do, do not move to an antlerless only season. You will lose your hunters! If you lose the hunters, you lose the revenue! I would be in favor of an extended gun or bow season but only if it allows antlered deer. No antlerless only seasons. They interfere with core hunting times and other recreational activities.

I disagree with the idea that an antlerless only season is needed. There are counties in the state with higher deer densities and a goal of decrease the population that did not go to the point of recommending antlerless only, instead these counties offer larger numbers of free antlerless tags with each license purchase. Only offering 2 per license and then expecting people to purchase additional tags does not seem like a way to promote the harvest of more deer. I believe that offering 3-4 free antlerless tags per license is a lot better option than going to an antlerless only season. I believe an antlerless only season will decrease hunter participation in the county as well as amount of effort put into harvesting deer this leading to an even lower deer harvest.

I have seen less and less deer around my home and business annually. With no deer seen last hunting season. But I do see countless dead along the Hwy 35 S corridor to River Falls every year. Its a shame that some of my children are becoming of age to hunt but would probably only last one outing due to the lack of deer seen. And with the proposal to only have antlerless deer as a shooting option does not sit well with me at all. Please do not limit our chances of taking a deer due to antlers on its head. I hunt for the chance to be outdoors and get some good food in the process. You will be causing hunters to go elsewhere with the proposal of antlerless hunts only. Not to mention taking the chance to get any deer with my children is unacceptable.

Last year I went out and never saw a deer. Of 30+ years first time not seeing anything. I'm just starting hunting with young kids. Property is private, but heavily hunted by family. All other farm and wood property are not allowing others to hunt or walk property. I've watched deer other years look at our property but turn back and bed down. No groups hunting like past or many people hunting area. Hope this year to show my sons a proper opportunity. They don't believe stories of seeing 20 deer in 4 hours in tree stand 5yrs ago. Now sit all day no sight of one. I also don't want to take a fawn just to get meat in freezer. Don't do doe only, this restricts to much, like earn a buck. Those years I saw bucks, not a doe closer then 100yards.
I see deer (both bucks and does) while hunting in St Croix county, I see no reason to change the way it is structured now other than maybe eliminating the holiday hunt. I have photos that show a number of bucks and does passing through...thou mostly at night do to human activity in the area. A proposal that caught my interest was one that said St Croix was looking to eliminate a altered hunt which I would disagree with though I didn’t see it during the video. I also would add ib think that restructuring crossbow seasons will be tough after it was opened fully to everyone, probably should have eased into the crossbow use to be able to study the number impact slowly, but will probably get strong resistance now to scale back, thanks.

In my opinion especially where I hunt in north western St Croix county, we had a lot of standing corn during the 9 day gun season, which gave deer a chance to hide, I do not believe extending the season, starting the gun season, or increasing the number of doe tags given will help improve the hunt of tall crops are not harvested. Don’t make all of these changes over one year with decreased harvest. Also consider bringing back game registration stations and the tagging of deer to keep all the people honest with registration. I feel like the new system of not needing to apply a tag to a harvest gives hunters the opportunity to be dishonest about registration and possibly holding on to their tags to harvest another deer.

I am confused as to why the extended archery season would not be considered unless a holiday hunt is offered. What is the difference if there is a holiday hunt or not and why not extend the archery season through Jan 31 regardless of a Holiday hunt being offered? Additionally - Extending the Muzzeloader season would create additional opportunities to harvest deer. When it comes to “free” antlerless tags, there is no motivation for those hunters to harvest additional deer. Instead - Charge a small fee and it changes the behavior of the individual. since they had to purchase the tag, it is an additional motivation to harvest and utilize the tag. This can also increase revenue in a declining industry.

You will never be able to force people to shoot does. Even with an antler less only season. People will just not buy a tag. We need to focus on hunter number recruitment. Hunting has turned into a political game. Leave the bow and crossbow seasons alone and have a traditional 9 day gun season. The people that are going to shoot does are going to shoot them. The people that don’t want to want. I know if things get too complicated or turn people away from the deep rooted traditions of hunting here, I will just spend my money elsewhere and buy tags in other states. Don’t mess with the hunting army in this state. I think CDACS are useless. Just people that get too political and introduce ridiculous suggestions.

I agree with more aggressive measures to reduce deer numbers. I support additional and extended special antlerless seasons. I would even consider resurrecting earn a buck seasons to combat the higher deer numbers. I DO NOT support blanket buck only seasons. I think this would actually have an adverse affect, I think less hunters would purchase licenses, and alot of hunters would just head north to hunt bucks. One other comment, since hunting has transformed into such a privatized endeavor, we really need collectively as a hunting community, to try and incentivize private landowners to let hunters on their properties. I think this is the number one issue facing hunters, therefore affecting harvest numbers.

Hello, thank you for taking our input. We have unique area with high numbers of deer/people while others have less deer/people. Can we add an incentive to allow landowners to open lands up to archery/crossbow? The MLF program cuts landowners a tax break for open/closed lands. Maybe we can offer a similar incentive. Can we bring back earn a buck and do a better job of regulating it so guys don’t use roadkills or register the same deer multiple times? Can we make our youth season a few days longer in the event of poor weather, etc? Let’s reach out to landowners and see what type of incentive they would like to see to open their land up. Any questions let me know at jcollins@cityofeagan.com. Thanks.
With license sales at a all time low for deer hunting how could a antlerless only season aid in Saint Croix county"s deer management. Their will be fewer people hunting the county because most deer hunters are buck hunting; with that being said not only will the dnr miss out on sales of licenses it will have fewer deer harvested for the county because their will be fewer hunters. In my opinion I believe if the goal in Saint Croix county is to reduce the herd size it should not only have antlerless holiday hunt it should also have another antlerless hunt like they use too. It would be a big mistake not to allow bucks being harvested people will simply go to a different county,fewer hunters fewer deer shot!

Couple of ideas I have is to lower the cost of non‐resident license for St Croix County only for antler‐less only. Even if this was bow or cross bow only. There is a lot of people in the Twin Cities that would like the opportunity to hunt antler‐less only if it didn't cost so much for a non‐resident license. Even if it meant having a 1 week gun season earlier in November Just for the non residents. This would take cooperation from the farmers who own most of the private land in St Croix county. A longer gun season for residents would possibly help. A lot of people like myself that like to gun hunt has a heard time being home for the gun hunt because it is only 1 week as I travel a lot for work.

I feel that adopting an antlerless only hunt will not only highly damage the already decling heard in St. Croix County, but it will also make new hunters not want to participate. If I'm not mistaken, isn't that what the DNR has been pushing for, and why there was a proposal to extend the gun season by 10 days? You can't keep saying one thing, and then propose an act that is completely contradicting to what you've been preaching within the next few breaths. This is, in my opinion, why you're seeing a decline in license sales. Hunters are getting fed up with constant non common sense rules, and license sales, that also are constantly changing, it gets down right frustrating to keep up sometimes.

I completely disagree with Antlerless only st Croix county. Trophy hunting in this county is a huge reason that the majority of hunters are there. Most hunters there are land owners as well trying to maintain good healthy deer numbers on their relatively small tracts of land. Antlerless only will only cause these hunters to hunt elsewhere causing less deer to bed killed over all! Supply the 5 or whatever bonus doe tags but make the until with an antler restriction instead of no deer at all. We who trophy hunt have no problem taking does while in pursuit of large bucks. 8 point or better or 4 on one side anything. You won't accomplish your goal by driving out the primary hunters in the unit.

If the 2020 season becomes an antler‐less only season I don't think I would even buy a license and just skip the season all together. I always try to take both a buck and a doe during the season to keep the deer herd even and have taken multiple antler‐less in a season when there seemed to be a large amount of them on my hunting grounds. I feel like most people want to only shoot bucks and taking away that opportunity would only decrease the number of hunters for the season and not increase the amount of antler‐less harvested. Maybe making it where an antler‐less deer would have to be shot first in order to get a buck tag but just removing buck tags all together seems like a bad idea.

DONT ALLOW DEER DRIVES OPENING MORNING ON PUBLIC LAND. Local hunters don’t have a chance with the constant flow of tourist hunters coming across the border from mn. Public land hunting has turned into an Iraqi Warfield. I’m 17 years old and there’s nothing more frustrating then getting out opening morning all excited and ready for the deer hunt I’ve been anticipating for months only to have a group of 8 hunters come tromping through the woods 10 minutes after shooting light opens. The least you could do is print up a public land etiquette pamphlet. Some people just seriously do not get it. Thank you for your time if anyone read this. Hopefully I see a change this year.
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<td>8153</td>
<td>I will take more does this year if SC county allows antlered hunting. Had a chance just about every hunt last year. I recommend 4 point one side antler restriction this would prevent people from shooting yearling bucks and produce better quality hunting in county, also enforce taking does for meat and not small bucks. I would support sign in/sign out for public areas, with quota on number of hunters on public land this is implemented on military installations and is effective in providing better hunting experience. Could also be used for targeted data collection. Biggest 2 problems during 9 day gun last year was 2 blizzards/deep snow and hunters walking all over public.</td>
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<td>8154</td>
<td>I find that the deer population in my hunting zone is so great that the deer are getting hit by traffic on the road on a daily basis, for the entire year. This presents a risk to people using the roads. I believe this is due to weather conditions that do not encourage the movement of deer during the deer gun season. I believe that the weather pattern of rather warm weather during the deer gun season will continue. I would recommend that the deer gun season is extended. That there is a separate hunt for muzzle loading only, before the regular deer gun season be tried. I recommend that the limit of deer that can be taken raised in my area to any hunter that is willing.</td>
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<td>8155</td>
<td>I see the continued housing expansion in St Croix county as the biggest issue. There continues to be more homes going into past viable hunting areas. The does are not nearly as timid around housing developments, so they are living and breeding in and around the developments. In addition, it seems as though corn is getting picked later and later every year, and it is making easier for the deer to be on &quot;lock down&quot; during our gun season. Extend dates for gun season, allow holiday hunt, and let archers go till 1/31 and you will harvest more deer. If the county decides to implement antlerless only, I will not hunt in St Croix county for the first time in 35 years.</td>
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<td>8156</td>
<td>I hunt in Mn, SD and WI. The current format for WI is about right. I would not recommend changing the current Format. I would add that getting our youth involved is the key to sustaining and maintaining hunting. Changing the amount of tags, extending seasons, eliminating and or adding choice of weapon used is not going to affect your overall deer quota. I would argue that you are making it worse by having rifle hunter, muzzloader, and or bowhunter competing against each other. Its all hunting. WI is unique were there are good herd numbers and good age numbers as well. Don't ruin it with potential changes to the season that in my opinion don't make any sense.</td>
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<td>8157</td>
<td>It would be silly to impose an antlerless season in St. Croix County. Our deer population is healthy and growing. The community has a large population of hunters as well. The idea of seeing some antlers and potentially being able to harvest a healthy buck - maybe a record buck - is in part a reason people love the hunt. Taking that away would likely deter many from even going out this season. If there’s less hunters in the woods, less deer being harvested, I can’t help but suspect there would be more deer car accidents and more winter starvation. There are not many natural predators in the area. What we have been doing is still working, don’t change it.</td>
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<td>8158</td>
<td>I think the main thing affecting this Unit is the lack of quality public land hunting opportunities. There is not a whole lot of public land available, and anything that holds deer gets hammered on. The good VPA’s get absolutely pounded even in bow season. It is what it is being so close to the metro. The VPA is a great program to open up private property to the public, but some of the leases are worthless for deer hunting. I don’t see why the DNR decides to lease a bean field that is mowed up to the property line that a rooster couldn’t even hide in. The only way to meet the antlerless harvest goal is to somehow increase harvest on private property.</td>
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<td>8159</td>
<td>I think that a something needs to be done in the metro sub unit. The deer population in that area is out of control. The rest of st Croix county has low population numbers, but with all the deer in the sub unit it make the county population seem higher than it is!!! I have a buddy who lives over by houlton, he has 75-100 deer in his food plot every night. I live on the east side of the county and I'm lucky to see 3 per night. This kind of herd density is a problem. I have tried multiple times to hunt over there but no one gives permission. Until that problem is solved, doing a county wide doe hunt will just keep hurting the rest of the county.</td>
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I think the antlerless hunt only for St. Croix would not be a good idea. For me the deer heard has stayed the same in my area and I’m surrounded by both private and public lands. Leave it as you can buy an extra doe tag and take one if you would like. Extending the archery season would be useless. Hardly anyone hunts late season and January gets very cold. Not sure anyone would take advantage of it. Maybe adding a muzzleloader only doe hunt after the regular gun season would be a good idea. People can close off what’s left of their tags, get food for the family and take some does out if that’s what reports are saying needs to be done.

Thanks for asking for public input! I am a landowner and thus would not want to be restricted in hunting buck or doe on my property. Could you consider things like combining a hunters "full season" of hunting (bow, gun, etc) and/or that they need to follow the "dance of the harvest" for the season....of kill. - If buck is killed first, next must be a doe. - buck-doe-buck-doe..... - doe-doe-buck-doe.......... -doe-doe-doe-buck.... doe............. A doe must always follow a buck. But a doe can follow a doe. That would slow the buck harvest as you would pass on smaller bucks. So you must alternate, but multiple doe in a row is OK.

Why has the knowledge of the amount of crop that was up in 2019 not been considered in why the amount of deer harvests this past year were low? It was a rather late planting/harvesting season and in the area I hunt personally in St Croix, lots of corn was still standing which made it more harder to hunt. This is, (to my belief), the biggest reason as to why harvest of both antlered and antlerless deer were low. I’ve heard many friends and family complain about the crop being up late too. When crop (mostly corn) is up, it’s a big disadvantage to hunting which may be the reason as why not a lot of people had gone out in 2019.

A concern I have is that when I hunt I constantly hear AR guns go off like it’s a massacre. I hunt public land. This is dangerous, I fear I might accidentally get shot. I want to hunt with my children but fear for their safety. I recommend keeping the ARs onto private land only. I also just started using a crossbow this year. I have torn my rotator cuff before and cannot use a regular bow. I have heard that the crossbow season might be shortened and regular bow stay the same, this could be false but if it’s true I find it unfair. If you were to make bow/crossbow changes it needs to be the same for both. Thank you.

I’m curious who said St Croix cty needs to be doe only this year. This seems crazy to me and every other Hunter I’ve talked to about this. Which is a lot! It doesn’t make sense. The greatest state for hunting, and we have been doing things great for ever and now this year they want to change all kinds of stuff. Leave things the way they are! We have a great set up. Various factors have contributed to lower numbers. The biggest factor I see is that property that used to be great hunting are now developed! No more hunting. People can’t hunt where they use to. Which makes it harder for everyone. Love to say more!

To whom it may concern, I have been fortunate to hunt family-friend owned land since I can remember. The importance of proper mentoring, scouting, planning and hunting for deer was instilled into my upbringing. If this management zone were to become Anterless-only, my opinion is that many hunters, like myself, would choose to travel to other zones to fill their tags. The importance of venison meat is high, but chasing the elusive big buck has always will be exhilarating. Please take all viewpoints into consideration when making the decision on changing St. Croix County deer season. Thanks for your time.

The proposal of antlerless only will decrease license sales and take away from the sport of deer hunting. You will see much less antlerless deer harvested and many pissed off landowners in the unit who do their share harvesting antlerless deer. Why not implement earn-a-buck like in the past? That makes much more sense if the concern is antlerless population. What about getting youth involved in hunting? They can’t shoot a buck? This proposal is ridiculous and why only St. Croix County? Seems few individual opinions went into this proposal with buck management on the forefront. Good luck!
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<td>8168</td>
<td>I am strongly against an antler-less only framework, I fear doing so will lead to a misrepresentation of the total harvest as bucks will end up being poached and tagged as antler-less, if tagged at all. Not only that with the current pandemic underway, who is to say it will be safe or welcome to travel to a neighboring county to try to find land to deer hunt on. Its not all about horns when deer hunting, however removing any chance of getting a shot at that once in a lifetime deer, may have a hazardous effect on overall hunting pressure in the county itself, and a population explosion.</td>
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<td>8167</td>
<td>I just started hunting this land last year but have been seeing a lot of deer and as a hunter who’s in it for the meat I feel this antlerless only thing is not a good idea because I harvest mainly does but at the same time if I see a really nice buck I’d like the opportunity to harvest it, with my two trail cams I have pictures of 10+ bucks some of which are very nice, I also see a lot of does. I feel if Herd management is an issue because we can’t harvest enough deer, then why would you take away the harvest of bucks? with the abundance of them, harvesting bucks help the herd management</td>
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<tr>
<td>8169</td>
<td>The way you are planning to go forward with St. Croix is completely unrealistic. It is time to start listening to the hunters that put in the man hour and are actually in the woods. Last season was the most I have hunted in my in my life, and the least amount of deer that I have seen. This proposal is not even close to being in the ball park. Please do all of us hunter a solid and get rid of ALL doe only hunts and restrict doe tag limits. 1 buck tag, and 1 doe tag per season per hunter is all that should be allowed. Doe only season is not a option!!!!! Please listen to the hunters!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8170</td>
<td>I feel like the metro sub unit deer population needs to be addressed, you can’t lump that section of st Croix county in with the rest of the county. I own 130 acres and have watched the deer population get smaller and smaller every year. Yet the total population go up. I have tried multiple times to hunt in the metro sub unit but can’t get permission. Until someone steps in and gets hunters permission to hunt those areas the deer population there will keep growing!!!! You can issue a million tags in the metro sub unit but if we can’t get permission to hunt there it’s a mute point!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8171</td>
<td>Please consider an earn a buck solution to increasing antlerless harvests instead of taking away my boys ability to hunt a buck. All of my boys passed on younger age class bucks last year because they love the feeling they get when the right one walks in. If they had let them walk, it would crush their passion. I would rather see more of a QDM approach with antler restrictions protecting young bucks so they can grow up. We saw a lot less deer this year which doesn’t make sense to me. If antlerless harvest needs to increase, make each hunter earn their buck tag...please!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8172</td>
<td>To turn this into an antlerless-only area what almost ensure that I have no opportunity to harvest a deer I had 5 waterless tags I think last year and was not able to fill one because I didn't see any to shoot at so to say that we have all these deer is one thing but they're not on public land they're staying on the private land and that's what's killing the Harvest numbers people aren't letting Hunters on private land anymore. If this was an antlerless-only area I may not have any chance to fill my tag and if that was the case I wouldn't even go hunting after 38 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8173</td>
<td>A no buck season in St Croix County is unacceptable. The problem in this DmU is the existence of a heavily populated rural and residential properties that offer little opportunity for hunting access. The overpopulation is the problem of Hudson and New Richmond not the outlaying areas where deer populations are down from preceding years. I'm 72 years old and have a limited amount of opportunities left and don't want the chance to get a buck diminished. This proposal by the CDAC is seen as a penalty proposal. Penalizing hunters is a poor approach to finding a solution.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thanks for the forum to voice observations and opinion. I will be brief. I have owned land in north St. Croix county near the Apple River for 33 years. Most hunters in this area concentrate on killing a buck, many trophy hunters. There is an overpopulation of deer in this area, doe, fawns and bucks. I have extensive crop damage and have for years, it's a fact of farming in this area. Would it be prudent to have a earn a buck season in this area? By your statistics not enough doe are taken. Anyway my 2 cents worth,

By having an antlerless only for the entire season will bring the antlerless deer harvest way down compared to other years. I've talked to numerous people that said they will hunt a different county if they don't have the option of harvesting a buck. It will be counterproductive to try to get more youth into the sport if your limiting what they can harvest. I hunting St. Croix county almost 30 years and have access to good private land. The last few years the deer heard has been poor at best. I think there should be less antlerless permits allowed not more.

The last thing at croix county needs is to have buck tags with held from our hunters. We are at a large disadvantage to other surrounding counties due to our population and infrastructure. Our deer density is extremely high for the limited amount of woods we have. If we do not have buck tags, herd numbers will only continue to grow which leads to more roadkill, which we all know is plenty high as is. If you want to keep hunters happy, keep poaching low, and reduce roadkill numbers, we need to issue at least one buck tag each as well as multiple doe tags.

IT would be interesting to see the impact of all the special season hunts. Combine these with the bow hunting kill numbers, and by the time the traditional gun season rolls around, the deer heard has been thinned out, and all the decent bucks are gone. Sorry just do not see they deer numbers that we used to see in the 80's and 90's or anything close. I've hunted the same fields for 40 years, and used to see 15-30 deer on opening day in shooting range. I might see 3-6 for the last 10 years... Gut feeling is there are to many special seasons...

I feel like the number of deer seen during the hunting season has gone down leading me to believe that people are either poaching them or the amount of tags is too high. I have also noticed a steady decrease in hunters in the woods for the past several years. I feel like there are changes that need to be made, but extending/decreasing the season isn't the answer. I feel like getting rid of all the specialty hunts (holiday hunt, youth hunt, etc.) would do a great job at helping both the deer population and the number of hunters.

Given the metrics showing total deer harvest has remained fairly stable over the past 4 years it appears the current quotas are working as well as can be expected. I agree that antlerless tags availability vs number of deer harvested has diminishing returns. However if no buck tags are issued total deer harvest and antlerless harvest will likely decrease only causing more problems. I think communication campaigns are the only way to get hunters to help manage the herd in st. Croix county given the amount of private lands.

Managing a free-roaming wildlife resource on the basis of County boundaries, rather than habitat is absurd. Wildlife species are too important to be managed without data (age-sex-kill). Hunter opinions are important for human dimension discussion, but opinions and guesses (regarding age reporting) are no substitute for systematically collected biological data/statistics. I suggest returning to physical registration to obtain data, and management by habitat-based management units rather than artificial county boundaries.

Like the committee mentioned, I believe there needs to be additional tools available. I would not hunt if anterless only season was enacted. This would do the opposite of harvesting additional antlerless. If forest regeneration is truly a goal, devote resources to support eradication of buckthorn. I would like to clear out land for regeneration, but I worry the buckthorn would overtake any natural species. I would support earn a buck. Possibly nonresident earn a buck first, then to residents if quota isn't met.
It will make some people mad but it will be those that don’t understand deer management for a healthy herd and only shoot bucks. Some probably won’t buy a license but hopefully buck only hunters will realize they need to reduce the population in there area for the overall health of the whole herd. If they are in it for antlers only they should be happy every buck will grow another year unless they find a car or predator. Do what is best for the deer herd and not selfish and uneducated hunters. Keep up the good work.

Doe populations are much too high. I have noticed a lot of aggressive behavior between doe family group members hinting toward over population and lack of food in given times of the year. I enjoy trophy hunting but know that a healthy herd should be the #1 priority. A doe only hunt, although extreme, is something I would be in favor of. Give the bucks a chance to grown a year more bone and wipe out some of the doe that are on the edge of being nuisance. The herd needs some breathing room from over-crowding!

I wish all youth hunts, holiday hunts and 4 day antlerless hunts would all be abolished. We need more deer in the area. The wolf took care of most of the deer in the north. If you don’t take action now, the southern part of the state will be in as bad shape as the north. Besides the age old tradition of the 9 day gun hunt has vanished because of all the unnecessary hunts. Do you think it is sport for a kid to go out and get a nice buck when the season isn't open to everyone? Just my thoughts.

Myself and others in my hunting group harvest multiple antlerless deer every hunting season, last year we harvested 5 and no bucks. But we always hope for the opportunity of harvesting a mature buck. The people like myself who are non-residents would not pay the significant out of state license fee if it was an antlerless only season structure. In this manner it seems to have the adverse effect, and instead of harvesting more does it may lead to less hunters, and less antlerless harvest.

The proposal to suggest an antlerless only deer season is ridiculous. I know the CDAC committee did this to elicit public conversation but it’s not reasonable or sustainable. It will only create ill will and conflict. Yes, we need to harvest more antlerless deer but buck harvest drives hunter interest and economics. I absolutely do not support an antlerless only deer season. Oh, and tell thr NR board to leave the crossbow users alone. Let’s not alienate any of the deer hunting public.

My family survives soly on venison for our red meat and our private property has minimal adult does, maybe 2 or 3 a year at most, but supports 12 or more bucks of various ages. We have 4 hunters, all of whom purchase both archery and gun licenses. We harvest 6 deer a year on average, 4 or more of which are antlered bucks. If St Croix County goes to a doe only year our chances of harvesting any deer is minimal and we would seriously consider not purchasing any hunting licenses at all.

I like to hunt deer and hope to have an opportunity to harvest a mature buck. My family owns around 250 acres and hunting has been apart of our family activities for as long as my Dad can remember. We manage our land. We shoot our does. We also hunt Elk, geese,Ducks and chase Muskies. I believe that that's what we will be doing this fall if the opportunity to shoot mature bucks isn't there. Grow the sport by not allowing hunters to chase trophy deer? Makes little sense to me.

I am afraid if we adopt an antlerless only (all seasons) framework the total harvest in the county will decrease significantly. Many hunters will likely choose to hunt elsewhere so they can pursue bucks. I am a very avid deer hunter and would like to shoot a trophy as most of us would. I would probably still hunt my farm under a total antlerless only system, but I have friends with properties in other counties and I would likely be spending most of my hunting time there.

As a resident and land owner in Saint Croix County it is absurd to even consider taking ANY hunting rights away from the people that pay taxes, license fees and live in the county. In the midst of what is going on right now, the governing powers should get LESS power to make ANY decisions, not more. An ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY EVERY HUNTER I KNOW ACROSS THE STATE OF WISCONSIN AND IN ST CROIX COUNTY. This is an absolutely ridiculous and absurd request.
I hunt in the metro zone that has had unlimited doe tags for years and years. The deer numbers in any areas that I hunt have been severely depleted. I strongly disagree with a antler less season that would further extinguish our deer population in my area. There are areas in this zone that are river bordered private land that are unhuntable that are having crop damage problems along with car kills which should not be a reason to kill off all the deer in actual huntable areas.

If anything happens to help control the doe population it should be an earn a buck or even a double earn a buck this is the only way to ensure Dow harvest increases in 2020. A doe only season is only going to decrease the does that are taken because more people will go else where’t to hunt so they have the chance to shoot bucks. The DNR NEEDS TO GO BACK TO REGULAR TAGS AN GAS STATION REGISTRATION THIS WOULD ALSO MAKE NUMBERS GO UP AN HELP SMALL BUSINESS!!!!!!!'

Going antler less only would be a mistake. Less people would hunt and private land owners/lease holders would not be happy at all (and I’m saying that being neither of those things). Why not adopt the one buck per year (across all weapons) like MN does and then give out a couple of doe tags? That would get people in the woods knowing they can shoot a buck still and may give an incentive to hunters to shoot more does. I feel that is a very simple and fair compromise.

A doe only season is the worst idea I have ever heard for St Croix cty. The problem here is development! So many great hunting areas can no longer be hunted because developers keep putting so many homes on that land. People have lost all their hunting land. Gun hunting groups hardly exist anymore cause they can’t get access to those lands me. To me it seems like hunters are limited and you’re talking about making it worse with a doe only season. This is crazy!

My concern is that having a antler‐less only season will not accomplish your expectations. I fear this will push hunters out of the county causing these numbers to raise next year. As a public land Hunter who has failed to fill his antler‐less tags in St Croix county the past two years I have found myself flirting with the idea of venturing to surrounding counties in order to fill my freezer. If this is to pass I will not be hunting St Croix county in 2020.

You guys don’t understand that the antlerless hunts don’t work!!!!! Hunters shoot more bucks than Does because of all the numbin bucks shot... you bury your heads in the sand and think that all antlerless deer shot are Does think about it and use some common sense. You also don’t keep track of all the car deer kills that happen that should go toward the total harvest. You want the hunter numbers to increase but the plans you have in place are crazy!!!!!

The only place I hunt is on my own land. I put in about 3 acres of food plots I own 150 acres The rest is rented cropland I enjoy sitting and watching the deer I am 63 years old so I hunt with a crossbow during archery season. I shot 2 deer last season,a small buck with the crossbow and a doe during gun season. If this is a doe only year in st croix county I probably won't hunt and no one else hunts my property. Results. No deer killed at all !!!!!

One piece of data the isn't reported is there number of injured deer during a season. I have found a number of decaying carcasses during or after a season of hunting, and I'm not proud to say I have shot and killed an animal, but due to rain, there blood trail was obliterated and I didn't find the deer till it was no longer salvageable. How do these numbers make it into the data? Is it possible that a hunter could be encouraged to report on these stats?

Thanks for the survey. I haven’t seen the increase in deer in my area. The public land that I’ve seen the last 10 years with trees on it has mostly been cut down and replaced with prairie grass. I don’t understand that, leaving not much left to deer hunt. Increase the price of non resident lic. to have them pay what there state charges non resident. Implement a size limit on bucks. I’ve seen a lot of people that shoot anything with an antler.

I hunt mainly public land in St Croix County. I feel as though it is anti-hunting to support an totally antlerless only season. I highly doubt that number of antlerless deer harvested would increase during this season as it would force even more people out of hunting. If it were not for COVID-19, I would have attended the CDAC meeting and would have strongly voiced an opinion over this subject as would many others that hunt in this county.
Rather than an antlerless only season in St. Croix county this season, I would like to see a party buck system similar to the old party doe system used years ago. This way license sales wouldn't fall as much and a group of hunters (probably family members) would still get a chance to harvest a buck. Most hunters use cameras and have a good idea what bucks are in their hunting area so they will have an idea of what one they want to harvest.

Having an antlerless-only season is very unfortunate to those who are just entering the sport and have never tagged a buck. While I hunt for food, the thought of seeing that big buck in my cross hairs still makes my adrenaline rush! Also, I believe there should be no youth hunt. Parents are utilizing this special rifle time in October to catch the big one. Put it back to what it was for years. Youth hunt during the normal season.

Having a doe only season would just cause less people to hunt in general and might even cause less deer to get harvested due to lack of sales. Myself many of my friends would not even hunt in St Croix county if we could not hunt a buck. I don't think that earn a buck is a good option but it's at least better than doe only.

Antlerless only is a very bad idea. The number of hunters will be down and will not help the way you want it to. This could also provoke more poaching and non registration of deer. This will make many hunters very upset not to be able to harvest a buck that they work very hard for. It's the only county I have to hunt in and this is why I purchased woodland. There is a reason St. Croix county is the only one thinking of this.

I feel that an antlerless only season would lower hunter participation in the county. Those that want to harvest antlerless deer already do. If you want to increase the number of antlerless taken, I feel that earn-a-buck would be more productive. Like it or not, many hunters are mainly motivated to shoot bucks. If there is zero opportunity to shoot a buck, I'm afraid that many will either hunt another county or not at all.

To get more people hunting for does might be achieved by making them open season like coyotes until their numbers are decreased. Still make hunters report the does harvested but make the tags free and open season until numbers reach a predefined threshold. If St. Croix changed to "Doe only" hunting.... I would not even buy a deer hunting license. I will plan to shoot a doe or two for the food shelf next season.

I would support an earn a buck system, but making an antlerless only season will only deter hunters from hunting and could also reduce the number of new hunters. This will not help reduce the number of antlerless deer in Saint Croix County. I would like to see a change to the Muzzleloader Season to being later to give the deer a chance to settle down from being hunted and then reopen the season at a later date.

There is to meny deer harvest hunts ( doe hunts, youth hunts, holiday hunts, doe only hunts,) I been hunting since 1984 it was good then, into the 90s and then you did all them different doe hunts then the deer population have been going down ever since. So i and my family have not been hunting for deer the last 10 years ( NO DEER) AND I know other families that don,t hunt deer that say the same thing.

My only chance to harvest an animal this past year was a buck. I have not seen the deer numbers nor the damage that people are seeing. The reason for more crop damage then normal was the fact that more crop were left standing through the winter. I feel that if this county goes to antler less only you will have fewer hunters going out then already are and you won't reduce the herd size the way you want.
If there is a antlerless only season my son bothers, cousins, nephews and myself will not buy a license and hunt. That’s 10 hunters. We shoot 8-9 does a year and harvest 1-2 bucks. If you decide to go antlerless only, fewer hunters will hunt and fewer does will be harvested. Making the problem worse. If there is a county that needs to be antlerless only it’s buffalo county.

It seems like crossbows are becoming more popular. I would classify them more as a gun. They take far less skill than a vertical bow and have the same range and accuracy as a shotgun/slug. I would not classify them as a bow. In my opinion it is pretty easy to sit in a deer blind on a chair and shoot deer with a crossbow. Have you considered moving them into gun season or adjusting their season.

The biggest issue I am having is I get all these tags for deer in the metro sub unit not but I don’t have enough time to use them. You could have issue me 100 tags but if I only have 1 or 2 week ends realistically to harvest something. Why not keep or lower the number of tags and increase the length of the season? I have a job and can only hunt 1-2 days in a 9 day period unless I use time off.

I think there should be buck harvest allowed on private land but not on public land. Moving public land to antlerless only might help. It’s just quite unfair to people with private land that want to shoot a buck. I would also highly support a points threshold for bucks, even on private land. Too many of my uncles have shot spikes over the years and anything under 8 points should be left to grow.

Shutting down a buck harvest you will have people quit hunting. It’s our tradition I don’t agree there is too many deer. I farm 3000ac hunt fish ECT. On the land all the time around the county. But if you really think there is find a different way. You will lose %25 of the deer hunters in this county they will quit!!!!! Your CDAC board is out of line and have no clue about what will work or not.

In the 2019 bow season I saw a smaller number of does and fawns the I had seen in previous years both on camera and in stand. But did seem to have a increased number of younger bucks (3 or 4 spikes on camera, handful of small 4pts and 6pts.). Usually I would see probably average 2 to 3 does to every buck this past year I saw 2 bucks to every doe with majority of bucks being 6pt or less.

The main problem you have in St Croix County is getting permission to hunt the deer on private ground. It doesn’t matter if you shoot does only if you can’t get on property to hunt you will never trim the herd down. Some individuals have enough money to lock up the land and only shoot a few deer off the property. You are not even smart enough to shut down baiting If you really cared about CWD.

If we hold an antlerless season only in St Croix, most hunters will leave the county. Less hunters - lowers the deer kill! I rent land to a hunter - non come for me as he will go elsewhere in state. Last year he got a buck and doe. No buck hunting will result in less visitors to our county I have other places to hunt and might skip the hunt in St Croix if it is antlerless only myself!

The St Croix Cty. deer herd is no more or no less than it has been for the last 30 years. I believe that this area can support the current deer herd numbers. The deer numbers I see during the winter during a coyote hunt with dogs are no where near an over population of deer. I who leave the deer seasons as they have been for years or you may see the hunter numbers decline even more.

The quickest way to bring down the number of hunters is to have antlerless only full seasons and antlerless only holiday seasons. I quit hunting over the holidays when you made it illegal to shoot bucks during that season. So, not only did I not shoot a buck, I didn’t shoot any does either. Get crossbows out of archery season for able bodied hunters. They aren’t archery equipment.

With the antlerless deer only season, there would be to many 1 and 2 year old deer taken which would alter the future harvest. There is no good way to manage what age deer is taken and there are many hunters who are not interested in management and would leave small deer lay and not tag them. I prefer the buck and doe tag as it is and an additional doe tag for the holiday harvest.
Hello. I am very concerned with the long gun season in the metro unit. Nine days plus the extra ten for muzzle which is really 19 days with rifle. all the pressure is taking a toll on the mature bucks. NOT NEAR AS MANY I see 1 1/2 year old bucks breeding more than ever. PLEASE STOP WITH A 19 DAY GUN SEASON in the metro unit go back to straight muzzle load season. Thank you

How would you even enforce an antlerless deer season only with the way we register deer online now? You could just say you shot the buck in another county and who would know the difference? This would be especially tough to enforce on private land which is most of St. Croix county. I propose you keep it simple and less confusing by not having an antlerless only season. Thanks!

If st croix county is an antlerless only unit I simply wont hunt in st croix county. I will drive to other countries were the option to take a buck is allowed or I will go out of state. This will cause a lack of interest in young hunters if their only option is to hunt in st croi and cannot take potentially their first buck if they see one. Fully disagree with this lay out.

If St. Croix county turns antlerless only I will not be hunting deer in the county. I will travel to other counties. I am a sportsman and understand that population needs to be controlled but I have seen a steady drop in deer sightings during my hunting, even though I have expanded my hunting area through gaining access to more private lands while still hunting public lands.

First, I feel an antlerless only season would decrease significantly the number of tags sold and in turn only decrease the number of antlerless deer harvested. If worst came to worst earn a buck could be implemented or a version of that. I also wouldn't mind seeing one buck per hunter per year, an either or tag where you have the chance to shoot it during gun or bow season.

Trust everything is being planned responsibly, with such a difficult year in all aspects of life. Eliminating buck harvest is a big concern for economic, participation, and overall pursuits of our passion. I would recommend a antler point restriction, and continue to encourage antlerless quota. Also earn a buck could be better than just pulling the antlered limitation

I don’t see a point to making it so you can’t shoot a buck, a adult buck is going to do the same amount of damage as a adult doe to plants, and agriculture. I also don’t understand as to why you would take a chance of a lifetime to harvest a adult buck from someone as that is one reason people in the area work so hard to get, and drives most people to hunt in the area.

The biggest thing that I noticed is last two years is the later start of the season, normally we were right after the MN deer season, but because of leap year it was back a week, I thought it was the 3rd weekend it started and I understand the low numbers. The last few years not being great. I am opposing the 19 day hunting season, as I really enjoy the 9 day myself.

So your psychology is to subtly threaten an all antlerless season and then lay up with more worthless earn a buck because it was so "effective." I'll be hunting in a neighboring county and so will the rest of my family, where we won't have to watch bucks walk. Now you are losing hunters. Time for a new metric I guess. Hunters who no longer hunt or left the county.

I will be senior next year and this will be my last chance to shoot a buck before I go to college and stop hunting Wisconsin for a minimum of 4 years. Making it a doe only zone is a terrible idea as many people will just go to other county’s to hunt. That will causes those county’s to become to crowded with hunters and too many hunters in a area is a safety concern.

Baiting spreads disease - ban it statewide like it had been for many decades. Deer numbers are much lower now than during the time period in and around the years 2007 and 2008. The population counts are believed by most hunters to be inaccurate. The current zones by county are simpler but not as conducive to good deer management as the old quota areas were.
I feel it is impossible to give an accurate deer heard calculation when land owners that post there land will not contribute to thinning the heard. I land owner that hunts his own 80 acres but will only shoot 1 deer. This is the same land owner that will not let other hunters hunt his land. Those deer know were there can go to be safe from hunting pressure.

We need EAB back. If we have a new system of having to shoot antlerless first, it needs to be done in-person or unscrupulous hunters will register phantom antlerless over phone registration. County-wide deer management units do not reflect all deer habitat. Again, we need to move to the original DMU to give biologists ability to manage deer populations.

The proposed antlerless only seasons for St. Croix county would push people away from hunting in that area. I personally own 80 acres in the county and if there was no option to harvest a buck I would not hunt at all in the county. Deer numbers also seem comparatively lower in the areas of St Croix that I have hunted than they are in other counties.

If an antlerless only season is put in order for the 2020 season I believe that the amount of harvest overall will drop. I would not buy a gun license at all if this was the case. I watch on average roughly 6 does and 1 buck per week during the archery season. I also choose to not shoot the does because they usually have a first year fawn with them.

In my area, I have seen the actual total numbers of deer diminish substantially. I am hard pressed to to take any of my grand children out for a hunt, either archery or rifle, and have them have a chance at a deer, but more often even difficult to see one! I use to see 15-20 per outing while bow hunting, where now, I feel lucky if I just "see one"!

There are different ways to approach the deer management. One buck per year- not one buck for bow and gun season? Earn a buck style? But based on 2020 hunt. You must shoot a buck and a doe in 2020, otherwise you are subject to earn a buck rule in 2021. That same rule would not apply for first time hunters or people who did not hunt the previous year.

I don’t believe that it is a smart idea to not let people hunt bucks in the St. Croix county area. If it is that important than I think there should be a earn a buck system at the LEAST. Since I have started hunting, in my opinion the deer population is doing very well in our area and there should be no need to not allow a hunter to harvest a buck.

Deer numbers appeared to be down to me in the area I was hunting. As a busy father hunting strictly for the freezer I appreciate the longer seasons and multiple tags. I will do my best to harvest more does this year. I always intend to but need to see them to shoot them. :) I would not support a doe only season framework. Thank you for doing this!

I believe we should go back to only being able to use a cross bow if you are disabled, and we should be able to shoot a buck with bow, if you are going to make it a doe only season for all of 2020 bow and gun I WILL NOT BE PURCHASING A PATRONS LICENSE At all, I have bought a sportsman’s license since I was 12 I will stop if that’s what it takes.

Couple things: 1. Offer unlimited bonus doe tags in the Metro zone, or simply don't charge the $12 for a bonus doe tags. 2. Crossbow season would be better coincided with muzzle load season, a crossbow uses a locking device and is discharged by a trigger...whereas a bow demands significant physical strength and stamina to pull, hold and aim.

I DO NOT agree with antlerless seasons in st croix county. I bow hunted from the last weekend of September, through close. I couldn’t get a doe for the freezer for the life of me. I was covered up in small bucks all season, some very nice ones as well. Again, i had more encounters with horned deer last fall than i did any antlerless deer.
I feel like there are so many predators already making the deer numbers go down in my area of the county. We hardly ever see fawns anymore due to the coyotes, bears and now wolves eating them after they’re born. I saw a third of the deer last fall while I bow hunted, than I saw my first year bowhunting. Our numbers are down significantly.

I have hunted here in St Croix County for 30+ years and the deer population is absolutely decimated! I always shot a deer growing up and now I can’t even ensure my kids and wife see a deer to shoot. Absolutely an embarrassment. We are looking to hunt other states because it’s not worth our time and money to struggle to get deer here.

I do not think an antlerless only hunt would be beneficial to the county. I am currently going to college for resource management, and I know that taking one gender away only leads to troubles in the future. This could end up potentially hurting the population with taking away too many does to not make as many offspring the next spring.

I cannot express enough my disgust with the actions of our dnr in regards to our deer herd. It is blatantly apparent that politics have taken over common sense. The fact that St Croix county is being considered for antlerless only regulations next year is ludicrous and unacceptable. Wanna sell more tags? This is NOT the answer. Wake up.

If I’m understanding this correctly, why would the CDAC propose an antlerless only season and NOT support a holiday hunt with an extended archery and crossbow season? Something doesn’t add up. My skepticism has now been aroused. Who has an agenda? Where’s the trust? Isn’t the objective to kill more deer, including antlerless deer?

If the deer population is to high it’s because you can’t hunt in the areas of high population. Western St. Croix Co. Residential areas, house developments, etc. Also, noted the decrease of gun harvest. Hunters are not doing the call online registration. Shoot deer, take home, don't register. Hey, I think I'll go again tomorrow.

If the dnr moves to go on with an antlerless only season in St. Croix County I will not purchase any tags for the year. I also believe this will create alot of hunting violations. The dnr does not pay the taxes or own the land that they are proposing ridiculous rules for. This is another overreach of a government entity.

Have you considered permits for hunting in towns. When hunting pressure or rut starts you can drive around towns and see 20 to 30 deer. Drive around the country before dusk or early morning and you might see 1 or 2. Management says that the numbers are going higher yet each year I see less and less deer in the field.

Before considering an antlerless hunt, I’d rather see the numbers after trying other methods to increase the Antlerless harvest. For example, Earn a Buck program specifically for crossbow users. Earn a Buck for the gun season. Taking away the ability to harvest a once in a lifetime Antlered deer is not the right answer.

I seen a huge decrease in the number of deer I seen hunting in 2019 compared to we 2018. I think you give out way to many antithesis tags. I also think your proposal of a arteries only season in 2020 is a joke. If this were to happen myself and many other hunters would simply not purchase a license and just stay home.

If you have an all antlerless deer season less people will come to this country to hunt because most people want to harvest a buck. In the end this will cause a decrease in antlerless harvest a huge rise in buck population creating a better buck to doe ratio which is great but you will see a rise in deer population.
All I know is I've had many many big bucks on my property which I live on as well. I do NOT support the antlerless only season. That's not fair to all the hunters that put in the work to shoot bigger bucks. Anybody could go out and shoot does, they will always stick around. Keep the season how it was like last year.

Extremely high vehicle collision rate and overbrowsing throughout the county. The antlerless population is extremely high. I would recommend opening more public access to hunting throughout the county including reviewing no firearms discharge ordinances in small towns for residents on larger tracts of land.

I have seen less deer year over year for the past 5 years. Also much less mature deer over the past 5 years. I have observed this with trail cameras and in stands. Forest and Ag has not changed, so trying to understand how the deer numbers reported by the DNR continues to rise? I hunt in the metro sub-unit.

Earn a buck doesn't work either last time we had earn a buck I heard of people shooting a doe and several people tagging it to get there sticker so that's a dumb system also how well does it work with all the online registration now days I miss going to register my deer and seeing other successful hunters.

The deer numbers are not what you claim. Going off last years registration is ridiculous. When you went to call in or online registration people are not doing it. You have made it to easy for people not to have any checks or balances. The constant changes are very significant for people leaving the sport!

There has been talk about making a crossbow season separate from the vertical bow. If it has to be; an antler less season with a window to shoot a buck would be better. I live the hudson metro subunit that is overrun by deer and the crossbow shouldn't be limited. At least not with the harvest of does.

My greatest concern is adopting an antlerless only hunt for St Croix county. What the end result will be, myself included, will be to hunt out of the county or not hunt at all. As the matriarch of hunting in my family, whatever I decide will most likely be The decision of 4 other members of our group.

Ensuring an increase in antlerless harvest can be accomplished by offering discounted/free tags. Also implementing a simple program for venison donation would be a great way to help increase the number of antlerless tags filled. Thanks for your hard work and consideration in balancing our system.

I live and own hunting land in Wisconsin. A key part of this is hunting my back yard for antlered deer with bow and firearm. If I cannot, I will no longer deer hunt in Wisconsin and unfortunately, I will no longer allow my neighbors to harvest deer, which many have been antlerless on my own property.

Forcing a NO buck season will only upset hunters and turn people off of hunting all together. Which will really increase the deer population and be counter productive. I would rather see an earn a buck situation. However, I think the earn a buck situation should only be for the 2nd buck harvest.

The more does them more deer we have if a private land owner thinks they have to many does they can thin the herd there own way but other small land owners that can’t compete need the does. Make baiting legal it’s no different than planting a food plot or a corn, bean field and hunting over it.

It is hard to know what it would take to get hunters in this county to harvest more does! Tags don't seem to make much difference towards reaching the goals of the CDAC. I wish earn-a-buck would be an option in this state. Maybe the threat of an antlerless only season would open some eyes.

I have 2 kids that hunt. Going antlerless only would decrease their desire to hunt. We are not seeing a large deer population that would warrant antlerless only. In fact, we have had a harder time the past 2 seasons harvesting antlerless deer compared to prior years. We hunt private land.

I drive An hour each way to work through St Croix County every day and have for over a decade. I’ve seen more deer (alive and dead) the past few years than I ever did in the past. I feel deer counts and harvest levels have more to do with standing corn and weather than actual herd sizes.
No comments. Just don't change our 9 day season. If anything. Make first 5 days of gun season residents only. Put muzzle loaders with the regular gun season. Stop dividing crossbow/bow difference on license. No hunting deer with a firearm beyond the sunday following Thanksgiving.

The disproportionate number of deer harvested on private to public is alarming. If that many deer/bucks are being harvested on private land if makes sense to force the issue to harvest enough antlerless deer to make the quota. Here management is more important than antler management.

The move to the US fish and wildlife and the “Oak Savannah” restoration has had a major negative impact to both deer and other wild species I have seen while hunting. It has rendered much of that land to low value for hunting deer and reduced the joy of bow hunting, especially.

If the dnr institutes an antlerless only deer season in st croix county, I absolutely will not be hunting & I’ll be putting away my gun & bow forever. This is ludicrous! You can kiss away the money I spend on my hunting licenses, on hunting clothing, ammo, gas, atv tags, etc.

An antlerless-only season would completely backfire. I, and many others, just wouldn't hunt in an area where I couldn't shoot a buck if I had the chance. It is also incredibly unfair to those who have purchased or leased land in the county specifically for deer hunting.

If you want more antlerless deer killed I’d suggest a system like earn a buck vs a antlerless season only. People will be upset with both but not giving someone a chance to harvest a buck in an entire county for an entire season isn’t fair and will upset people far more.

Understand the concerns but wouldn't understand taking the legacy out of the sport to have a antlerless hjj in not only. Seems foolish. I would like to see seasons or tags increase or extended. Maybe extend youth only hunts and make those antler-less. Or earn a buck.

Going to an all antlerless deer hunting for the whole season will only push hunters out of the county to hunt somewhere else. I know I would not be afraid to drive to another county that allows hunting for antlered deer. I’m sure many other hunters feel the same way.

I would like to see bigger buck, so taking a year off to let them grow might be nice. I am totally fine with earn a buck as well. With such modern technology why don’t you have to take a photo and send it in when you register your deer. If you have a Smart phone.

I think it’s so wrong too not let us hunt bucks in stcroix cty this yr. I let more small bucks go this last yr then I have in yrs. An seen less does. Then ever. I think its screwed up to make me go to another county to fill my tag. What gives you the right.

No buck tags, nobody will hunt. In my area there is no shortage of bucks or does. Most hunters I know hunt for food and recreation, not trophies. Too many cars for that. Also small lots to hunt. If you let a buck go, the neighbor will probably take it.

I was confused about the antlerless only season framework question. Would that be an extra season in addition to the regular buck season (that I would be for) or would it eliminate the opportunity to harvest a buck for the year (that I would oppose).

I actually saw more bucks than ever before. I would hate to loose the chance to harvest a nice buck after watching him mature over the past two years. I select harvest on the land I hunt and I would be very upset if I was not able to shoot a buck.

I just don’t think an antler less only season will not help with new hunter recruitment I think it would only hurt the future generations in the long run. I thought the earn-a-buck plan would be a good thing to bring back into consideration.
I put many hours in the stand this past hunting season and saw a very high buck to doe ratio. An antlerless only season would very much eliminate my hunting opportunities. If the antlerless number needs to be managed, I suggest earn-a-buck.

To simply put it, if I can't harvest a buck in St Croix county I won't be hunting there, and I don't believe I'm the only person that would feel that way, thus less deer being harvested because of less hunters. Seems a bit backwards to me.

I hunt on private land and wanted to harvest a doe in 2019 but did not see many around. I typically harvest a buck and a doe or 2 but in 2019 I had very few opportunities to shoot a doe. Bucks were scarce as well compared to past seasons

We should move away from the county deer management format and go to the regional format that wild turkey seasons follow. Micromanagement of the resource is too constrictive on the general public and is confusing to the average hunter.

I am a youth hunter who has hunting for 6 years and in those six years I have only ever shot a doe once because my property does not have many does. If it is changed to only antlerless I WILL NOT be purchasing a license this year.

I personally know 6 farmers that currently lease their land for hunting in St Croix County. By implementing an antlerless only season, these farmers are at risk of losing these funds which supplements their property tax payments.

The DNR screwed up the harvest numbers when they went to online registration. Such a joke. I believe more people registered when in person registration was mandatory over “yeah sure I’ll type it in on my phone”. Just my 2 cents.

When Earn A Buck was in place it didn't work. I think if Doe Only is put into place in St Croix county that bucks will still be harvested and just registered in other area’s. Earn A Buck failed so will Doe Only in my opinion.

Making St. Croix County Antlerless only is CRAZY! I DO NOT Support this initiative! If you want more antlerless harvest, why not institute a Holiday Hunt and extension of bow hunt through Jan 31st? Try these tools first!

Not allowing people to harvest a buck during 2020 seasons would be a terrible thing moving forward. Many adults and kids who deer hunt look forward to the chance of harvesting a buck, and still will harvest a doe for food.

I care most about the rifle season being extended. It's a bad idea with the use of crossbows now. In the archery season more deer are being shot because of that. Leave everything as is, except the holiday hunt. Remove that!

If an antlerless hunt were initiated, it would drive hunters away, including myself and entire hunting party. We would simply go somewhere else. You can't take the entire buck season away and keep the same level of interest.

The data charts are somewhat contradictory with each other when considering the far greater number of deer on and around the 2007-2008 period compared to the actual much lower population in recent years, including 2019.

No Bucks, all season would simply drive me to hunt in other counties and not hunt St. Croix county at all. Other creative measures need to be considered to increase antler-less harvest, such as earn a buck or others.

I understand that there is a proposal in St. Croix county no buck harvest for 2020 season. Hope that this is not the case. Your going to lose hunters. That would be a shame, especially with hunter numbers going down.

An antlerless only season for the county may actually reduce the number of total deer taken as people with hunt elsewhere. It Could also increase the amount of criminal activity and really upset the ethical hunters.

Don't limit St Croix county to antlerless only. If the goal is to shoot more doe open up Christmas holiday when some of us from out of state are back for Christmas. Or open up December to taking a doe with a gun.

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020  
St. Croix, Central Farmland
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8303</td>
<td>Browse is up and herd size is up. Moving to Doe only season, will drive hunters to other units and the number of hunters in St. Croix will drop considerable and will not net out a herd reduction that is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8305</td>
<td>Too many bucks being hit on the roads, and seen fighting in groups are reasons I cannot support an antlerless only hunt. I recommend one buck only per person for any season (now, crossbow, gun or muzzleloader)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8304</td>
<td>Purpose antler less deer first before Filling a buck tag. If you only allow antler less hint, people will not even bother to hunt, state will loose revenue on tag sales. Wrong way of doing and proposing hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8306</td>
<td>We do not have enough deer, and the state gives out too many tags, and has too many seasons. People don’t buy as many deer hunting licenses anymore because there aren’t nearly as many deer as there used to be!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8307</td>
<td>Why would you not offer an &quot;earn-a-buck&quot; for this county? Having an antler-less only season will diminish greatly the number of hunters in the county, which will have a very negative impact on businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8308</td>
<td>I would support higher levels of antlerless tags, but not an antlerless only year. I would choose to hunt a different area. If anything, I would be encouraged to see an antler point restriction. Thanks!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8309</td>
<td>No reason to punish hunters for high doe population in county buck population is also high in county add more doe gun hunts like holiday hunt to reduce population. Unsure why this hasn’t been proposed yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8310</td>
<td>My family hunts on our property in St Croix county and every year we see more yearling bucks than we do doe’s. If it goes to doe only in this area we will kill far less deer and potentially no deer at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8311</td>
<td>I disagree if you make stcroix county doe only for the 2020 season I’ve been hunting for a Big buck who is most likely on its demise and it will be sad to watch the guy die cause of a harsh winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8312</td>
<td>I would like to see crossbow and archery seasons to be the same season and would like to see the firearms season to remain as-is and would not want a time period before firearms season with no hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8313</td>
<td>Doe only is a penalty and I’m not a proponent of &quot;slap their hands &quot; deer management. Population issues are within city of New Richmond and Hudson city limits, not rural St Croix County. NO TO DOE ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8314</td>
<td>I tried pretty hard last year to harvest a doe in St. Croix county during both archery and gun season and I was unable to. From my perspective, it's hard to tell that the doe population is too large.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8315</td>
<td>Having an antlerless only in St. Croix county, specifically the sub-metro unit is crazy. We see countless deer hit on highways year round and have a very healthy buck and doe population on our land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8316</td>
<td>Antlerless season is no good. A lot less people will participate in the season if that’s the case. Maybe earn a buck but even then I think it should continue with the way it was last year. Thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8317</td>
<td>I would hate to see a antler less season. I think it would drive to people to hunt other places in wi driving business away from the county. Should have at least a buck tag for the county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8318</td>
<td>Do not have antlerless only hunting in st cro cou ty if you want more antlerless deer shoot maybe earn a buck but that doesn’t work well for most hunters I would like to see other ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8319</td>
<td>Why is St. Croix county the only region in all of Wisconsin where an all season antlerless hunt is being proposed? I watched Jed Hopps presentation, and there is no data supporting this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8320</td>
<td>Your trying to force hunters to shoot does just say that. Not being able the harvest a buck will put less hunters in the woods. Who will get up a 4:30 am to shoot a doe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8321</td>
<td>Landowners put money and time into providing habitat and food for deer yearly in hopes of harvesting a nice buck I feel that an antlerless structure is not fair to these land owners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8324</td>
<td>Having a doe only season will kill deer hunting. Education and trophy management encourages harvesting does. Not being able to harvest a trophy buck will discourage a lot of hunters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wouldn’t earn-a-buck be a better option instead of a completely antlerless only season? People won’t be buying tags for 2020 season if they don’t have a chance at an antlered deer.

I wish we could adopt a 8 pt or bigger buck harvest it would only take a couple years and we would have a lot more Trophy Bucks around year after year. Let them go and let them grow

I don’t support an antler-less only season I would support and earn a buck season for all seasons however, or a double doe to earn a buck tag as other options than antler-less only.

If I can not have the chance of taking a buck out this up coming season I will not go get a tag. I have a feeling many other hunters will have the same mindset for this 2020 season.

To many hunts going on the hunting pressure have the deer turning nocturnal that’s why hunters are not seeing deer too many early season doe hunts too many late season doe hunts

There are too many deer in this area and not enough hunters. The surrounding land owners do not allow hunting but feed the deer which might encourage the spread of CWD.

There’s not the deer there was other years we hunted, by having a doe only season you the DNR are really jeopardizing the deer population that is already at an all time low !!!!

I feel that the earn a buck was a very valuable tool which helped manage antlerless harvest. I think it should be brought back before going to an entirely antlerless season.

There should be no reason to have a doe only hunt. If anything there should be earn a buck. We should also be able to have credit from the previous year if we harvested a doe

Please do not do a antlerless only hunt. If this is the case I will simply hunt in a different county. I am in a constant search for a large buck. That is the reason I hunt.

Licensee should get 1 buck and 1 doe for gun and 1 buck and 1 doe for Archery. With limited bonus tags sold for at least $12.00 each for resident and $25 for non-resident.

car kills are significantly up, consider antlerless only, open both sides of willow river park for hunting - we have 9-14 deer in our yard on south side of park

I personally think the antlerless only idea is insane , you will lose a lot of hunters who pay your wages among a lot of other things payed for by us sportsmen and women

I do not support restricting crossbow season to october. I am a weekend hunter due to my job and would miss the best part of the season. Would likely not buy a license.

More public land needed! Hunters who are unable to afford to purchase land for hunting are slowly being forced out of the sport due to decreased hunting opportunities.

Bring back the earn-a-buck program, if wanting more does taken. Don't deprive the chance to take a quality buck that might build excitement for future hunts/hunters.

Antlerless season only will only drive more hunters out of the area and out of hunting. Without at least the chance to harvest a buck you will loose a lot of hunters.

Do not make this unit antlerless only. Enough antlerless tags are given out for farmland and metro unit that if hunters want to harvest antlerless, they can/will.

The objective of taking more antlerless deer might be achieved with increased awareness and availability of donation butchering locations with no cost to the hunter.

It does seem that the average age of the bucks seen in my recent view is that they are one to three years in age. I'm concerned of there ability to survive longer.
I oppose the antlerless only hunting!!! In the past there has been earn a buck. Shoot a doe then you can shoot a buck. I would approve this for at least one year.

There are too many miss informed hunters that do not practice management. They only want trophies. Not near enough public land available to bring down numbers.

I definitely think if you decide to go for antlerless season this year, that you really should consider the youth hunters still able to shoot an antlered Buck

Too many car deer accidents. Do not have a holiday hunt or extended archery - it infringes on other winter sports like skiing and snowmobile trail maintenance.

Please do not limit the choice of weapon or deer. I only hunt my own land and am very selective about harvesting. I also have most of my homestead in habitat.

I think it is a ridiculous idea to make it anterless only all season. NOBODY wants to go out hunting to spend there time in the tree just to shoot a doe!!!!

The holiday hunt, would enable hunters to spend additional time with family members. In particular young hunters would have an opportunity to harvest a deer.

I support an effort to better manage the doe population but an antlerless only season will deter hunters in county and be ineffective. Why not earn a buck?

Instead of antler less only, how about Earn-a-Buck for this DMU. I think if you have an antler less only season you will lose more hunters than you gain.

Please do not make St. Croix County an anterless only management zone! Very unreasonable. We do also do not need as many antlerless tags being given out.

Go back to the old laws on the crossbows. Cause the new crossbows are like shooting a gun and everyone that has one is make in Ethical shots with them

I feel we need to go back to backtags and registration stations to combat poaching. Also do away with shining, or limit it to land owned by shiners.

I do not believe an antler less only season would ever be a good idea. An earn a buck season would do a far better job to reduce antlerless numbers

maybe earn a buck. I believe there are high numbers of doe on some private lands because they refuse to shoot doe. only looking for the big buck.

add a 4 point to a side antler restriction in st croix county. similar to south east MN. limits buck harvest and increases buck size structure.

I oppose the antlerless season because it will not increase the number of antlerless kills because people will simply not hunt in st Croix county

Eliminating crossbow option in November would likely result in me not purchasing a license because I am able to hunt weekends due to my job.

Would be nice to see deer populations bounce back to what they used to be. Don't see very many anymore throughout the year. Too many seasons.

1). Earn-a-buck for all seasons rather than antler antlerless only. 2). Public land property lines in wooded areas could be marked better.

I would rather have an Earn A Buck scenario, or even 2 does for a buck than absolutely no chance at a buck in the county I live and hunt in.
if I couldn’t hunt bucks, I would have to find a new area to hunt. i’m not opposed to shooting does, but i’m not hunting does specifically

I propose earn-a-buck instead of antlerless-only. I have done my part to reduce the doe population while other Trophy Hunters have not.

There are very few large doe or bucks which tells me overhunting is occurring in St Croix county. You need to limit antlerless tags.

I don’t believe antlerless only is the answer. Possibly earn a buck or antler size restrictions would help reduce the doe population.

A Doe only hunt would cause me to hunt in another county and eliminate the chances of me shooting a doe (or any deer for that matter)

Antlerless season would be very negative to hunter numbers and satisfaction. Please stop proposing these extream options. Thank you.

I support the earn a buck method to get more hunters to harvest doe, would not be apposed to making all gun seasons doe only hunts

I do not support the antlerless only Hunt. I feel the best way to decrease doe populations is to have a holiday or Christmas hunt.

I believe many people will quit hunting here if there is no possibility of taking a quality buck if the opportunity presents itself

I oppose the antlerless only season and would much rather see an earn a buck if CDAC is so concerned about the antlerless harvest

St Croix is a large and diverse county. One set of rules..IE, antlerless only for the entire county seems to be way too extreme.

I strongly oppose an anterless only deer season for St. Croix county. There is no good reason to do it. It is an over reaction.

I support the limiting of crossbow season (essentially a seperate season from archery) to October only and after the Gun season

An Antlerless only season will only push the trophy or buck hunters to another unit to find the hunt they are looking for

Give a chance for the holiday hunt and the extended season to work two years in a row versus going to a doe only season.

Maybe it is time to bring back earn-a-buck, or copy Minnesota and have one Buck harvest per Hunter for the entire season.

Please do not make St Croix an antlerless only county. Maybe go back to earn a buck or something to promote doe harvest.

I think we should have earn a buck. That way the trophy only hunters have to do their part to help with herd management.

I would like to see the Muzzleloader season take place earlier i.e.: before firearm deer season as opposed to after it.

Antlerless only will have a negative impact on hunters and for sure the younger hunters. This is a bad recommendation
A antlerless only season would be a huge step in the wrong direction. That would be the end of me purchasing a license.

where I live there seems to be to many deer but the surrounding land owners don't allow hunting. they also feed them

You will the amount of hunters if you eliminate buck tags. This is not going to work well for population control!

Need more options to increase antlerless harvest Explore options to increase access to private lands for hunting

I propose one buck either gun or archery when licensing is purchased and go back to shotgun only gun hunts

Consider better options to compensate farmers for ag damage There are lots of deer in eastern part of county

I do not agree with the antlerless only hunt in st croix county!! I agree if they give out more doe tags !

I know of many people against antlerless only and are not on computers or whatnot to fill this out.

A doe only season is a terrible idea and will not be accepted by the hunting community at large.

Make it an earn a buck unit where you have to shoot 5 antlerless deer before you get a buck tag

Antlerless only season is a bad idea. It would cause for many deer to be harvested illegally.

Instead of Antlerless only I would support to bring back the Earn-a-buck program in the zone.

your anterless only recommendation is a joke!!!! I seen way fewer deer in 2019 than in 2018.

there would be no sense hunting st Croix cty if it were antlerless only. i'd hunt elsewhere

Extend archery and crossbow seasons. Extend gun seasons. Allow mentor hunting this year.

Withdraw this silly antlerless only season proposal. Stop DNR logging of public lands.

Go to earn a buck if needed but let us be able to kill a buck,,your wrecking the hunt.

The price of BONUS ANTLERLESS HARVEST AUTHORIZATIONS is too high. They are not selling!

There is small areas of too many deer, but a lot of areas with no deer hardly at all.

lots of coyotes and other predators . turkeys and deer are hunting from all of them .

Antlerless only season for the year will put the out of control population in check

Do not force anterless harvest on hunters. We choose to have higher deer numbers.

Taking away the buck tag will un-motivate hunters. Everyone’s goal is a big buck

Antlerless season will just force more people to hunt elsewhere not a good idea

All these changes because of a slow season last year is completely ridiculous

I believe fewer people would hunt given the opportunity to only harvest does!

Buck only for this county we have had to many doe hunts in the last 10 years

Have you looked at requiring that a Doe be shot first to " Earn" a Buck Tag ?

I did not see any questions to identify if earn a buck would be an option.

If St Croix County is antlerless only, I will not hunt in St Croix County

The anterless only seasons is ridiculous and I am completely against it.

If this county goes to antlerless only, will not be buyinG a license.

only have the traditional hunts for the 9 day gun and the bow season.

If this unit becomes antlerless only I will no longer buy a license
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8417</td>
<td>Purpose shooting antler less deer first before shooting a buck...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8418</td>
<td>I think the seasons are great the way they been the last 5 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8419</td>
<td>Too many ticks, need to kill more deer so we have less ticks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8420</td>
<td>If antler-less numbers are so important, do earn-a-buck again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8421</td>
<td>1 buck only per person per year no matter what season/weapon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8422</td>
<td>How about increasing the gun season from 9 days to 18 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8423</td>
<td>Please get rid of online registration and crossbow season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8424</td>
<td>Deer seasons are great. Bear season should start. Earlier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8425</td>
<td>Allow buck and does to be harvested, don’t overreach!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8426</td>
<td>Thanks for your hard work and reliance upon science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8427</td>
<td>Please do not make an anterless deer season for 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8428</td>
<td>Anterless only for all seasons is a great idea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8429</td>
<td>No antlerless season is needed in this unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8430</td>
<td>LEAVE IT THE WAY IT IS.. ITS WORKING.. THANKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8431</td>
<td>No antlerless season is needed in this unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8432</td>
<td>Against anterless only for St.Croix County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8433</td>
<td>If it went to doe only I wouldn’t hunt here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8434</td>
<td>Do not take away antler hunting privilege.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8435</td>
<td>Way to many different deer hunting seasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8436</td>
<td>No antlerless season is need in this unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8437</td>
<td>I do not support an antlerless only hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8438</td>
<td>Earn a buck is what I would like to see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8439</td>
<td>Antler less deer season is beyond dumb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8440</td>
<td>I support an antlerless only season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8441</td>
<td>Anterless only is a joke.....NO WAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8442</td>
<td>I saw as many bucks as I did does.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8443</td>
<td>Earn a buck before doe season only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8444</td>
<td>overpopulation of antler-less deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8445</td>
<td>Antlerless only ? Why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8446</td>
<td>Oppose anterless only season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8447</td>
<td>Do not have antlerless only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8448</td>
<td>we need a buck season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8449</td>
<td>Good job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taylor, Northern Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

482 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 203
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 110
   - I hunt in this unit: 445
   - General interest in this unit: 83

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 426
   - Bow: 203
   - Crossbow: 217
   - Muzzleloader: 153

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 25.96
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 169
   - Mostly Private Land: 95
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 81
   - Mostly Public Land: 36
   - Exclusively Public Land: 60
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 4
   - Not too crowded: 65
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 55
   - Somewhat crowded: 61
   - Very crowded: 80
   - Not applicable: 7

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 86
   - Fewer: 135
   - Same: 155
   - More: 61
   - Many More: 36
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:
Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
Not applicable in this DMU

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID 261 NOT VALID 145 Unsure 76

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Legislative decisions over the past 6 years have placed an ever-increasing emphasis on social and political interests rather than contemporary research, established science and observations of natural resource management professionals. These decisions continue to pursue artificially high populations of whitetail deer and limit the ability of professional wildlife managers to control these populations. While adequate research and analysis is available through DNR it is largely not being incorporated into CDAC decision making. I believe it is important to clarify the role of CDAC’s across the state of Wisconsin. County Deer Advisory Councils do not set quotas, population objectives or season structures. They provide recommendations to DNR for these items. CDAC’s are advisory only. CDAC’s should place an emphasis on sound science first and then incorporate public opinion. The role of CDAC’s should be reduced to population objective setting every 3 years, a mechanism for public input, and advise DNR on the public feedback regarding DNR herd management recommendations. Quota setting should be left to the professional wildlife managers. Taylor County is the most productive DMU in the entire northern forest region but the most conservative in the recommendation of public antlerless quota. In 2019 public land antlerless tags sold out in just over an hour. A significant hunter demand exists for these tags. An increase in public land tag availability is justified based on the extremely mild winter of 2019-2020, overly conservative historic recommendations by CDAC, historic under harvest of public land quota and hunter demand for these tags. Taylor County has consistently been under harvesting their public land quota due to success rates being set too high. A success rate of 30% is not realistic for public land across the entire state of Wisconsin. As quotas are increased success rates decrease. For this reason, I think it would be prudent for CDAC to utilize a 25% success rate for public land. I thank the CDAC for growing the whitetail deer population from a low point in 2013. However, the population now is in great need of control. Please consider agricultural damage, car collisions, forest damage and population metrics such as buck harvest/sq mi, fawn:doe ratio, yearling buck harvest, etc to determine a reasonable and responsible quota and tag recommendation.
It seems like the harder you guys try to fix this the worse it gets. I don’t claim to have all or any of the answers but have decided to move on and quit this sport as it has become no more than a political exercise and another money making scheme in my eyes. You shouldn’t be selling permits for game that doesn’t exist or to someone whom may not have access to hunt. You’re taking advantage of a public unaware of the reality of the real situation especially when it comes to public lands. As you continue to bring the exotics back to the landscape ie(Fisher, Wolves, Turkeys ) in the Northern forest areas just be prepared for further lack of interest in hunting of the game that once filled those spaces now home to an overpopulation of predators. Yes I’m considering Turkey a predator as they will have an effect on the grouse numbers over time. I used to hunt grouse in south central Wisconsin and have only seen 2 in the last fifteen years in places I could chase them all day before Turkeys became a thing. Unfortunately I don’t think those in charge realize what is the real cause of why there is a decline of interest in hunting. Access?? Abundance of Game?? Years of permit application for hunting what’s left?? Thank goodness fish managers like fish. They seem to be open to protecting good numbers of all species for the public to enjoy. Oh,maybe the reason for that is that water is publicly accessible?? Not the same for land, in the hunting and trapping world. Sad. That’s all I can say. Sad. Instead of the state eradicating more deer because of car deer accidents maybe landowners who post their lands where overpopulation is a problem should pay a fine or open up to public or hunting after 3 car deer altercations? Just a thought. Good luck with the deer management. If you want new hunters make it easier to start and work on getting the numbers of all game back up. I didn’t start hunting deer. I started with small game and small game is still abundant where I live now but not so in the Northern Forests. But the same problem exists with small game hunting, lack of access?? Again I don’t claim to know anything so good luck.

The public land in Taylor County, especially the National Forest land should have zero anterless harvest to adult hunters. The youth hunters should be exempt and allowed to harvest their one deer. The amount of predators in the National Forest is VERY HIGH. Couple the high predator numbers with a tough winter, or two, or three in a row and it makes it very difficult to rebuild the herd when a die off occurs. Logging operations seem to be on the up tick in the area versus the past 10 years but no where near what could be cut or what was cut back in the 70’s, 80’s and early 90’s. In the 42 years I have hunted the National Forest, I can only remember one time I saw a cutting of any sort in a hardwood stand. Why not? Those hardwood stands are becoming the dominate terrain feature and they allow for the least amount of carrying capacity of animal species. When deer populations were high (maybe too high at that point) in the late 90’s there was ample logging, low predator numbers and most importantly a long string of mild winters, and limited anterless harvest. All these factors when combined allowed the herd to explode. I am not saying to let that happen again, but those are the main factors to building or reduction of the herd in that area. It only takes a couple bad winters to severely knock the herd down. When a die off happens, the high number of predators on the landscape do not allow for a 3-5 year rebuild. These are different times that in the 90’s, so currently taking any number of anterless deer out of the herd severely effects the ability to rebound when those bad winters periodically happen. Love the National Forest of Taylor County!!!! One of the few places in the state a hunter can roam without many boundaries.
I primarily hunt in the Chequamegon Nicolet national forest in NW Taylor county for rifle season, but hunt both public and private land for archery season. I consider myself to be a skilled outdoors-man / hunter and have a good understanding of biology and environmental science. In my hunting excursions throughout the county, I have observed the evidence of overbrowsing on private land and certain parcels of public land (primarily in areas near agriculture or near private land). However, I do not see this evidence in the large timber blocks of public land in the NF. There was a marked reduction of deer sign this past year (actually ever since the 2 consecutive bad winters 5 and 6 years ago) Our 14 member hunting group are spread out in approximately 1 1/2 sections of large forest block and only saw 1 doe and 1 wolf on opening day of rifle season. We did not harvest a single deer on public land the entire rifle season. I realize that there may be too many deer in some areas of public county forest land in NE Taylor county, but the scenario is totally different in the C-N NF in north central and NW Taylor county. In 51 years of hunting in this same area I have averaged harvesting a buck every other year but only one in the past 10 years. It is a bit discouraging to see only one deer in 8 hard days of hunting. I personally feel that the antlerless quota in the national forest of Taylor County should be 0. I also feel that there is a severe need to increase logging in these large forest blocks to improve carrying capacity for wildlife. There is also a significant need to increase predator control.

I have hunted in Taylor county for 38 years. Specifically the Perkinstown area. I hunted the full 9 day gun season as well as 14 days of crossbow hunting. Last year was the worst year for seeing deer in all my years of hunting there. My hunting partners (4 total) and I saw a total of two deer during the archery hunt and ZERO deer during the 9 day gun season. We were in the woods every day and every legal minute during the gun season. We hunted private lands as well as public lands. For years I have been saying that the antlerless harvest needs to be broken down more specific to be anterless bucks or anterless does. I think this would give you a more scientific outlook on the deer population and the number of anterless permits to be made available. In the CDAC video you stated that you want to increase the population of deer this year in Taylor county. If that is the case then why are you proposing to increase the 2020 antlerless quota from the previous year? I know that some of your numbers are driven by car kills and accidents and insurance companies dollars as well as the expected hunters spending money in each county. Talking with many hunters during the deer hunting seasons around the Perkinstown area I wasn't alone in not seeing any deer during the gun season. The Big buck contests in the taverns around the area also reflected the lack of deer in that area. I urge you to drastically lower the number of anterless permits if not eliminating them all together for the next several years. Good day and be safe in these troubling times.

I do not understand the mindset that we have so many deer and that our deer population is where we want it. Look at the harvest numbers over the past 15 years. down down down. Look at the car kills over the last 15 years. down down down. And the number of hunters, down. Successful hunters are happy hunters. young hunters have too many other distractions in this world to stick to hunting if they are not seeing deer like we USED to have. I disagree with extending seasons and adding seasons. If the deer numbers were up where they used to be, early 2000's say for argument, people would not need additional time to have a successful hunt. Managing a whole county is not an easy task. understood. But a small percentage of private land is loaded with deer. the rest is not. Antlerless tags will be filled by hunters that truly hunt and want the meat. But, are they really getting harvested in the areas they are supposed to. That can skew numbers even more in the wrong direction. I would personally like to see a couple years of no antlerless. Lets see what happens to the population and how deer disperse and migrate into the less populated areas. I would love to say we could manage by sections or townships. Because yes, farm country and some areas are ridiculously overpopulated. By adding general private land antlerless tags does not fix these areas. Thank you for considering my opinion. Medford area resident.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

There are too many doe permits and bonus permits in the northern forest. We rarely see deer and we make drives 80% of the time. We used to move deer most drives and we hunt with 16-20 people. In the last 10 years I can count usually on 1 hand how many deer I have seen in a 9 day season. Before that from early 80's-2000's I would see that many deer per day. We are losing hunters and license fees because of the lack of deer that leads directly to a lack of interest and frustration. I also do not think it is coincidence that over that same time period I have noticed a dramatic increase in predators in the northern forest. I have averaged 10-20 wolf sightings per year over the last 10 years. prior to that I may have seen a wolf every 2-3 years. There are definitely far fewer deer and I have trouble believing the DNR population assessment in the northern forest. I have lived here for 70+ years and it is just not plausible that we have as many deer in the northern forest population that you keep reporting. If that is the case then people are killing most of the deer before the gun hunt. Something needs to be done of my grand kids and their kids will have no interest in walking around the woods for a week to see less than a handful of deer. I hope we do something soon to improve the northern forest deer hunting experience before we lose an entire generation of potential hunters.

To whom it may concern, I get the idea of large management zones and then letting the counties determine harvest quotas. The problem is simply you just can not put a one size fits all model to an entire county. The deer density is entirely different in different parts of the county. For instance there are more deer west of Gilman then there are in the big timber north East of Rib Lake. Then antlerless public tags are allowed county wide and hunters harvest these antlerless deer north East of Rib Lake. This diminishes the deer herd there. Not to mention grossly under estimated wolf populations North East of Rib Lake. Another issue is the lucrative revenue stream the Wisconsin DNR has made out of Black Bear hunting in Wisconsin. Coyote, Wolf and Black Bear populations need to be reduced drastically. The last time I checked those three predatory animals do not bring in over a billion dollars in revenue to Wisconsin yearly, but a prized mature 4 1/2 year old whitetail indeed does. Here is a valid suggestion, I suggest we allow 1 buck tag per archery and 1 buck per rifle and a minimum to of 3 points to a side every even numbered year. and antlerless permits every odd numbered year and legal bucks for that year being what it presently is. This would drastically improve our deer herd across the state.

On the Taylor County Forest, the forestry practices now used are eliminating quality and for all piratical purposes all winter deer habitat. There is absolutely no consideration for not clear cutting winter yarding areas. They have been clear cut to maximize profit and promote even aged aspen regeneration. The County Forestry Committee prioritizes logging profits over tourism income to the local businesses catering to the hunting public. Local businesses benefit in no way from clear cut logging income as it is resulting in a reduction in the overall deer population on County Forest. Having hunted the County Forest for over three decades I have seen the quantity and quality of deer habitat change significantly. And a resulting lock step reduction in the deer heard. We hunt the County Forest every week from opening of archery till gun season and support local businesses by our presence. We are essentially tourists that use County Forest and support the local business community. When we and others like us stop coming it will have some impact on local retail establishments.

Think tag/tags should be offered to land owners that have to be used on the land owners land. Make a minimum land requirement (say 40 acres) and then that tag can be used any season by the land owner. Gives land owner more control of his land. Not related but think instead of lengthening rifle season might raise more money to have two seasons, then only able to hunt in one or the other. First season say 5 days sat through Wednesday, and then the second season, the next Saturday and make that one the traditional 9 day season for example. I also think crossbow season if there is one in October should require a separate tag in order to participate/hunt no matter if already have crossbow license or not. Another option may be an necessary early muzzle loader season but if draw that tag that takes your rifle tag as well so done hunting with a firearm. Think you could also make a late season muzzle loader season as well that would not require your unfilled rifle tag. Would have to access deer kill and availability of tags for this late season most likely.
We have hunted in the National Forest of Taylor County for 28 years. Our harvest numbers have been low, but we enjoy hunting in the more remote and large wooded areas. We typically only hunt 2-3 days out of the season and we have not applied for the anterless tags for the last 10 plus years. I also hunt grouse and this is when I do whatever limited scouting I do. There seems to be a slight increase in deer sign and summer sightings over the last 2-3 years but hunter participation in the area we hunt has gone from heavy in the 1990s to extremely limited the last few years. With fewer hunters there is less pushing or moving of deer as well. Getting a deer would be a great added plus to hunting in these large natural or forested areas but we enjoy the experience and we spend about the same amount of time and money. At age 72 I am planning on buying a crossbow and maybe doing some earlier season hunting when the weather is better.

For the last 10 years the number of deer seen during the 9 day hunt has dramatically reduced. In some years I have seen more wolves than deer during the gun deer season. I know it is a tough subject but there just aren’t many deer in the northern forest and we continue to provide doe tags and bonus tags like we were in the farmland. It is completely unsustainable and the reason there are so few deer in my opinion is over harvest, too many seasons (bow, crossbow, youth, ...) and too many predators. I like to see deer when I hunt. My son is no longer interested in deer hunting because we walk for miles and see nothing anymore. I believe the lack of deer in the traditional northern forest is a major reason that we are losing hunters and license sales. I hope we can begin to manage deer in the northern forest more effectively and take into account the actual number of predators and get better at determining the deer population.

I feel numbers proposed by the CDAC are solid and would be fine. I wouldn't complain about a slight reduction in public-land permits, just based on my own hunting experience on public land in 2019, which was quite disappointing compared to the previous two years when things really seemed to be rebounding. Maybe just my bad luck, maybe there was more pressure or maybe I was just in a spot where the previous late winter did kill a few. Who knows? But I'm OK with the reasoning as to why numbers were set where they are. Count me among those who view 2019 as a strange season where, as the DNR slide says, "something happened" mid-season. Seemed like as you’d drive around the county deer were all over the place from spring until mid- to late October. Then, just when you’d think activity would be at its highest, they kinda vanished. You'd have to think, especially after a mild winter, many of those deer are still on the landscape.

I feel that the herd in Taylor County is in good shape, and maybe even a little high in areas. Its easier to throttle up the herd numbers than it is to lower them under the current CDAC process. CDAC is a more controlled and less flashy management tool/process for managing population. Vs managing larger units or at the state level. Our herd has come back and is at a tipping point of explosion. We need to keep recruiting hunters and promoting harvesting adequate does to maintain our current healthy herd. Youth hunters who shoot does is not a problem and hasn't been a problem. So let that be an opportunity regardless. The problem with youth antlerless tags is when they are party filled during Gun Season. Browse on landscape ornamentals and also our natural forest is a problem. Excessive deer herd leads to excessive problems, which decreases the love for the critter. BALANCE!

Since i hunt equally between public and private i get to see some fairly large differences in the deer populations with public being quite low in comparison. Likely caused by 2 major factors in my opinion. First is a fairly heavy predator presence in all areas of public. Second which is mostly out of the states control is fairly poor habitat in general mostly due to the lack of logging in the national forests. I have property that is logged regularly with habitat in mind that abuts national forest. There is a distinct difference in the number of deer using mine as well as adjacent properties that are logged regularly as compared to public land only a mile away. So with all this in mind i am not convinced that even with no antlerless tags issued on public that you would see any significant increase in populations till if or when both of the above issues are addressed.
Our gang of 18 to 20 hunters have hunted the Perkinstown area since 1929. Last year was the least amount of
deer we saw making drives in our history. We do not stand just drive from opening day until the end. The national
forest area has no hunter representation just like years ago when the DNR kept increasing the doe permits
because not enough were shot but failed to realize the deer population was not there to shoot. Now I see you
increase the permits this year for public because not enough were shot last year—history repeats itself again. Our
gang has 70 years of deer kills history in our cabin if you would like to see the numbers and go back to doe
permits DNR history you will see as I said history will repeat. No deer again and years to bring them back. You guys
go hunt your private land but at some point let the National Forest have a rep!!!

During mid winter I traveled through much of the county national forest, visited logging jobs that normally would
have dozens of deer feeding in them and was shocked at the lack of deer and deer sign. This helped explain why
we did not move, see, or shoot many deer when making drives. The deer kill numbers don’t lie, they should stop
blaming it on weather, post rut, etc. the deer numbers on public land are as low as I’ve seen in my 40+ years
hunting. Instead of giving antlerless tags to reduce the remaining herd even more, we should try to manage an
unmanaged wolf population and continue logging to bring back a healthy herd. People are starting to lose a lot of
interest in hunting when they are unable to see and harvest animals. It’s not just the kill, people like to see deer
when they are hunting!

I was very pleased with how things seem to be in our area. There was a period were the deer seem to be hard to
come across. Not sure why this season seemed to be a bit off at that time. But in the end we were able to harvest
a few nice deer and found to have a nice young herd coming up in its place. I rather not see any changes in the
hunting seasons themselves. I feel leaving bow and cross bow season open the entire season in past years will get
more people involved. Im finding more people getting interest in it in my area. Leave the 9 day gun season as it is.
Typically by the ninth day it seems most have had there fill of this season. And alot are getting back to the late
season bow and cross bow hunt. We are seeing no signs of CWD in this area and the herds seem to be nice and
healthy.

I would like to see northern Taylor County where I hunt and the deer are less abundant be regulated differently
than the overpopulated areas. I hunt in northeast Taylor County and we don’t see that many deer. My family has
hunted here for many years. We’ve seen many changes over time. Overall it has gotten better. Between the
wolves and our own forester over harvesting the forest, and giving out reforestation tags, I’m afraid we are going
go to do the wrong way. If you didn’t cut so much, you wouldn’t have to worry about the saplings being eaten so
much. Just my opinion. I’ve been hunting there since 1969, when I was 12, and my father and grandfather way
before that. I hope and pray that good decisions are made so we can continue this wonderful Wisconsin tradition.
Thanks for your time & effort.

I’d much rather go back to the in person deer registration we used to have. This would assure people are
following the rules regarding purchase of and applying for doe permits on private land. This honesty would
validate the numbers in the charts presented. Registration over the phone does not, in my opinion give an
accurate representation of the true intention or harvest. I own my land and hunt it every year. The doe tags
available lately are given at a rate 10x over to property owners vs. hunters who hunt public land. This practice
encourages those who do not own property to apply for doe tags on private land. These same hunters are not
worried about hunting on public land without the correct permit as all they are required to do is phone in the
registration.
Thank you CDAC Committee for bringing back our public herd. It has been a long time coming but the herd is finally at the point where we can actually hunt public land again and be somewhat successful. For a few years hardly anyone hunted public land in Taylor Co. as it had a very poor population. There still is not an overabundance by any means and some areas are still hurting but overall we can enjoy the hunt on public again. Most private areas seem to have a good population of deer. Overall I think you guys are pretty close on your tag authorizations. Please do not overharvest our public lands again as the DNR has done in the past. One rough winter and we just don't have the numbers to repopulate for years and years. Private recovers much quicker. Thanks again!

It is time to end the practice of baiting and feeding. Deer management in WI has fallen so far behind other states in this area, it has become an object of ridicule. It has become what we are known for, despite the good work the DNR is doing in other areas of deer management that is worthy of special recognition. When I speak with hunters in other states it is embarrassing to talk about the baiting that is allowed - they just can't believe that it is given a pass, especially considering the emerging science related to CWD issues. I also have personal concerns about deer baiting for hunting, related to fair chase. Please do what is right and advocate for a baiting and feeding ban at the state level. Many of us have been advocating for a ban for many years.

I listened to the CDAC Committee meeting via telephone and thought the content, statistics, and discussion were thorough. I support the Committee's recommendation for the 2020 season. As a bow, rifle, and muzzleloader hunter on private land, I am out in the environment a fair amount of time. Some land I hunt on is south of HWY 64 and is in ag use. There seemed to be an ample amount of both does and bucks. The other land I hunt is next to the National Forest with some ag use nearby. That parcel had a fair amount of deer. I do not hunt public land and as such, cannot comment on populations there. Thanks to our CDAC Committee for their work!

I live in Westboro. I spend most of my time up until about October 25th chasing my to pointers after grouse and woodcock on public land. After that it's bow hunting and then rifle hunting. I also do some dry land trapping during the winter. In the last few years I've seen somewhat of a reduction in coyote numbers. Five years ago I saw a tremendous population. I also have seen less wolf sign in recent years. However in the last few years I've noticed much more bear sign. I spend 40 plus days afield west of Westboro in the national forest and east of Rib Lake in the county forest. I don't know if this helps at all but it's my opinion. Thank you

The northern forest zone is dead! I spent about four hours in Chequamegon the other day with my son. We went to check out the places we hunted last year, we took our time walking setting and listening, what we saw and heard was next to nothing. A few woodpeckers on a lot of dead trees, we counted nine drummings, that was it! This is the end of May we should have seen and heard song birds; ravens, squirrels, ducks and maybe seen a white flag or two, but nope that was it. If you want improve hunting and increase the deer heard you most improve the habitat, if you don't know how, I know a few loggers that can show you. Thank You.

Taylor county is a large county. Deer are plentiful, in the private lands, away from the public forest, hunting lands. But private lands near or lands in the public forest, deer aren't so plentiful. Unfortunately, giving out too many doe tags to the private property lands near or among the forest(public) lands, is having a huge negative effect on the deer population in the forest. There needs to be a better division of giving out tags near and in forest public lands, compared to out in the farmlands away from public lands, where land owners can pick and choose how many does they want to shoot, and the deer will still be plentiful.

If I buy a bow license, why Isn't the Doe Tag Good to use for gun Hunting? Years ago bow was automatic. no additional fee .. either sex. seems that has change .. back in 07. you had all those additional hunts .. then in 13/14 Two harsh winters in a row. Decimated the deer, then u hire a deer expert from texas and give him 1 million dollars. I would think with that $, You would have more conservation officers per Unit Working .. going forward .. The use of first come, first issued isn't right for doe permits. residents of the unit should get a first chance @ buying those permits ..
In my opinion in our area the deer population is low to extremely low this year was especially bad. I counted only 12 shots all day opening day and less Sunday and we have land right across the street from public land. In my opinion all other gun hunts should be eliminated Except except for the 9 day November hunt. To add I never saw a deer ether bow or gun season in the stand. Also talk to many other with almost same results. If I have to grade the dnr on the job their doing for deer population number it would be a D‐ their management sucks sorry to say. Nothing like when I was a kid.

I believe the CDAC in our region has done a great job managing the deer population and solicit inputs and suggestions like this survey from the Hunters and residents shows that the CDAC has the Hunters and residents' best interest in mind. This kind open communication and effort will only improve the deer population in the county, thus improving the hunting experience for new hunters. With us land owners and CDAC working together we can make a well informed decision on managing the deer population for future generations to continue to enjoy what we have today.

Amount of wolves have increased in the unit, Hunter numbers are down substantially, less hunter movement during the day, in this unit Deer numbers in the national forest in my opinion have increased greatly due to seeing them in fields and at night, but hunter movement here has decreased greatly during the hunting seasons, many Hunters choose to sit/stand during the day this area has and ageing hunter population with lower recruitment. These views are shared by a hunting party who have hunted and live in the area for 25 years and have made these observations.

I own private land and in the last two deer gun seasons have only seen a total of three deer after hunting 7 straight days in 2018 and 7 days in 2019. I agree about increasing the deer herd for the northern units. Without seeing the numbers, my opinion, I would cut short the bow hunting season. Crossbows have been a game changer for this type of hunting. Also if you restrict antlerless hunting this should go for the youth hunt and disabled hunts too. All the public needs to be treated fairly and consistently on this.

Taylor County CDAC has been more realistic than all other counties I frequent. However, public land antlerless tags are proposed at too high of a level. The forester in charge of the Taylor County Forest is spreading propaganda from Madison in my opinion. Anybody that hunts the County Forest surely realizes that deer populations are extremely low primarily due to predation. The Forester would never be satisfied with the number of deer in the Forest until the population was maintained at 0 deer per square mile.

You really need to start managing the deer herds, way to many wolves and way to long od seasons, and put a antler restrictions on the bucks, grown some trophies once. Stop killing all the does in the forestry, there no deer left in the north woods, north of 29 forget it. How can I get my kids into hunting on public land when u hunt 9 days and never see a deer!! Yes private guys do little better, but lot of land out there and no deer left, please please start doing something about it. Kill some wolves too.

Antler less deer tags numbers have to be managed especially the private la d owner tags. Private land owners are hunting on public land and using the private land owner tags. The deer numbers are coming back, but need to be continued with management practices. Also the number of predators need to be managed! If you want to continue the 9- day gun deer season that has been around for ever and is a part of the rich Wisconsin history, the DNR needs to allow people to manage the predators of the white tail.

Hunted public in 19 saw no deer. Too much baiting and no deer movement in daylight hours. Public land has no habitat for deer to survive due to lack of timber harvest. In the area I hunt people sit after hours over bait some in woods till 9:00 pm. No way to identify anyone with no backtag. Youth in woods with no supervision. Call in registration is a ok to violate deer I am frustrated and am done with deer hunting after 50 years even though I am more than physically able.
The current weapon specific season dates, length of weapon specific seasons, order of seasons, and overall structure of the seasons has made Wisconsin as a whole, well managed for a healthy Whitetail herd. I would not support any changes to the current structure to benefit those that may not be willing to spend the time or effort to harvest an animal. After all, hunting is all about properly managing the Whitetail herd first and what people want should always be second.

So the model is to increase the herd in the unit yet you want to give out additional doe tags in 2020? What are the wildlife biologists smoking? If a farmer wants to increase his number of livestock he doesn’t massacre them? Do members of the DNR even attempt to spend time in this unit looking at numbers? Do they realize how many predators are out there? This unit will be another fail of the DNR and there will be a limited herd in a few years do to mismanagement. Sad.

Having more years of hunting experience in Taylor County than most hunters, I can say that hunting pressure in the larger forest tracts is almost non existent. After opening weekend it is rare to see another hunter. There are few large groups hunting and most only hunt morning and evening. Most hunters are hunting farm areas that are much easier to hunt. Few hunters are interested in taking a deer unless it is a trophy. Makes deer management bumpy at best.

The difference in public vs private land tags is meaningless. I hunt mostly in 'open' forest crop land, immediately next to the National Forest, as well as private land where I have permission to hunt. I could literally hunt a few hundred yards from my usual spots and probably get an antlerless tag, but not on the 'public' land where I do hunt. Both spots are within a quarter mile of ag land and the deer move freely from public to private parcels.

I do not agree with banning baiting and feeding deer. I believe CWD originated on deer farms and that should be the first thing to go. I read a few years ago a CWD deer on a deer farm (caged) was CWD positive and that baiting and feeding (un caged deer) in that county was banned and so was the county next to it. Make no sense. I think hunting over a bait site is the safest for of hunting because the hunter picks the spot to insure a safe shot.

I still do not understand why the DNR considers Taylor county as one unit ?? I hunt private and public as my land is adjacent to the Pershing public hunting area. We have as many deer as I’ve ever seen. ( way to many) I’ve hunted this area for twenty years. Also hunted numerous public grounds accross the state. The big woods (nicolet)in Taylor county has very few deer because of lack of agriculture. The rest is overrun by deer !!!!!

Deep population has been going down every year for the last 15 years or more was seeing 15-20 deer a year during rifle season now I average 6 sightings a year for the last 5 years hunting 8 days need to get rid of baiting people are putting out way to much bait and way to many people doing it there are bait piles everywhere I try to hunt it seems like was told some people are putting out 500 lbs of corn on their private land

3 years ago, I saw over 50 deer on opening day, 2 years ago I saw 14, 2019 I saw 3. over that period, we harvested 2 bucks and 1 doe from that 200 acre property that is heavily wooded with over 20 acres of food plots. This is a disappointing trend to say the least. We have seen many wolves on camera on this property and they have taken their toll. Killing more deer is not the right direction to go.

The deer herd even on private property areas has been slowly decreasing and is way less than previous years. This is on very well managed low pressure private grounds. There is abundant regeneration and no sign of deer preventing reforestation. The population could definitely use a boost. We would love to see a very limited doe harvest or possibly even buck only outside of youth hunting and ag permits.

After hunting public and private land in Talyor county in 2019 with the mild winter I feel the quota numbers are good. Browsing from deer on my forty west of Medford and fencing in small trees or spraying them to protect them is proof of that also deer sign is good in National Forest. I feel CDAC is doing a good job of keeping public educated about quota numbers and updates on our deer population!
I realize this would be a statewide issue and not a county one but I would like to see the public/private land designation removed from youth antlerless harvest authorizations and allow them to shoot one antlerless deer no matter what type of land. Secondly I know this would require a legislative change but Hunter’s Choice was a very good deer management tool and we should go back to using it.

I think the agents in the DNR should spend more of their time out in the field observing the animals, you would get a better idea about the deer, their habits etc. All the farmers that complain about crop damage regardless what they claim don't understand what is causing the damage to their crops. It's not the deer!!!!!! A family of Racoons do more damage to crops than a herd of deer.

I believe we do have a predator problem in Taylor co. too many bear and too many wolves. found 2 wolf kills already this year and i have not been out much. deer do seem to be adapting but in a time when food could become more scarce for people it needs to be considered that people are more important than predators. After all antlers are nice but the true purpose of hunting is food.

Privet land owners should have The right to harvest ether or. as we Do get all the damage.And there is a lot. The numbers here needs to get thin down alot. To get a doe tag it is silly to have to try to get them 4 mouth earlier and that is if you were lucky. Land owners should get first chance at it. After gun season I still counted over 20 dear on my land. Your numbers are way off

Some areas are over hunted others have deer all over I see way to many dead on the side of the road it doesn’t pay to bow hunt public land if you don’t have a doe tag I only saw 3 deer while bow or gun hunting in Taylor co while in one day I saw 8 in marathon on public ground I have 2 kids that hunt and they get discouraged when they don’t see anything but people when hunting

I own a small parcel the butts up against national forest land. I seen the same 12 to 16 deer all year. 2 bucks that I seen personally were harvested. 3 fawns were killed by predators. Out of 7 fawns last year 3 remain after winter. I have Counted 11 through the winter on trail cameras. The predator population is out of control. Too many coyotes, wolves and bears.

Cross bow hunters have really changed the game in deer hunting. In order to maintain healthy numbers in the deer herd, a cross-bow hunter should only be able to bag a deer with a crossbow or gun. Crossbows have become so sophisticated they are as accurate as guns. It puts the hunters who do not hunt with a crossbow at a disadvantage and are killing too many deer.

I do not believe a antlerless quota is necessary let the individual land owner decide that is why we pay taxes quit punishing land owners by making them spend more money on a permit. This is nothing but a money maker for the DNR and not helping wildlife. The other issue is bear hunters with dogs trespassing all over private land that is posted and scaring deer.

I'm not sure if you have any influence in this matter, but will state it anyway. I would like to see a random draw for hard to get antlerless tags in certain area's. It's so difficult for myself or anyone that works first shift to have a fair chance at buying an antlerless tag. The system being what it is does work, but I just think it's a little unfair.

We normally notice a very distinct drop in deer sightings just after active breeding starts. Last year, that happened early and continued for a second breeding cycle causing very limited sightings during the first half of the gun deer season. Bucks were chasing much longer than normal but not as much during daylight hours. Very strange year!

When I started hunting taylor county in 2005 I could see 10 to 15 deer in a full day sit in the stand. Now I see 0 to maybe 5 on a good day. The wolves have moved in and we have found multiple dead carcasses on my property the last couple of years. It is tough to have a young person find an interest in hunting if they do not see any deer.
Sorry, I didn’t have time to watch the biologist’s video, but I will at a later date. I feel that baiting should be banned completely statewide, along with using supplements and mineral blocks. Also, scents coming from game farms for attractants should be regulated and certified that they are CWD-free. Thank you and keep up the great work.

With the current tagging/registration system we need to take into account the larger number of deer taken illegally. There are a number of people not buy licenses or using their tag multiple times. With the expanded use of xbows, many more people are shooting deer for others to tag. This has to be considered when estimating deer numbers.

A big concern is about the number of young bucks that are shot during the youth hunt. I know that many are killed during that hunt, but no one seems to talk about that. Also, the young or first time hunters get an antlerless tag that are very often used by they’re parents or older, experienced hunters which should be addressed.

I am grateful that deer baiting is still legal. Our hunting group is careful to follow the rules and regulations and certainly hope that others are as well so we can hang on to this privilege as long as possible. I understand there are mixed viewpoints on this. Taylor County is a great place to hunt and enjoy the outdoors!

One main concern I have with the overall deer numbers in this area is predation. I witnessed two large wolves chasing a buck this past fall on my property and worry the increase in antlerless tags may not be taking into account wolf kill. With that being said the deer herd does appear to be healthy otherwise but worth noting.

Our family owns 700 acres. Our deer sightings were down significantly. Crop damage was nonexistent. We rent to cash crop farmers and the poor yields were to late planting, wet year, Poor practices. Predators are a major issue. Bobcat numbers are way more than stated. Coyote, Bear, fisher etc. High numbers.

It says that the objective for Taylor county is to increase the population. Your antler less permits for 2019 was 2100. Your proposed antler less quota for 2020 is 2800. How is killing 700 more antler less deer going to increase the population. There should be a decrease in antler less permits for 2020.

I just do not believe the deer herd in public forests are healthy enough to give out that amount of doe tags. It has been slowly getting getting better over the past 5-6 years, but I believe is still fragile with so much that hinders it’s growth including predators and high hunting pressure.

Stop messing with my family's ability to hunt with crossbow. I have 2 young sons and a girlfriend who's only way to deer hunt is really the crossbow. I cant help that other guys don't work hard enough to get their deer. I work hard and it pays off crossbow or no crossbow.

Way to many doe tags for this unit. Not seeing the deer even close to many years past. Private land owners are given all these tags the population on public land will never return. I guess forget about management and shoot them up or the wolves will get them. Not happy with the efforts.

The deer population is acceptable on both private and public land there should not be a choice a person has to make to hunt one or the other by doing this there are less group hunting parties so fewer deer are being push so less deer are being harvested just my opinion thanks for time.

The last three years the amount of people in the forest hunting is almost non-existent. It is becoming very hard to actually see any deer let alone get a good shot at one. Having an antlerless tag is helpful so that you don’t have to worry so much about accidentally killing a doe.

Our federal forest in Taylor county is in very poor condition. We must improve the habitat for our deer, grouse, woodcock and all wildlife. I suggest, instead of increasing the quota to support the poor conditions, in Chequamegon, we improve the habitat to the wildlife.
Too many deer, but too many does and not enough mature bucks. Please don't let people tell you there's not enough deer because they had a tough year last year. Also, crossbows and shack hunting have completely changed the game, arguably ruining the sport of bow hunting.

I believe antlerless deer should only be allowed to be harvested by our youth pulling the triggers or letting one fly. This seems to be a solid idea (to me) to continue interest in deer hunting in Wisconsin. Our younger generations are the future of this sport.

By far the lowest deer populations in Taylor County Forests I have seen in 35 years of hunting there. If it continues on at the present level, I won't hunt anymore. Very very poor in 19 and it has been continuously getting worse over the last 5 years or so.

The new trapping regulations make it much more difficult to trap predators, which ultimately hurts the deer population. Trapping and hunting of predators should be encouraged and done at a higher rate, in order to preserve the hurting deer population.

I would like wisconsin to go to a managed buck hunt. It would be to hard for most people to know age of deer. So do like a buck must have 4 point on one side to harvest. This would get more people to see matre deer and better deer health

I believe deer management for Taylor County has been handled well over the past few years. They seem to take everyone's input and come up with a viable plan.

It's time to get larger bucks roaming the woods again. Baiting needs to end and a 4 point per side or bigger only. Out of state licenses are way to cheap. I feel Wisconsin is way behind on management of the whitetail deer.

With the low antlerless deer killed in 2019 I thought there might have been another late antlerless season or weekend called to reduce the herd. Maybe this would be something to consider if we have a repeat of last year?

Last years april snowstorm killed many fawns. This year we have zero loss. We need to be aggressive with antlerless harvest. There are many parts of the county with extremely high deer numbers especially on private land.

I believe the public land quota to be 50 percent too high. Another year is needed to rebound the number of deer on public land.. The numbers are coming back, slowly. Keep up the good work and thank you for what you do.

For the last 32 years I’ve seen all the locals with private land do deer drives through the public lands to harvest the animals that the DNR gives them tags for. Most private lands are off limits for hunting.

Taylor County south of Hy-way 64 should be combined with Clark County Farmland and Marathon County Farmland units because these areas are mostly farmland and have an abundance of deer causing Ag damage.

I believe the extended crossbow season has negatively effected the 9 day gun season. Eliminate the crossbow season 2 weeks before the 9 day gun season and have it resume after the muzzle loader season.

The number of predators needs to be reduced. There were more wolf and bobcat issues this year than I've ever seen before. Nobody wants these nuisance animals around! Also, WAY too many bears!

The new way of registration raises concern that deer are not being reported harvested in the national forest public land. The amount of party hunting of large groups seems to have increased.

In my area where my family hunts the buck to doe ratio is way out of line, would like to see the earn a buck program introduced simply because we see on average 10 to 15 does for every buck.

Quit worrying about the money you will receive from all the license and think about the NO deer population. Not sure how deer will effect tree growth when there is no dam deer.

We need to come up with a better plan for managing the bear numbers on private land. We have too many bear and not enough tags. This does have an effect on the deer herd.
There were a lot of deer found dead. We had corn field not harvested until this spring. I know we have a lot of coyotes so I don’t know if that was the problem or the corn.

What ever became of the archery option of harvesting a doe or buck state wide, one animal only, rather than having a antlerless permit to do so In the specific unit?

The 2019 anterless tags sold out for public land in approx 1 hour. The private land tags were available much longer and had a much higher quota. Something is not right!

The number of deer being harvested and being seen in general by us has declined drastically. Wolves have been reintroduced and the tick population is out of control.

I didn’t see alive deer. Only hunted opening weekend. Am I going to get my sportsman license money back since it seems I can’t fish. Maybe not even be able to hunt.

I see more antlerless dear than anything I haven’t seen the heard where I hunt this strong in over 5 years. All the Antlered deer I see are 3.5 and less in Age

Need to address illegal baiting and poaching in Taylor county. Also people are harvesting deer and not registering them properly with the new tagging system.

If we are serious about raising the deer population we need to cut down the number of antlerless permits. I would make an exception for junior/youth hunters.

Like to see antlerless permits available to non resident senior citizens. As seniors age, we become less mobile and it is more difficult to harvest a deer.

Deer numbers on public land still have not recovered and need a no quota this year. Also winter mortality was observed in the forest areas.

I have seen an increase in wolf population. I have seen fewer fawns as the previous years. It seems to become less and less by the years.

Need to get rid of more bears. They dominate my cameras. Also, too many wolves. When they come around, I might as well go hunt elsewhere.

How can you increase the herd and increase the anterless? Private land owners need to only harvest anterless from their private land !

there is a large diference of doe numbers between north and south taylor county. our council members are wrong on their estimates

We need to delist the wolves & reduce there #s there are 2 many black bears & bobcat in this unit please issue more tags

The wolf population is very strong in Taylor County. They followed my brother in-law into our stands on opening morning.

BRING BACK THE BACK TAGS AND THE INPERSON REGISTRATION, BY NOT HAVING IT IT HAS HURT A LOT OF SMALL OWNERSIN THAT AREA.

I hunted my property 4 weekends during the crossbow season on various stands...saw 2 deer all year. Wow. shocking

Available antlerless harvest tags should be increased. Some hunters never see any bucks during hunting season.

Do not prohibit baiting for bow hunting per current regulations unless CWD becomes prevalent in Taylor County.

Cut off rifle range 2-3 weeks before hunting season. We hunt near it and it spooks the deer population.

We need backtags/deer tags on deer when harvested. Too much outlawing and no backtag numbers to record.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9252</td>
<td>Make sure youth tags are valid to kill antler and antler-less deer. Need to lower number of wolves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9253</td>
<td>I hunted for 2 years with my daughter gun season and Muzzleloader and we have NOT seen a Deer yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9254</td>
<td>Too many predators! More bears on my camera than ever before and lots of cat and wolf tracks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9255</td>
<td>There are too many wolves and coyotes killing the deer. DNR should open season on them!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9256</td>
<td>I think they need to look at antler restrictions on bucks wood like to see nicer bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9257</td>
<td>I believe the winter kill of 2018 on public land was much worse then the DNR thought.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9258</td>
<td>The crop damage is very bad, with so many deer in the same area disease will spread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9259</td>
<td>How about hunting riffle one week earlier??? Deer are in rut for riffle hunters???</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9260</td>
<td>I would like to see free licenses and free hunters choice for people over age 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9261</td>
<td>Cut the antlerless tags on the public land. Deer numbers are not there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9262</td>
<td>Would like to see deer when hunting in prime territory for hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9263</td>
<td>Forest zone has very little deer. Should be 0 antlerless tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9264</td>
<td>No changes should be made! Deer numbers are low in my county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9265</td>
<td>I think the deer gun opener should be 10 days earlier,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9266</td>
<td>I think the amount of wolves is very under estimated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9267</td>
<td>Your just going to do what you want anyway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9268</td>
<td>extending gun season another 6 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9269</td>
<td>Thank you for your efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9270</td>
<td>Too many wolves and bears.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9271</td>
<td>Way to many deer out there</td>
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<tr>
<td>9272</td>
<td>15 day gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9273</td>
<td>Kill the wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9274</td>
<td>Lots of bears!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trempealeau, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

470 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 214
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 87
   - I hunt in this unit: 441
   - General interest in this unit: 75

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 413
   - Bow: 268
   - Crossbow: 164
   - Muzzleloader: 196

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.01
   - Maximum: 66

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 340
   - Mostly Private Land: 54
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 24
   - Mostly Public Land: 10
   - Exclusively Public Land: 11
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 10
   - Not too crowded: 31
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 17
   - Somewhat crowded: 16
   - Very crowded: 14
   - Not applicable: 11

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 60
   - Fewer: 128
   - Same: 202
   - More: 49
   - Many More: 22
   - Unsure: 9

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>114</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<td>289</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
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<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?  
Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very  
Average Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated:  Friday, May 01, 2020  
Trempealeau, Central Farmland
Last year was very off for many people across the state including trempealeau co. We did see many deer during bow season, and gun the deer shut down as usual and you have to work harder for them. Last year was even more work. The state suggested we had record high numbers of deer and in turn we had a horrible number of deer killed during the season. We did okay, and as usual take more deer with the bow than with the gun, but the gun season was slower than normal. I get the crops being up and the late season and the weather but thats all besides the point if there are record numbers. Increasing the numbers of the kill quota i think would have to be in point for NEXT year not this upcoming 2020 season. This year i believe is the year to prove the so called "record number deer herd" if last season was the crops, weather and timing to blame. This year i believe if the crops are down and the weather is better and the earlier start to the rifle season, then something has to show that last year was just a fluke. We know that there are PLENTY of deer around our property and i believe our numbers are higher than the average showed in the video. Still, something about the 2019 season was different. If we the hunters want to raise numbers, get rid of the antlerless hunt and the holiday hunt. both of these are right after does are impregnated then killing potentially that doe and 1-2 could be fawns of the spring. Nothing has to be done to kill more deer, the numbers will rise again especially as i stated before, with the very very low numbers last year. In theory that means this year should be off the charts with the amount of deer seen and even killed. The biggest thing for most hunters is getting an opportunity to harvest one. This year needs to be seen as redemption of last year to prove that it was just a fluke with the low numbers. If the numbers trend to last years par, then maybe next year we look into some lower harvest numbers to let the herd rise. The answer right now i believe is to keep things the same as last year besides getting rid of the late antlerless seasons entirely.

I have been a bow, Gun, and muzzleloader hunter for 28 years. I love to go to the woods, and hunt/watch the deer. But to be blunt. The deer heard was severely in decline since the unlimited anterless tags from about 10 yrs ago,and the deer never recovered. I totally understand why the younger kids and older adults don’t want to hunt any more. First off is the cost, it’s no longer fun to sit in the woods and not see a deer all day. I drive around in the off seasons like January and February on back roads to look for deer in the fields. There not there. Insurance companies paid big money to decline the population. That’s a proven fact. The introduction of wolfs was a huge mistake if the DNR wants to make money from Deer hunters. No deer= no deer hunters as the DNR is well aware of by now. I’d personally like to see the wolf’s gone and deer seasons closed for 3yrs, then the hunters would come and buy tags. Last year I saw 5 deer all gun season may have been the same couple of deer over and over was out from sun up to dark all but 1 day. I don’t for a minute buy the “crop” damage claims it’s just a form of revenue for the farmers trying to make it. Which the farms are disappearing, houses are moving in and deer have declined. Furthermore CWD has been out west for more than 70 yrs. This whole deer herd #s by the computer is a joke. Get outa the office in Jan and February and drive around and let’s not say for every deer you see there 80 more. If it wasn’t for good conservation wi wouldn’t have deer or turkeys. Sportsman have paid for them to be stocked at on point in time. And now the DNR wants them dead, but also complains about loss of revenue. Sorta sad it’s all about the almighty dollar.
Overall, I think that having an antlerless only hunt for all seasons this year will not prove helpful. There are many people, that already have a problem harvesting good quality adult does and numbers will be down across the board on this issue if only doe season is enforced. While my family, harvest typically 2-3 deer a year to use for meat-eating purposes, we always strive to harvest mature deer. Not only does my family always harvest more does than bucks each year, but last year's numbers show that there has been an increase in doe harvest compared to bucks across the country. However, I do think a holiday hunt would prove beneficial to provide opportunities for solid doe harvest to occur. While this was not something that was addressed in this survey of information, I do think this next issue I bring up is worth bringing up. Since we have not had CWD positive tests from 2002 to present, with very decent testing numbers conducted, I think that baiting bans should be lessened. The restriction on no baiting as opposed to limiting the number of pounds and how one can bait should be changed. Allowing 2 gallons or less should be considered and obviously, using feeding devices (like self-feeders, etc) shouldn't be allowed, but allowing some baiting aside from any food provided by food plots and crops, should be back into play for a regulation. The baiting seemed to be a concern in relation to CWD (forgive me if this is a misconception), but with us not having this be a prevalent problem for well over a decade and still being heavily monitored, clearly the efforts being done are working. Baiting clearly is not the issue in relation to this topic.

I would like to see the archery season extended if the holiday hunt takes place. Late season archery hunting is a great way to harvest deer as they return to feeding patterns. Having the holiday hunt cuts into the time that the archery hunters have to harvest deer as they as they are in the feeding pattern. Yes, archery season is the longest season, however the first month of the season when the deer are on the initial heavy food pattern it can be hot and hard for hunters to process the deer once they harvest them so they don't do it then. Secondarily I feel that all of the county CDAC boards throughout the state need to come together and make a proposal to the WDNR to bring back Registration Stations. This tool will allow the CDAC Boards to have more options for heard management. For example, a new tag structure could be implemented where every hunter gets a buck tag and X number of doe tags. That buck tag could be used for Gun Hunting or Archery Hunting. The hunter would then have the option of shooting the designated number of does to earn a 2nd buck tag that could be used during either season. The biggest asset to this type of tag structure is that it promotes the harvest of does for hunters who want to get two bucks each season. That will help draw down the herd numbers. This also allows out of state hunters and hunters who hunt at outfitters the option to hunt that buck of a lifetime. This wouldn't have to be an every year deal but it would be a tool that the CDAC boards could use.

The way the hunter has to select if the are hunting public or private land at the time of purchase is not good. It needs to be put back to the old way. For which After the kill and During registration you tell if it was harvested on type of land. Your tag should be good for either. EXAMPLE A hunter has had permission to hunt the same property for 14 years now, they just sold it. The hunter has to find a different place to hunt now. They can't find any private owner that will give them permission so they go to some public. Little did they know that they can do that but only to harvest a buck not a doe. Those antlerless tags are only good for the private land they selected at the time of purchase. All the bonus tags have been purchased in that area. So now you have a resident of the state with a valid license but no way to really use it. The state probably doesn't care at the time cause they got the money for the license already but what about the years to come? This hunters probably not going to hunt or even purchase a license in this state next time. This should be fixed not fair to the person that doesn't or can't afford to own there own property. I went through it, luckily I didn't see a doe for I would have been in big trouble. Not knowing that I was in violation of any laws. Lots of people are unaware of this.
I strongly oppose the holiday hunt and urge the CDAC to reconsider. In general, the holiday hunt in other counties results in very few antlerless deer being harvested and is an ineffective tool if the goal of offering the hunt is to increase antlerless harvest. The vast majority of antlerless harvest occurs during the archery and 9-day gun season. Many of the complaints voiced regarding WI’s deer hunting pastime revolve around there being too many extra seasons and the lack of consistency from year to year. Thus, offering the holiday hunt as an extra hunting opportunity is only favored by a few select hunters, while most hunters likely oppose the season. Overall, there is very little value to the Holiday hunt. Offering 2 farmland zone tags and twice as many bonus tags than were sold in 2019 will result in the maximum possible antlerless harvest that this counties hunters and landowners are willing to see. The Holilday hunt does not effectively increase antlerless harvest in itself. However, if the holiday hunt is recommended, I would ask the CDAC also extend the late archery season to minimize conflict between archery and gun hunters and the CDAC members which the Holiday hunt proposal will do. Thank you for your time and effort on the CDAC.

I have hunted on private land in Trempealeau county for over 20 years and over the past decade have seen a steady decline in deer activity to the point where it has become a difficult choice to harvest a deer because the population seems so low. On 120 acres of quality land with 5-8 people hunting, there are many days where no deer are seen by any hunter, or combined we see 3-5 deer. The most alarming trend is that we see very few does...there not only seems to be a reduced overall population, but also a skewed population ratio. With there no longer being a requirement for in person registration, I’m concerned there are more deer being taken and not registered, thereby underestimating the total deer kill over the past few years. In my opinion, we need to have a population increase goal in the county vs a maintain goal and antlerless tags need to be reduced to one per hunter for the year. If a bow and gun tag are purchased, only one antlerless tag should be issued between the two. Hopefully a small benefit of COVID is that for these few months we see a smaller than average deer mortality through vehicular collisions than we would see in a normal year.

Though I checked the box stating I saw "far fewer deer" last season, that was specific to the 9-day gun season. Weather made deer movement very slow after opening weekend. As for the area I hunt, south-central Trempealeau County, I think the population is near where it should be. There are ample deer, and plenty of opportunities to harvest deer. I would prefer to see more antlerless deer harvested in the county to make sure the population stays in check, since current deer browse does have a negative impact on forest regeneration (try planting some hardwoods and see how many don't end up eaten). However, there needs to be a balance; if the population falls too much we will be back to having a large number of dissatisfied hunters who don't see enough deer. I also like the two antlerless tags with each license. Those who want to help control the deer population in their area have the opportunity to do so. I don't get the reluctance to offer additional tags for public land. Why not? If the belief is antlerless deer need to be harvested to keep the population in check, why make it harder for those who hunt public land?

I realize the deer numbers vary from location to location in Trempealeau County but I have not seen the numbers of deer in my area of Northern Trempealeau County. I would like to see only 1 antlerless tag issued per hunter and 1 buck tag hunter for a year or 2. I know that wont happen but it would be nice to see. I love bowhunting and gun hunting as much as ever and if I shot a buck with my bow I would still have an antlerless tag left and vice/versa, shoot a antlerless with the bow I still have a buck tag left. Just my thoughts, I would like to see more deer around like I did when I was a kid. I would also like to have the State statutes changed so that the gun deer season would start on November 15th and run through November 30th, a 16 day season so gun hunters get a chance to hunt the rut or a part of the rut. Right now only the bowhunters get to do that(and I bowhunt)Thanks for listening.
During the past 5 years of my bow hunts, I have seen slightly more bucks than does. I do NOT believe there is a valid reason to hold a holiday hunt. I see the buck:doe ratio to be excellent, and don’t see why things should be changed. I enjoy hunting late season if I do not fill my bow buck tag, and know many other Trempealeau County hunters which do the same. Not having the opportunity to late season bow hunt for a buck during this time frame would be quite ridiculous. I myself am a gun hunter, and we have ample opportunity to harvest a doe during the 9-day gun season and muzzleloader season. Holding a holiday hunt only hurts bow hunters, and provides no real advantage to gun hunters. The cons strongly outweigh any benefits. Additionally, I know how many deer get poached and numbers are not reflected in these antlerless, or antlered harvest numbers. Please do not hold a holiday hunt!!

We need to work with landowners to open up private lands for hunting maybe by paying the landowner. I see a lot of deer on private land but the owner may have harvested their deer on opening day, after that the deer know where to go that there is no hunting pressure. On opening day last year I had to leave because of a family emergency and got out on the road and counted over 50 deer on the east side of Hwy. W by the Taylor sand mine at 10 a.m. on opening day. They don’t allow any hunting so the deer know where there is no pressure. The same holds true as our neighbor has over 400 acres that he hunts by himself and he shot a deer opening day. He didn't hunt after that and we hardly saw any deer for the remainder of the gun season on our property but saw lots over on his. All the privatization of the land is hurting the hunt as no one makes drives anymore so no deer are moving!

This past year I put a trail camera out near the border between my land and public land the beginning of October, and left it out until all deer seasons were finished. I had numerous pictures of at least 12 different bucks, with a majority being after dark. The first picture of a doe didn't occur until about the middle of November, and only ended up with 3-4 doe pictures total. Other than a couple of the neighbors and myself, the public land was virtually not pressured at all. I saw 2 gun hunters one day. There was virtually no shooting even on opening day. For bowhunting I had 0 shot opportunities. Gun hunting I saw 2 deer, but not a quality shot, so I passed. I took an extensive walk on a fresh snow day, and a majority of the sign I saw was coyote. For reference, I own 100 acres, and between neighbors and public (Federal and State) there are 2000+ bottom land acres.

It’s vitally important that we continue to increase hunting opportunities for new generations! Proposals during this year’s Conservation Congress spring meetings which pit archery or crossbow hunters versus gun hunters serve no purpose other than to discourage new hunters from hunting. Especially when harvest numbers show that expanded seasons (i.e. crossbow or muzzleloader) have little effect on the total number of deer harvested per year. Crossbow wounding losses are much lower than archery otherwise a crossbow has little advantage over archery and little effect on buck harvest as most hunters now practice quality deer management on private land. On average Wisconsin deer hunters harvest 1.1 deer per season regardless of the weapon type or season length. Reduced opportunities only discourage participation which will lead to fewer hunter numbers.

I feel that deer registration numbers and licenses sold come down to the next generation way of thinking hunt should be. The true hunters in this state wont care how much the license cost or what the weather is like during the hunt. It’s in their blood to get the rush to wait for the perfect buck to harvest. I know several ex hunters that wont go hunting because they say they never see a deer. But that is because they are only sitting for a few hours during opening day. I’m a strong believer in you get what you put into the hunt. Time and effort goes along way. I feel that the out of state license cost in Wisconsin is very low compared to when I want to go out to another state and hunt. Our out of state license cost should be the same cost of that states for out of state license that the hunter is coming from. Fair is fair.
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Reduce the number of AG Tags that are passed out. Giving 20 tags (by example) to a crop farmer with only 25 acres of woods is senseless. Additionally, I find dead ANTLERED deer in my woods not from predation or starvation, but from bullet holes and I am not talking about during the normal gun/bow hunting seasons. Some of the farmers being issued these tags won't be happy till there are NO deer at all. They have no concern about wildlife, but are motivated only by greed. I work hard to foster a healthy forestland to provide the natural vegetation to support not only deer, but all wildlife. That's money that comes out of my pocket. If I can afford it, the farmers can too. It's time to tell some of them to "GET OVER IT" and face the reality that SOME crop damage is just the natural way of things and a part of doing business.

Deer numbers where I hunt in the southern portion of Trempealeau County seem about right. During the 2020 season, the biggest negative impact on harvest was the weather during the gun season. The deep heavy snow significantly reduced deer sightings. During bow season the deer numbers were good. I support a continuation of offering 2 additional tags with each license. Deer density in the county varies depending on where you happen to hunt. Those who feel more doe need to be harvested in their area will have the opportunity to do so. Those who feel deer numbers in their area are too low can choose to pass on additional doe harvests. It's far better to allow landowners to choose how to manage deer on their property than reimpose the nanny state "solution" of Earn a Buck.

I think the quota should be reduced for 2020. Also, I do not think a holiday season would bring value. Many farms are switching to CRP programs which will have a ripple effect on the deer herd. The number of deer have lessened considerably since the early 2000's. It would be nice if we are going to consider all of these programs it wouldn't hurt to consider eliminating the youth gun hunt and have a regular gun season. It would be nice to reduce the season of crossbows to just before gun season but not thereafter. Also, we could pose restrictions on shooting small bucks making the bucks harvested needing five points on one side or more. If a person were to fill their tag with archery then they would not be able to shoot a buck in gun season or visa versa to be selective.

I have no private land of my own. I hunt primarily public land. I love and enjoy hunting. It provides meat throughout the year for my family. I felt the reduction of bonus tags to zero on public land was unfair. I have seen deer where I hunt. I understand deer management. I practice deer management when I hunt. I do not take a: "if it's brown, it's down" approach to hunting. I would like to see an additional bonus tag available to public land. I known there were fewer number of deer harvested this past gun season and a relatively mild winter. This should allow the deer population to grow for the 2020 season. Please consider adding at least one bonus tag for public land. Maybe take one from private land and add it to public. See....it's all even now.....lol.

Although I agree with most of the recommendations, the DNR should consider better control of the deer damage permits that some farmers are using. Several contacts have been made to farmers that receive these permits and they are using for their own benefit. We were told from several farmers that they would let us make some drives for them, that they practiced quality deer management(limited the amount of does we could shoot, relayed to us that they were saving for their friends or relatives, and several other excuses for not letting us hunt. The DNR should have better control of issuing these permits and the exercising of others to assist in harvesting deer populations where farmers are obtaining damage permits. This has been going on for too many years.

I would oppose an antlerless only hunt for Trempealeau county as I believe it would reduce the number of hunters/licenses. Would an earn-a-buck season help toward increasing the number of antlerless deer harvested? As that is what it seems the antlerless only season is trying to accomplish but not quite as drastic as not allowing any bucks to be taken. Hunting the antlerless only late gun season in Trempealeau county, I personally witnessed excessive amounts of antlerless deer and could have easily filled several more tags with no noticeable harm to the deer population. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of hunters that I witnessed or knew of hunting this late season, therefore probably not a lot of antlerless deer were taken during this time period.
There are other hunting seasons during the course of the fall and winter that are being hurt by the extremely long deer seasons. All forms of hunting with dogs for example. If a dog hunters dog would get out to far from the hunter chances are his dog will be shot by a deer hunter, so during deer hunting seasons many dog hunters will not hunt, squirrel hunting, coon hunting, coyote hunting, bird hunting exedra. They have just as much right to hunt as the deer hunters. Lengthening the deer season just lets the deer hunters procrastinate longer to harvest their deer, go back to the same gun hunting format that was used for years, 9 days and that’s what you have to kill your deer. Hunters would see a significantly larger amount of deer movement.

I live and hunt on the southern edge of Trempealeau county. the deer population has been way down for the last 4 years or so. I live out in the country by the state park and down the road is the wildlife refuge. we use to see the every day. Now I am luck if I see any in a week time. I hunt on the neighbors land and we have a rule that does are not to be shot. The neighbors hunting party (around 6 people) use to get around four deer a year. last year they weren’t able to get any. Two years ago they shot one. My son and I have not shot a deer around our home in five years. The deer we have shot have all been up Buffalo county. I am sure that north of here there is plenty of deer, but not on the southern edge of Trempealeau county.

If individuals are worried about having a fair chance to harvest a mature buck, why do we still have the youth hunt in October and not eliminate that and go back to having our children hunt with us during the regular season? For years now, all the decent bucks that are on my property get taken out by youth hunters with a gun in October and after that everything goes nocturnal. I do believe that it is important to get kids involved in the sport just as I want to do with my daughter, but when you make it to easy for them to get a nice buck it takes the challenge out of what hunting is. That is the reason you are seeing many of the younger generations not sticking with the sport. We made it to easy and took the fun out of it.

I personally think the deer population has been maintained by the DNR great. I have issue with the amount of ag damage caused by deer in the past years. Last year was a thin year in this county due to standing corn and weather, both out of DNR control. This may not have the case county wide but was a significant factor in my area. I understand that nothing can be done about that but I do purpose that a more precise herd count be attempted to determine the limits needed to control growth in specific areas where farmland, topography, and environment are factors of growth. With the help of locals, that count could be narrowed to a more precise number therefore allowing for increased or decreased tag availability.

This unit has too many deer, especially does. Everything should be done to encourage the longest seasons with as many weapons as possible to try and reduce the deer herd, again especially the doe population. Large populations over browse and hurt forest lands and lead to an increase in CWD. I would also encourage the CDAC to do EVERYTHING you can to stop the spread of CWD. Wisconsin has done a horrible job of managing CWD in the last 10 years and it will not be long before 50% of the bucks in Tremp County have CWD - just like the counties of Iowa and Dane. If the DNR thinks hunting licenses are down now - see what happens when every other buck you shoot has CWD.

I would oppose an Antlerless Deer Season! I and my partners invest thousands of dollars each year to hunt our land. We invested thousands of dollars in our property to hunt Mature Antlered Bucks! We spend money with Hardware Stores, Grocer's, Implement Dealers, Excavators, Restaurants, Feed Mills etc. We manage the populations of our properties based on what we actually see through the use of Trailcams, Time Spent on the property and in the Woods Hunting. We harvest mature animals and set quotas for Antlerless Harvest. If you decide to do an Antlerless Season my partners our sons and daughters will NOT hunt this year! We will also consider the sale of our property!
I'm glad we have the holiday hunt. We've been failing to hit the quota for several years in this county. Deer numbers are way too high in my opinion. The only way to increase the harvest is to extend hunting opportunities for hunters to fill tags. Archery season is normally open throughout the month of December anyway, so I'm not buying the argument that “the deer need a break” from hunting pressure. If they really needed a break, we could eliminate archery hunting after the 4 day antlerless Hunt! Not everyone bow hunts and gun hunters should have plenty of opportunities to fill antlerless tags if they want. Lord knows the deer are out there to harvest.

I own 200 acres, and hunt on a total of 560 acres of private land near Arcadia. My area seems to have an over population of doe. My group has harvested a declining number of trophy bucks over the past 10 years or so. We practice QDM, and do harvest a number of doe each season. However, there are many people who own or hunt on private land that are not interested in taking anything less than a trophy buck. I believe this is leading to an over population of the herd. I personally would welcome an "earn a buck" type program. Especially if you could get credit from a previous year, or be able to use a bow harvested doe towards your gun buck.

My property is in the northern part of the county and our deer population is nowhere near as high as the southern part. Many of my neighbors along with myself have turned to harvesting 1 1/2 yr old bucks for eating purposes. We have done this because we have had very poor doe/fawn numbers for many years. We have built our population up slightly, buck age is actually increasing. Trempealeau county should seriously be managed in a north of HWY 121 and south of HWY 121. it's very frustrating having to go by the rules and reg for the old unit 61 and now the whole county when it is completely different deer densities. Thank you.

This winter was over-all much more mild than the previous year, which definitely seemed to help increase the deer population. We have also had a mild spring and I would guess will have a vast increase in the deer population for the 2020 hunting season. In addition, traffic is and will be down Significantly from what it usually is due to the Covid-19 "Safer at Home" orders, so deer being hit by cars will undoubtedly also be much lower than usual. To keep the population down and the deer healthy, we need to take many things into consideration when creating the rules and regulations for this year.

The only reason I truly enjoy hunting anymore is to go hunting with my soon to be 13 year old daughter. She sat with me since she was 8 years old, mostly bow hunting, but fell in love with it. She couldn't wait until she was 10 years of age to be able to do the mentor hunt. We've done the rifle and crossbow mentor hunts. She loves crossbow hunting. To hooch a youngster is the most important goal to keep the sport alive. Hoping nothing changes season for seasons. We are involved in extra curricular activities so we need a the time we can get to sit and enjoy the fall crossbow season.

I waited for years to make a hunting trip to the famous Buffalo/Treampuleau County area. I hunted the NWR which extends into Buffalo county. I contacted the biologist from the video to inquire about I was to see so few deer it should be a high deer density area, as this report indicated. On the public land I hunted it was sad. I saw on hunter harvest a tiny yearling. I suggest that no does be harvested on the NWR. Furthermore, antler restrictions are needed for this area as well. My buddies who traveled with me hunting the state park and report there observation and sugestions.

The deer population seemed much lower than it has in the past few years. I bow hunt and gun hunt, so I spent a great amount of time in the woods. Though I did see some deer while bow hunting, I saw very few during the gun season. During the gun season, I was in the woods 7 of the nine days, and this was by far the worst gun season I have ever experienced. I'm not sure if it was the weather or a great amount of standing corn around me, but I didn't see many deer and I'm not convinced that the deer population that is estimated is accurate.
I believe that if there was more land to hunt and more public land around the area more deer would get harvested. Letting these people into our county from other counties to buy land just to hunt on is hurting the population. They hunt one buck per 400 acres and go back home. The does know this and they stay there the rest of the season. I think there should be a survey that reflects this. Ask how many hunters hunt the land. What seasons, how much land they hunt and if they are from the area. Also leased land or private land.

Why have a holiday hunt that 95% of Trempealeau County hunters oppose? There’s already 23-25 days of firearm hunting without a holiday hunt, if people don’t fill doe tags in that amount of time it’s not for the lack of opportunity, it’s because they choose not to fill them. I also feel with the current situation in the economy and current meat shortages going on, many more tags will be filled this year than normal and that could make a drastic change on the population, especially considering we are supposed to ‘maintain’.

I have heard of and read about many discussions on extending the 9 day gun season in order to increase kill count. When I first started hunting we were only allowed to shoot antlerless deer on the first two days of the 9 day gun season or with a bonus tag. This created a sense of urgency and I believe many people filled tags when the first opportunity was presented. Lately it seems that there are so many extra seasons that the urgency to fill tags is no longer present. Just a personal observation that I wanted to share.

I’ve hunted the same piece of property my entire life. 2018 I seen 1 deer, 2019 I seen like 3. I remember many years in the past where it was nothing to see 5 or more a day. Our neighbors and us do not over hunt our property, we all for the most part just take one or two to eat. We only have 2-4 people hunt the 600 or so acres of our farm so we are for sure not seeing what we should be. I don’t know if it’s caused by over hunting, cars or predators but I hate that there may not be enough deer for future generations.

Regarding potential CWD testing, I believe testing compliance rates would increase if the DNR didn’t turn it into a data mining expedition for the hunter and the landowner info. Especially in light of the public records. Since deer are managed at the county level, it would seem kill locations wouldn’t be needed at an ultra fine scale requiring landowner ID. Hunter’s can be identified by tag number and all personal info related to kill or hunting area should be kept out of the open record.

All deer seasons should never go beyond Dec 25. And I would like to see all hunting seasons end even before that. Some bucks start shedding antlers in December and that makes a buck then "antler less". There is simply beyond ample time to get your deer without these extensions. Also the sport is diminished in late season as deer focus on food sources to survive in the grip of winter. The deer command a break from hunting pressure once winter sets its grips on them in December.

I’m sick of hunters only killing bucks and no does. Hunting is a sport to put meet in the freezer and not a pair of horns on the wall. I feel like there should be a earn a buck again. I saw fewer deer this whole entire 9 day hunt than I saw any single day in the last 4 years. Other members in my party never even saw a deer whether that’s my a-hole neighbors doings or not I’m not sure. I also believe you should not be able to shoot a fawn but that’s a whole other argument...

on 200 acres of land available (Private) only saw 8 deer from August 2019 to present April 2020 farm is row crops corn soybeans small grains alfalfa 32 acres woods spring fed creek runs thru property neighbors flying Drones affects herd gathering in fall / hunting season if one was to change hunting season go 12 day extra "work" days Monday-Wednesday so when others go back to work, I who work the weekends and holiday would get a chance when deer settle down.

Every year after I started hunting, deer numbers you see are less, every one knows this. It’s a very kid managed program, and you just want to keep adding more seasons, for more money. There are very few hunters that hunt after muzzle loader, but let’s add a longer season. It’s just getting to be a bigger waste to go out when young hunters don’t see a deer all day. Insurance companies have a large influence on the management of deer hunting.
The DNR should stop trying to limit crossbow use. They always have long, misleading, and biased questions trying to restrict their use. It is the only segment of deer hunting that is actually growing and the proposals every year attacking crossbow use needs to stop. We voted it down so the next year they come out with new proposals against them. They need to stop pitting one hunting segment against each other. We are much stronger united.

Having the Holliday hunt would be an awful idea. There are already numerous rifle opportunities. This would also take away from harvesting a buck with archery equipment late season. I hunt large acres of private farmland and rarely see does. If the goal is to maintain it also does not make any sense to add an additional season for harvest of does. It will also impact the snowmobile trails if we receive enough snow.

If you would prescribe fire you might see better white oak regeneration. In any of the managed forests, I'm aware of I've never seen this management technique implemented. However I do know this technique is rather taboo with some land owners. I would love to see you elaborate on this aspect of your presentation next year or provide a brief explanation as to your thinking on factors effecting regeneration.

Public land hunting in Trempealeau County should be done on a party permit basis. Four hunters apply for one permit. This would allow the taking of some does but hopefully would increase the herd which has been decimated. The way it stands now each hunter hunting public land gets multiple doe tags without having any bonus tags. Something needs to be done to address this problem.

I don't think you should be able to use a crossbow unless you are over 65 years old or disabled, I don't like the youth hunt dates, they should start the deer hunting season off (like turkey hunting) and be the first hunters in the woods in September. I also don't like that there is no age restriction to hunt, I don't feel kids are mature enough until they are at least 12 years old.

Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Opposed to limiting the buck harvest to one per hunter. The individual hunter should be allowed to make the decision on whether or not to harvest a whitetail buck. The pressure in hunting circles to harvest record book animals is unfair to hunters, taking the satisfaction of the hunt away from those who do not have access to large tracts of hunting land.
I would like to see more doe harvested on private land. I think 2 doe tags with each license (archery and gun) is a good idea. However, the 2nd buck harvest ONLY should be an earn-a-buck situation. We should have a doe only season in December to encourage more doe harvests. Do Not shorten archery season. Keep gun season the same 9 days.

Earn a buck is bad news. Don’t really care what the dnr decides for seasons, etc but do not bring back earn a buck. You will lose me as a hunter. After several seasons of earn a buck in buffalo county on my uncles 200 acre farm it whipped out the deer. After earn a buck was canceled it took him and his 3 boys over 3 years before they saw a deer.

even a consideration of having a antlerless only hunt for the 2020 season is absurd. It will lessen hunter numbers, lessen license fees and lessen overall deer kill, lessen antlerless kill and people will simply hunt elsewhere (other states) or not deer in this zone. Which if this happens then more habitat and crops will be destroyed.

If this unit has a holiday hunt, is this along with the Dec. 4 day antlerless hunt or will it be one or the other? I would be against having both. With some units being over goal, why don’t we go back to earn a buck, this will get you back to goals. Hunters, business owners don’t like it, but it works to reduce antlerless populations.

In my opinion. I would leave everything the same. Maybe consider giving out more antlerless tags. The bottom line is no matter how many tags you have it doesn’t give you permission to hunt. There’s not enough land to hunt on. I also don’t think people are registering all of the deer they kill, because of the new call in registration.

Gun deer season will never ever be what it once was, people have changed, the Weather has changed, Landowners have changed. Bring back the time when we hunters had to bring are deer to town to register them, no more registering deer with a phone call, I guarantee that there are 1000’s of deer that are not getting registered.

During the winter time I am seeing about the same number of deer, for the last three years. For tourism, the holiday hunt would be nice. I bought two extra tags and did not get a chance to fill them. Every one is busy these days, more time to hunt would be nice, for us in Trempealeau county, happy holidays...

Need to cut the bow hunt season, to start Oct. 1, and end Oct. 30. Start the gun season when Minnesota does so everyone gets an equal chance at the mature bucks that remain. Do not allow just the bow hunters to hunt the rut. Crossbow hunters should have equal hunting rights as compound bow guys do. No extra seasons.

In Arcadia seeing the same neighbors that hunt hauling deer home unsure if they are registering them. The new system of registering is allowing hunters to easily take home deer WITHOUT registering. That is why the population of deer is so low where I hunt. Hardly see any deer on one hundred plus acres.

I would strongly support a one buck per year per hunter any weapon with the season dates staying the same. I also would like to see an end to party hunting. During the 2019 season I seen more bucks then I did does and fawns. And with what I have observed I would support an end to the antlerless only hunts.

This unit could hold twice as many deer with out causing any problems. What I would like to see is a quality deer management program and let those yearling buck go another year or two. In this unit we have the potential of producing world class bucks but you chose to shoot them when they are yearling.

I have not seen the numbers of deer that I used to see 10 years ago or even five years ago they were just too many seasons please do not add a longer gun deer season I have hunted the 9 deer hunting since I was 11 years old it’s been a big part of our lives please do not extend it. Nine days is long enough.

The land I hunt is about 2 miles east of Eleva. This spring there were wolves on this property I feel like this has an effect on the deer... Also these walls were only 50 feet from a residence someone should be able to protect themselves and their livestock and pets from these animals if need be.
Bring back back tags and deer registration stations. Not wearing a back tag while hunting deer should be illegal and treated as such. The current registration system leave poaching and illegal activity wide open. Has there been an uptick on illegal deer hunting? Check your records.

Antlerless only is not a practical alternative. Resident hunters will change locations. Non resident hunters will not participate w/o the opportunity to harvest a buck. One buck year alternative would preserve most non resident revenue and still increase antlerless harvest.

The holiday hunt if granted, should not be weapon specific. Gun, Muzzle loader, archery or crossbow should be able to be used during this HOLIDAY hunt. Please don't discriminate because of the type of weapon used, we are ALL hunters and should have our own choice of weapon.

While there are deer preserves around the county of many hundreds of acres owned by out of town rich people that only shoot wall mount bucks, the insurance industry really should not influence how you make your decisions, please let the local landowners and hunters do...

I think it is not fair that where I hunt you can not bait, but a cross the cty hwy next to me you can. I feel that you should be able to bait with the 2 gallon limit on your own property. I also disagree with having to choose public or private for the antlerless tag.

I enjoy deer hunting. But I enjoy other hunting activities as much or more. Specifically grouse hunting and pheasant hunting. I would oppose lengthening the deer hunting season where it would interfere or reduce the season for these other outdoor activities.

Hunters using a muzzle loader are getting screwed! If anything they should be getting a longer season and not served the leftovers. Crossbows and vertical bows are not equal, so maybe tie the crossbows, vertical bows and muzzle loaders together in one season.

STOP SHOOTING DOES. We need to build up the herd up, don't slaughtered them like you did with earn a buck. It's no wonder why we can't get youth to hunt, because of lack seeing deer. They lose interest, wake up and smell the coffee.

I do not believe more tags or additional antlerless hunting days are a viable approach. I do believe a one buck per year alternative would provide a good balance between hunter satisfaction, tourism and increased antlerless harvest.

Propose bringing back the registration stations. Small businesses prosper from them. Keeps the cash flow in the local economy where the registration station is located. I currently do not trust the current registration system.

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i can live with the holiday hunt, but i'm glad the recommendation was to NOT extend the archery/crossgun season. a lot of mature bucks will have shed their antlers before the season ends and could be mistaken for a doe.

I support starting the gun season opener early much like Michigan. I also support the regeneration of earn a buck. This is a very useful tool in reducing populations much more than lengthening seasons will ever do.

Close archery down during rut, archery season is way too long, some hunters shoot deer look it over if not big leave it then shoot another. Registration by phone/internet Is not reliable for accuracy on kill.

More opportunities for "special" hunt seasons. Parent/child, new hunter - adult, returning hunter, special trophy season with higher cost license fee. Use some imagination to gain new hunters in Wisconsin.

Generally speaking I think there's plenty of deer I wouldn't support antlerless only however if they did earn a buck and you could earn a buck the year before I would be more encouraged to support that.

More opportunities for "special" hunt seasons. Parent/child, new hunter - adult, returning hunter, special trophy season with higher cost license fee. Use some imagination to gain new hunters in Wisconsin.

Generally speaking I think there's plenty of deer I wouldn't support antlerless only however if they did earn a buck and you could earn a buck the year before I would be more encouraged to support that.

Bring back back tags, non paper tags and require deer to be registered and banded. How many deer are shot and not registered with it being so easy to do so now? How badly are kill numbers skewered?
I have 93 Acres in the county and no way do I have 6-7 deer living on my land. I would say about half of that since I do not have any agriculture on my property besides some small clover food plots.

You can’t keep trimming a herd that is not there. Adding extra days just means that many more days for trespassing and will eventually obliterate the best natural resource we have in Wisconsin.

Keep the deer gun season at 9 day hunt and dont change the bow- crossbow season. Charge more for nonresident hunting like border states. Take 7 days of no deer hunting Pryor to the rifle season.

It’s been report that of the "does" shot during the holiday hunt that close to 50% were button or shed bucks, that is detrimental to the quality of future hunts and any doe population controls.

I think it would be beneficial to go back to earn a buck and only allow one buck whether it be bow or gun. Something needs to change Wisconsin heritage and hunting has become a joke!

I would like to have the opportunity to trade in my bowl crossbow buck tag for credit toward a second gun buck during gun deer season.....only if buck harvest would support it.

I own the land that I hunt on and have hunted it for more than 25 years. The deer population is average and I believe one antlerless tag per hunter is enough. Thank You!!

I hunt in both Trempealeau and Buffalo co. I wish I did not have to pick just one County for my antlerless tag. Thanks for the opportunity to have a say in this survey.

I like the rules and refs as they are. I’m opposed to continuing the deer baiting ban. I have never seen a sick deer on my property and my deer are very healthy.

Much of the unit is private land with very high deer numbers I feel more antlerless tags should be made available for those who want to use them on private land.

Eliminate hunters leasing hunting land. The ones in our area harvest bucks only. This causes a problem along with them trespassing on the adjoining land.

We need to harvest the antler less deer way to many people not shooting them. In the future we will see either disease or overpopulation as a problem.

If we’d have the normal seasons of a couple decades ago, along with people making drives and hunting together, a lot of the problems would go away.

Continue to manage for balanced doe harvest. Given Tremp is basically all private land, lets manage towards an older age structure of bucks. QDMA.

I’m concerned what happens if wolf population were to expand to our county and how this could affect deer population and hunter satisfaction.

more or less things are fine. Don’t hunt here now because i have to pick public private and what county. Cant’ visit and maybe take a doe.

I would like to see and extended Muzzleloader season. Maybe the Holiday Hunt could be another Muzzleloader season instead. Thank You!

We need to encourage additional antlerless harvest after the mild winter. Northern Trempealeau Co is over-run with deer... period.

Bring back the back tag for deer hunters and registration stations. No back tag makes it easier for trespassers and violators.

I like and am highly in favor of the one antlered deer per person, regardless of tag/weapon that has been suggested by some.
My concern is keeping the deer population down to prevent Cwd as well as the amount of crop damage sustained by our farmers.

I do not support lengthening gun hunting season. Do not wish to worry about guns for more than the current 9 day season.

I suggest only allowing one buck shot per year! The buck population was way down, during the season I only saw two bucks!

I'm a new resident. I like to bow hunt and gun hunt. I want what's best for the herd and hunting. Good luck!

Buck only for 2 years. Then in 2022 one buck and one doe tag per hunter with no added doe hunts period.

Support extending the gun deer season to 19 days or even longer....like the whole month if November!

Population appears much lower than years back. Don’t see as many adult does or mature bucks

Start the gun season earlier. How about the Saturday the closest to the 15th of November.

I am in favor of a antlerless hunt or a holiday hunt. I don’t think both are necessary.

Need to shoot more antler less deer Disease and car accidents are going to be a problem

Too many hunts in general...if youth hunt is going to exist it should be doe only

I would like to see Wisconsin manage deer for a better buck to die ratio.

Please shorten the Archery season and eliminate cross-bow hunting.

I would like to see only one buck harvested per person per year.

Please start providing bonus antlerless tags for public lands!

Keep allowing deer hunting with all weapons as it is today.

Would like to see more Black Powder hunting opportunities.

Keep the 9 day gun deer season as is.

Turkey population is really down.

More deer need to be harvested.

Limit the crossbow harvest!!!

Bring back hunter choice

Earn a buck!
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 205
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 126
   - I hunt in this unit: 470
   - General interest in this unit: 104

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 435
   - Bow: 262
   - Crossbow: 171
   - Muzzleloader: 159

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 20.38
   - Maximum: 65

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 333
   - Mostly Private Land: 68
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 32
   - Mostly Public Land: 6
   - Exclusively Public Land: 27
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 12
   - Not too crowded: 48
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 21
   - Somewhat crowded: 27
   - Very crowded: 16
   - Not applicable: 9

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 72
   - Fewer: 133
   - Same: 197
   - More: 61
   - Many More: 24
   - Unsure: 14

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 268 186 47

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 300 156 44

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 60 410 31

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? VALID NOT VALID Unsure, Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for allowing input in the matter. The antlerless deer projections in the Vernon county farmland zone in the past many years seems to be higher than the actual count of total deer. Our own family has hunted the same tract of land for the past 30+ years and the number of deer is continually diminishing even though we practice management on our land as well as our neighboring lands doing the same. The sport of deer hunting has changed quite a bit over the years, and in my opinion, not for the better of the sport. Here are my opinions why:

1. Crossbows - these should only be allowed for disabled or medically unable hunters to use. We have hunters out in the field with crossbows with scopes on them from the beginning of September into January that are capable of killing deer 100 yards away. Crossbows simply make the bow season a "quiet" gun season in Wisconsin taking away from the true sport of bowhunting. Crossbows have a place in the woods, but ONLY for disabled hunters.

2. Way too many antlerless and overall deer seasons are taking place in WI. In talking with a respected and veteran hunting mentor, he states it correctly: "There is more to fall than deer seasons." We all love hunting deer no doubt, but we also enjoy roaming the woods in search of small game, such as squirrels, coon, coyotes, grouse, pheasants, etc. With all of the emphasis always on deer seasons, it takes away from the other sporting opportunities. In speaking as a WI licensed teacher for over 18 years, and also a landowner myself, small game hunting is what generates excitement for our youth and this is being taken away because deer seasons take up the majority of the fall. When it's constantly deer season, landowners are more protective of their lands, which in turn, limits opportunities for other game hunting.

3. The idea of having everything online for purchasing licenses, registering game, etc. has taken away the opportunity of the camaraderie and joy of our hunting sports for all age hunters. Hunting is not just about bagging game, more emphasis needs to be placed on the joy of the sport than focusing constantly on the kill numbers and management numbers. The days where people gather to talk about the hunt, share humorous stories, and generate an income for business owners that sold licenses and registered game is what we are missing. Quite honestly, I believe that the honest registration of game is lacking due to the online component and gives inaccurate numbers to you as DNR officials. It should be a priority of the WI DNR to bring back the true sport of hunting deer, small game, and just enjoying WI outdoor sports by revisiting past practices that made hunting what it was many years ago.

4. Let traditions be traditions. The 9 day gun deer season is tradition and should remain that way. Each hunter should get a buck tag and a doe tag...period. Giving a handful of tags teaches one thing, kill deer when you see them. This is the wrong message to send to hunters, especially young ones. It's not a numbers game and never should be. People who work to "fill" all of their tags are not true sportsmen. Ideas like that are what turn private land owners off on hunting on many of them close their lands because of this. I have seen and heard this first hand in conversing with landowners who own land, but don't hunt themselves, but are willing to let others recreate on their property, and they have stated that they simply dread deer hunting because of this tag practice. Now many of them have closed off their land because of these practices by unethical hunters who possess a handful of tags given to them by the WI DNR. In closing, let's focus on maintaining traditions, involving youth with small game opportunities and emphasizing to everyone who hunts in Wisconsin that we want to allow everyone great opportunities to hunt, be ethical about it, and enjoy all of what WI has to offer in the woods. I personally love deer hunting and wouldn't miss it each year whether with a bow or gun, but we need to keep it in check to allow all of the other activities to take place. Again, "there's more to fall than just deer hunting." I appreciate you reading this entire post and I hope you read it in a conversational positive tone, not as a direct hit to the DNR, as it is not meant that way. We just need to consider all outdoor sports WI has to offer. Thank you.
The county clearly has a need to increase antlerless harvest to achieve its population goals. Frustratingly, there are only two options presented to affect an increase in antlerless harvest: 1. Increase available antlerless tags through some combination of farmland tag, public tag, and private tag offerings. It is clear that antlerless harvest has plateaued under this incentive, and further increases will yield little, if any, additional antlerless harvest. 2. Impose an antlerless-only season framework. This would demolish hunter satisfaction and perhaps create a disincentive to hunting in the county. What is needed is a true incentive for antlerless harvest. The effectiveness of Earn-A-Buck at increasing antlerless harvest shows the strength of a true incentive-based structure. I don't advocate a return to Earn-A-Buck, but I think we could recognize from the Earn-A-Buck years that buck harvest opportunity is something that can be a strong incentive. Consider that presently an individual hunter that procures both an archery license and a gun license receives a buck harvest authorization tag for both weapon categories. Such an individual can harvest two bucks in a single year without any requirement to harvest even a single antlerless deer. There is a complete lack of incentive to harvest antlerless deer under this construct. As a suggestion to the CDAC, the DNR, or to whichever entity may have the power to enact such change, I suggest the following: Do not issue buck harvest authorizations by weapon category, but rather grant only a single buck harvest authorization per hunter regardless of the weapon permits they elect to purchase. Hunters who wish to acquire a second buck harvest authorization for use during the year must first earn that second authorization by harvesting a quantity of antlerless deer as specified by the CDAC. A biologist could provide better insight, but intuitively an antlerless quota of 2-4 animals would make sense depending on whether CDAC goals are to maintain or reduce population levels. To prevent archery hunters from overharvesting bucks during the rut, the second buck harvest authorization could have time constraints that make it effective for only the latter portion of the total season (suggest effective from the Saturday before Thanksgiving through last day of deer season). The construct described above is distinctly different from Earn-A-Buck in that all hunters would be authorized to harvest a single buck per year even without having harvested an antlerless deer. The construct described rewards hunters with a second buck harvest authorization upon prerequisite harvest of a specified quota of antlerless deer. This prerequisite quota would give the CDAC a great tool to increase or decrease the incentive for antlerless harvest to align with CDAC population goals. Respectfully submitted with great concern and passion for both deer and deer hunting.

Recruiting youth, female and new hunters is priority 1! So move date of Youth Hunt and disabled hunt to first weekend of NOV. If fact add a Friday (make it 3 days) to compensate for a day or weekend of bad weather. I know it is the start of the rut, so best time for everyone to see more deer moving during the day. Currently in OCT, deer only move to come out to feed in the evening, and in OCT there is abundant cover and crops to conceal the deer. However, most archery hunters believe the "rut" should be bow only. They can still bowhunt, or even better, they can help a disabled hunter or mentor a kid on their hunt! 2. Start the Gun season Mid NOV and run for 2 weeks. MN has the dates right. The WI traditional Thanksgiving week hunt season is nonsensical. Weather is very cold, often ice and deep snow, results with fewer hunters who don't hunt long, and the deer don't move. Do the gun season for 2 weeks (16 days) start a week earlier and people will have more options for taking vacation time, can still have a deer camp, more deer will be harvested and Holiday hunts and late archery hunts will not be needed. If you want women and kids to hunt, the weather needs to be pleasant for them. There's no enjoyment in being cold and miserable. 3. Establish a category of New or first time hunter, regardless of age, and allow them to be mentored (2 people with 1 gun) during the youth hunt period. They need a practice hunt to learn the many aspects of proper clothing, moving with a gun, target acquisition, shot followup, carcass handling, etc. so they are confident and willing to be part of the regular gun hunt.
I agree with the comments from the last meeting minutes. The members seem to have a good perspective on impacts of proposed changes to seasons. I appreciate this so thank you. In the age of decreasing license sales, pitting hunters against each other isn’t prudent. It would be interesting to see metrics on utilization of antlerless authorizations issued with license sales for both archery and firearm. If license issued authorizations are not being utilized or utilized at a low rate, increasing the number of antlerless authorizations with license sales will have little affect on deer populations. It becomes a matter of how to increase sales of bonus antlerless authorizations for private land. With roughly 40% being sold the opportunity for increased harvest numbers lies in the private authorizations. As a new land owner in Vernon DMU I see good buck numbers and quality. Personally I’d like to see a program similar to MFL but for wildlife habitat. My property in Richland DMU is MFL and I’m looking to pull sections out for wildlife improvements. I see good deer numbers but being exclusively closed canopy forest it’s hard to pattern deer and get shot opportunities. As I learn more about land management I’m learning the objectives of MFL contradict the objectives of quality wildlife habitat. There are only a few private companies that offer services for wildlife habitat improvement and they’re hard to contact. Implying there’s significant demand for the current supply of services.

This is a CWD hotspot. We have land outside of Hillsboro. You complain about CWD. Than give me another buck tag, because it’s the older bucks that are carriers of this problem. You complain about CWD, and deer numbers, but you want lower doe kills. Why? The problem is horn porn, etc. Listen at 70 years old, I am hard core. I shoot nice bucks. The issue is, there needs to be a higher buck kill, if you want to combat CWD. QDMA has their head in the sand when it comes to CWD. Its all about buck size,,,,,. Really...... I test all my deer, because the DNR needs data. I use the Kiosk, out of Rocton, by the KVR. However you need more. Heck the school shop classes can build them for you, for just about nothing. College interns etc, can work the program, for credits and experience. If you allowed private to run kiosk locations, they would be all over. the problem in this county is all the poaching. I hear shots after hours all the time. I would put together a task force, and get at them. I support our Wardens 100 percent they are overly micro managed to handle piddly stuff, compared to get after, after hour shooting. You have to be living on Mars, not to understand, the amount of late shooting in this county. If I was in charge of Vernon County, I would bring back EAB. I would also ask the DNR to make sure, deer have tags on them. Otherwise thank you to everyone on the CDAC. I believe in Wildlife Science. Not Political or Social Science.

Thank you for your interest and consideration of our (general hunter) input. I believe you are much better informed and fully capable of managing herd numbers. I greatly appreciate the extended archery season and being able to use my bow or crossbow in the winter. It allows me to hunt longer and I plant food plots for more seasons as a result. I have 2 opinions regarding the harvest. My group and our neighbors don’t harvest enough does (virtually none). Given the data options available, would you please consider a reward for harvest does? This is nothing like earn a buck but bonus buck. When a hunter kills a certain amount of does (say 3) any weapon, the hunter would be able to receive a bonus buck tag (any weapon) good for the remainder of the season and the next year. It would promote antlerless harvesting. I can see the concern of cheating but let’s face it, if hunters are going to cheat, they’re already doing it, hopefully someone turns them in. Second, please consider a separate muzzleloader buck tag. I have many friends who won’t harvest deer in the gun season unless it’s a monster, because they want a muzzleloader buck tag. Please sell us another buck tag. Lord knows we won’t run out of deer. Thanks again.
My property adjoins Vernon County and there are way too many Deer in the Kickapoo Valley. Not only is there a risk of more Car/Deer accidents but there has been a larger amount of crop damage on our farm. I commute into Vernon County daily and can count up to 10-20 deer within my 20 mile drive on any given day/night on and off the road and shoulders. There are herds of Deer in groups as many as 15-25 in one field. Please be aware that I am not suggesting inviting more out of state hunters but allowing land owners the ability hint more days or harvest more deer at no additional charge. If out of state hunters want to hunt in our area, I suggest charging them additions fees for additional tags, not land owners and residents of the state of Wisconsin. I would also suggest only allowing out of state hunters to purchase antlerless only tags as they are only coming here to shoot the big bucks. I have been a land owner for over 23 years and I for one have never been a fan of trespassing and out of area hunters are always those that come and do as they please. Thanks for allowing me to communicate my concerns and I look forward to some changes this next hunting season.

I was relocated out of state for work. I have kept my hunting land in Vernon County and continued to pay all property taxes for schools, roads, government ect. As such, I would think there should be consideration when it comes to hunting on my own property. Some sort of non Resident Landowner permit as opposed to having to pay all the non resident fees to hunt on my land. I understand the need for higher non resident fees, but the current structure is so high that I do not hunt my land for deer gun or spring turkey like I used to as a resident. Maybe once I pay the higher non resident fee for the year you could just add additional fees for each additional permit instead of complete seperate liscense. As it stands now, buying non resident deer bow, deer gun and spring turkey on top of paying my land taxes adds up to a crazy amount. As such, I only now make a single annual trip to the area that supports the hotels, resturants and businesses in the area. Note: I also still allow my Wisconsin friends to join me when I am there, so they get less opportunity to hunt and support the Vernon County area as well.

I think you can give out as many antlerless tags as you want but you can’t make people harvest does unless you implement the earn a buck system. I think earn a buck is the best way to maintain the herd population to combat EHD and chronic wasting disease. I know several people that own a couple hundred acres and have only a few people hunting that land, and they will never shoot any does. It seems that they aren’t happy unless they are seeing 20-30 deer per hunt and most of them are does. If that keeps up, it’s only a matter of time until disease sweeps through and ruins the population for everyone. But if you have to kill a doe before a buck, that would help maintain the population on those places. As for the extra antlerless only seasons, I think they’re a good tool, but you still can’t make people fill those tags unless it’s to earn their buck tag. I hunt small tracts of private land, less than 40 acres, and any pressure pushes deer off those places to the neighbors bigger tracts of land, 200+ acres, and the people hunting there refuse to shoot any does.

The coyote population is getting out of control and affecting bow hunting and turkey hunting over the last decade. I’ve shot more called in coyotes while trying to call turkeys than turkeys themselves. I also for the last decade and a half always hear that”one” shot with a rifle just before end of bow hunting hours. I believe the Amish do more destruction to the deer population poaching them on a daily basis in my area than coyotes. I blame the increase in two and four legged predators for the massive lack of deer seen in my area the last decade. The big issue we had this last year in my opinion is all the standing corn giving deer a place to hide and a great food source as well. I normally see 15 to fifty deer on opening day every year. I saw zero on Opening day this year from sun up to sun down and never left the woods the whole time. Sunday same thing. I guess there is a first for everything. I saw tons of deer the year before so I blame it on all the standing corn.
The deer population is too high. With plenty of deer the bow, crossbow, and gun hunters all focus on shooting bucks. In many cases multiple bucks. There is no incentive to reduce the the herd through doe only hunts or issuing multiple doe tags per hunter. The focus is on harvesting bucks. The idea of meat hunters does not hold true when the deer are plentiful and everyone wants to shoot bucks. They shoot a buck with the bow and gun -- they don't need anymore meat. You can plainly see this with the reduced number of hunters who participate in the doe hunts. I have NO trust in hunters in their ability to accurately identify what the is the size of the actual herd population. I do not know the exact metrics the DNR uses to determine herd size. But frankly go outside and look at the farm fields this spring in Vernon county there are hundreds of deer. Find a way to require hunters to harvest does.

I support the goal of harvesting 1/3 buck and 2/3 antlerless. I am willing to hunt under earn-a-buck to achieve that. I feel that the whole hunting tradition/economy could collapse in Vernon County if CWD reaches 30% of harvested deer. I fear the day when I have harvested and butchered a deer that comes back positive for CWD. I will toss those neat white packages of hard-earned meat into the trash, but I won’t be happy about it, and I may have trouble when it comes time to harvest the next deer. I also liked the October gun hunt when we could harvest bucks. I think it was during the earn a buck years, and I know the bow hunters had a hissy fit about gun hunters getting a chance, during rut, to shoot “their’ deer. The truth is, bow hunters have a small harvest impact and can’t control this population. They shouldn’t have any more influence on the process than gun hunters.

My family has a long history of bowhunting in WI using compound bows. My (2) sons are learning to bowhunt now using a compound bow (not a crossbow). Seems that most kids now are starting out with crossbows due to the fact it is much easier to harvest a deer. Knowing crossbows are being given the same season as a compound bow in the state of WI, our family has slowly been loosing interest in the archery season. My family of hunters consists of 3-4 farms with 10 bowhunters. The neighbors use there high powered cross bows to harvest deer that were once very challenging to harvest with a compound bow. We miss the old traditional Wisconsin November bowhunt with a recurve bow or compound bow in hand. We had a chance at being a part of something big with a very special group of people across the state. Crossbows have taken this very special time away. Thank You

The DNR has hurt our population and quality since the earn a buck season’s. Cwd has been around for long time and extending season, giving more tags having more antler less seasons is not helping with our population. If they want to do something go back to the old ways of either sex first day and buck rest of the season for the river block areas. The equation the DNR is using is wrong and cannot be used anymore, its outdated. they have never taken in consideration that hunters are harvesting more mature animals and letting the younger animals go. When we had the guy from texas look at our proposal for CWD, he was telling us we are doing it wrong you all you never listen to that either. So no offense open your eyes and listen to what the hunters have to say. They also need to stop giving out all these crop damage tags. Coon do more damage to crops than deer do.

I do like the idea of reinstating "earn-a-buck" to keep population levels lower. One of my concerns when hunting during an earn-a-buck, is the potential of a trophy deer presenting itself. Might I suggest offering the option to "buy a trophy", thus a hunter could harvest a trophy while during this season and not fret about a lost opportunity. I understand that there is discussion about lengthening the traditional 9 day season. It has been my observances, that deer adjust to the hunting pressure and change their habits, lowering the possibilities of a harvest. Rather than just lengthening the season, I would suggest giving deer the time to go back to their previous, regular habits-- a pause between seasons. This might give hunters a better success rate. Thank you for your hard work in attempting to maintain deer populations in Vernon County.
I think we need to address issues pertaining to CWD across the state. I am by no means any expert but I think more people need to take this more serious than they are especially deer farms. I understand it hasn't been transferred to humans yet, but it is concerning to me that virus' mutate and who knows how prevalent it will be in the future. I do think we did a better job in 2019 of having more testing stations. I don't think there was one in Viroqua in 2018 so that definitely made it more convenient for us to test our deer so we should definitely keep that up. I just hope more people will at least test their deer. I hope to help out more in the futures as part of the younger generation of conservationists.

A huge thing for me is that the only land I can hunt as I am young atleast that I’ll actually be able to harvest is private in Vernon county. I harvested my first buck last year and it gave me so much joy and it will for years to come but limiting the hunt to antlerless only isn’t the way to go in my opinion. There are significantly high numbers of little doe where I hunt and a decent population of bucks now I don’t say get like 3 buck tags but one per person is amazing and getting that one buck of the year can just mean so much. I believe the deer population and bucks in general are on the rise and I think that’s great. I see a great benefit for all antlerless but as it is I don’t see the necessity for Vernon county to be this way.

I’ve been hunting since I was 12 years old and looking back I remember always seeing deer. Over the past 10 years or so it has changed quite a bit. Last year I didn’t see a single deer while hunting opening weekend. I recently moved to Indiana a few years ago and have been buying the non-resident license to show my loyalty towards a state that I loved growing up hunting in. The numbers of deer have dropped in my area due to many "CWD" tags and the introduction of wolves up North I’m sure it is not any better. The predator population isn’t helping the deer herd and neither is all the extra hunts that happen during deer season. Bring it back to the old days so that future generations can enjoy what I had growing up. Thank you.

I concur with most recommendations set forth by the CDAC for this DMU, but I am wondering if the 2020 quota could be increased slightly from 5000. The objective for Vernon County is to maintain the population around 26,000. According to the "Quota Starting Points" slide in Biologist Dan Goltz's presentation, the predicted 2020 post-hunt population would be closer to the 26,000 objective if the quota were set at 6000-7000 deer for the 2020. I agree that the 5000 quota would probably keep the population within 20% of the population objective. Nevertheless, I am concerned about the prevalence of CWD and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, and hope that a more aggressive quota might slow the spread of these diseases.

3 antlerless tags per license is too many. I had 6 antlerless tags between my bow and gun tag, as did 3 of the 4 other members of our hunting party. For us to even consider shooting 24 does on our 165 acres would be ludicrous and damaging to the herd. We try to shoot a doe for every buck we harvest. Last year we were successful in doing that with 2 bucks and 2 does killed between all of us in all seasons. I spend a fair amount of time on my hunting property and run 10-12 trail cameras year round. I speak yearly with the adjoining landowners, and collectively, we control over 450 acres. Between my camera surveys and my neighbors reports, we don’t see the amount of deer to warrant 3 antlerless tags per license.

I am very curious on any research that has been done on the possible problem of EHD in this unit and surrounding area last year? i am a smaller land owner and have found several deer carcasses this past season unlike any other. I also have neighbors with a couple dead deer early last year that i personally seen, with NO apparent reason for death lying in the woods and near streams. I am an avid outdoorsman and saw many less deer this past season compared to other years, not only on my property, but two other large property's near mine. It seems the area of vernon & crawford counties nearest the river had some serious reason for large drops in deer population.. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.
The bow and gun season is long enough. Last years 5 tags per hunter was ridiculous. I hunt both seasons and could have shot 10 deer. Too many hunters out there are going for the racks. The doe population if anything, should be maintained. But, don't overdo it with holiday hunts. Hunters have plenty if opportunities to get a deer. Wisconsin had something special with tradition. If you make season's too long, it's not special anymore. Have more input from hunters throughout the year, more then once. Sometimes I feel people are counting the same deer they see twice, which would make the numbers seem greater than they are. Over the last couple years, I have seen huge decline in the amount of deer I have seen.

I agree with most of the recommendations regarding private land, however the public land antlerless bonus tags are excessive. While the recommendation is to only allow 250 antlerless tags to be purchased as "bonus tags," with 3 tags per person being given out with the purchase of a buck tag, does on public land are still being overharvested, in turn creating insufficient population on public lands and adversely affecting private land that abuts public land. The options to solve this would be: 1.) Decrease the number of public land doe tags available as bonus tags or 2.) Decrease the number of antlerless tags that come with a buck tag while increasing the antlerless "bonus tags" available for private land.

I believe that the four antler-less permits that were issued out for 2019 were just too many, two is enough. Make more bonus tags available for a certain price, so if somebody were to want another tag they could purchase it if needed. The way it is set up now I believe some people are just out there to shoot deer because they believe there are too many or they have four tags so why not use them. A small family with a child or two to eat two to three adult deer in a single year is quite a bit. A lot of these deer are simply given away to people they know or processing plant, which is beneficial. I just believe a lot of deer are getting shot for the purpose of killing because of tag availability.

People will not slaughter deer just because you give them a ridiculous amount of tags. Most groups get what they want and stop. I say if your going to give all these damn tags out, make people pay for them! I dont care If it's only a damn dollar! Almost everybody I know that hunts in Vernon county doesn't use any of the extra tags! They rarely use there buck tag because we are hunting for big bucks or have awful neighbors that wound more deer than they find. Found 3 dead deer on my property during turkey season this year... all deer most likely wounded from my neighbors that unload on anything they see because of all these stupid tags. Enough is enough, make then pay for the extra tags!

From what I have been able to gather in the form of knowledge about CWD, we have dropped the ball as a State with deer management. I feel that it is now too late to stop the spread of CWD, which will eventually cause the elk herd in Wisconsin to be threatened. All the work that has been done to establish an elk herd could be at risk. The only way to possibly save the elk and the deer for future generations of hunters and wildlife enthusiasts would be to take the deer numbers down fast. I feel that this means we need doe only seasons and earn-a-buck. Do it now, or suffer the consequences of giving in to political and selfish reasons to keep the deer herd overpopulated.

I live in Juneau county less than a mile from the vernon county line. My property is in old unit 71. Now where I hunt a majority of the time is in old unit 72. In 71 we had earn a buck for years. What we saw as a result were larger bucks and less car kills. This last week coming back from Turkey hunting in the afternoon with my daughter we counted over 200 deer. That all being said I feel in Vernon county we should have another year of earn a buck and I would include southern Juneau county along with that. (Keep in mind I don't want that we have 4 hunters in our house) but it looks to me to make sense.
When I can count deer in the hundreds on the hillsides alongside highway 14 from the edge of Lacrosse to Coon Valley and beyond in the late afternoon in early March, there are far too many deer. When there are deer running through my backyard on the edge of Viroqua, there are far too many deer. When my car is run into by a deer in the City of Viroqua, there are far too many deer. When I have to stop to avoid hitting deer in the City of Viroqua, there are far too many deer. How about allowing an early fall antlerless gun season with the goal of donating the venison to local food banks?

The transportation rules to contain CWD influenced my decision not to harvest a deer. I prefer to butcher my own at home, but live beyond the transportation limit. For me it is not practical to transport quartered deer. I would have no problem disposing of a carcass properly if I could transport home. Because this wasn't allowed, I decided to only shoot if I saw a trophy buck - therefore I let many harvestable deer pass. I am a conservation patron, my license is already purchased - how will I get/know if antlerless tags are issued for free in 2020??????? I was not aware of it last year.

Limiting the deer season for archers to improve chances for gun hunters is a sure. Crossbow is totally a different thing. Crossbows are almost like gun hunting. They are extremely fast and accurate, along with being scoped from the factory. They shoot fundamentally the same as a rifle. For those 65 or with a verified doctors documentation showing that the person cannot shoot a compound bow they should be allowed the full archery season. For those who shoot a crossbow just because of the ease of shooting should have a shorter season. Maybe thru mid October and again after gun season.

I spend a lot of time in the woods in WI and in the area in Northern Vernon county has some deer but the number of deer I see on a regular basis has been far less than I saw 15-20 years ago. Now with the no registration stations I feel that many more deer are just being harvested and not reported. Go back to the party tag - 4 tags to be allowed to shoot one doe. You will have more hunters hunting (no hunting tags for anyone that has not passed hunter safety class) because of the party tag and back to registration stations so that accurate counts can be maintained!

There were miles of corn left up in the fields which I believe was a major factor of not seeing deer. Also I have witnessed and harvested several coyotes chasing deer during bow hunting seasons. The predator population is getting out of control. I lost a deer that I shot at the end of legal shooting hours to coyotes the next morning. I had this happen to two in a row. The season before last. I’ve have left deer overnight to track the next day in the woods for almost four decades with zero issues till the last couple of years.

There are areas where you can see 50 deer in a field and others nothing. Solving that problem will help you make the whole unit. The same for deer per mile. Some land owners don’t allow hunting or hunting near towns is limited and the deer know where they are safe and over populate an area. Giving out extra tags will never solve the hot spots. If We used our “extra” tags we would run the hunting in our area for a few years. We self manage despite what is given out for tags. I laugh when they give out so many.

FYI: This past season I had two deer on my property that were covered in open sores...My thought was tuberculosis. Later in the season I found them both dead. The local coyote population took care of their remains....I am hoping this was just isolated incidence. I have not seen anything since. I am monitoring the deer herds this year to see if the problem rears its ugly head again. If it does I will ask for your help and follow your lead toward rectifying the problem. Thank you for the good work you do.

way too much crossbow hunting, same effectiveness as hunting with a shotgun, should only be allowed for disabled, crossbow hunting extremely changes the metrics for bow hunting and gun hunting, if i had a crossbow i could shoot many deer each year but it is not really a sport or challenge, that being said from a 64 year old man with both shoulders dysfunctional. I still try my best with a regular bow despite not being able to pull the bow back on many days. ban crossbows except for severely disabled.
I personally found 13 dead deer on my property last fall from EHD. That said, we harvested only 4 deer on my property last seasons. Am encouraged by the numbers I'm seeing this spring that the surviving deer are doing well. The Chaseburg to Stoddard valley was hit hard by EHD last year, and I know it affected the harvest in this area. Hopefully, 2020 will be a disease free year. I count on the biologists to make the best decisions for the maintenance of our state deer herd. Thank you for your efforts.

In order to increase involvement in the act of hunting why not extend the traditional season as 'antlerless only' either pre-season or immediately following the traditional season so that weather would have a chance to be more favorable for hunting. I did not closely look at the harvest data for the holiday hunt but with the typical really cold weather and family events during that time it seems like harvest numbers and huntibility factors would be better if this could be held earlier in the season?

I think that the current framework is fine, I would put in one comment though. I would love to see the DNR go back to the framework from some years ago and close archery season for the week before the 9 day gun season. I think that if the deer were given that time to settle down, the numbers for gun deer would pick back up the way they used to be. I think that currently, the deer have soooooo much pressure from September until January that they are more skittish than they ever were before.

This last year, it was not required for hunters to where their tag/registration number on their back like in years past. Living near the KVR, I experienced several trespassing incidents despite that my property is posted for no trespassing. Even with trail cams, it is very difficult to identify, report and request assistance because of this and I am a single woman and so is my neighbor. I would like to petition that this identification requirement be reinstated for the community's safety.

2019 was the worst year of deer hunting I have ever had and we select hunt. My kids are getting bored and I am afraid they will lose interest if numbers and activity dont increase shortly. If things dont change to get numbers back I have and am considering giving up deer hunting myself. The old 9 day hunt without extensions or other seasons were much more interesting and fun. Also, now things are so restrictive that people can not get out and do drives as use to be done on other ground.

I believe that i have seen a significant decrease in deer population as well as other animals such as small game, reptiles, birds etc. since i first started hunting. Each year the human population increases and we are slowly killing the earth. I am in support of making sure that we preserve the deer population as well as other animals and create more natural preserves for animal refuge. I am an avid hunter but my concern is that in 20 years there may be nothing to harvest.

Maybe its me, but I am confused. You propose a antlerless quota of 5,000, but last year it was 12000?????????? I would think that you want does shot to control CWD.. am I missing something? Our land is outside of Hillsboro.... Can someone take the time to explain that to me. My email is as follows m4waves@yahoo.com.......... There also seems to be adequate numbers, when it comes to tags etc, its the quota I do not get. Hope to hear from someone. Thanks for the time

I feel that we should keep the same guidelines as now. 2 Doe tags, 1 buck tag. However if you fill all 3 tags I feel that should earn you a second paid for buck/doe. Purchase a tag that is contingent upon filling your 2 doe and 1 buck tags that allows you to hunt a 4th deer of either sex and this should apply to bow/crossbow season only. I feel that gun season should be two weeks and with gun opening the week before Thanksgiving and running until the normal end.

I’ve hunted vernon county for at least a decade now. In general, I would say there are fewer deer now than in years past. I generally oppose efforts to lengthen and modify the rifle season. Most deer hunters barely hunt the full opening weekend, let alone the nine day rifle season. Last season my family of three hunters had 20 deer tags. That’s insane! I could definitely fill them if I wanted or needed to, but why would we kill so many antlerless deer?
I am a 65 year old hunter who uses a crossbow. Originally from the state, I return every year around the end of October to deer hunt. This is my most enjoyable vacation of the year. I set aside about ten days for the hunt. My wish is that there was a way to buy a second buck license. If I shoot a buck early in my trip, I might as well go home. I would be more than willing to buy another license so that I could continue to hunt a little longer.

There was talk of having an earlier full gun season to help coincide with the rut. With exception of an October Youth Hunt, I AM OPPOSED to this early hunt if it's even up for consideration. Family traditions in hunting revolve around the week of Thanksgiving in Wisconsin, if Wisconsin holds an early Gun season other than the youth hunt, it will screw up the tradition and i believe you would see a rapid decline in participation.

I would like to more muzzleloader time in January, instead of added bow/crossbow season. Also lets consider a handgun season, it’s just like bow hunting just louder and more lethal. I honestly can't believe that the January bow season has help any, let's try something different. Let's stand together, instead of bow hunters attacking crossbow hunters. Let's use different ideas to get more people to harvest deer and join the sport.

The holiday hunt needs to stop. There are plenty of other opportunities to harvest a deer and this season makes other outdoor activities less safe and appealing. IE... small game hunting, hiking, trapping, cutting wood. It also gives poachers more time to road hunt and then register the deer as if it were taken legally. The 4 day antlerless season also needs to go. Deer hunting is less enjoyable with too many seasons. Thank you

I've heard rumors about extending and or revising gun and muzzleloader seasons. I really like this idea. I know quite a few hunters who simply don't go deer hunting anymore. Some work weekends. Some feel crossbows have been running the herd and have an unfair advantage.I also know of hunters who choose to hunt Minnesota and Michigan instead. I'll be looking forward to see what happens to the season in the near future.

Wish you would go back to what it used to be in the river block areas. Ever since you had the earn a buck in vernon county, you did nothing but hurt our deer herd for us and future hunters. And enough trying to kill more deer because of cwd. It has been around here way before media got a hold of it and you all are scaring people because of it. So let's get back to helping bring our population back not dwindle it.

I read that there was a consideration on extending the gun deer season to 16 days because of the low deer kill in 2019. One of the contributing factors of the reduced kill was that the gun season was so late in the month of November. How about establishing the 10 day gun season starting on the second Saturday of the month (similar to archery season in September) instead of always around the week of Thanksgiving?

Two things I would like to comment on. First of all, if it's a antlerless deer only deer season, I wont hunt and two is about crop damage. Poor farmers my butt. I was up turkey hunting in Liberty WI period one this year and farmers were still picking last years corn. Ruined my deer hunt having so much standing corn. They freaking act like they own the deer. So crop damage, who cares. It’s there own darn fault.

Out of state tags should cost more. Out of state people come up and shoot our deer and buy our land cause hunting is cheaper than all the other surrounding states. Hunting with a crossbow shouldn't have its own season the same argument people have with the crossbow hunting is the same argument people had when compound bows came into effect you want people hunting keep things the way they are now

It seems we cater much more to bow and crossbow hunters some of us hunters are just not interested in hunting with those weapons but would like to hunt with guns during some of those premier times when only archery hunting is allowed even if it was just with shot guns. With the accuracy and range of the newer bows and crossbows would it truly be much different than using a shotgun.

Moved to Vernon county 5 years ago and own hunting land Here as well. Deer hunting was a major reason for moving here and it continues to be a great place to hunt white tail deer. I like the option of holding off on doe harvest until I have taken my buck and having the ability to harvest does if needed during late season with rifle. Would continue course, job well done
Why would the committee put in jeopardy the tradition of the gun hunt around the Thanksgiving holiday! Talk about losing money. Why do they talk about making things more simple in the regulation of things & then there is constant change that never does any good & makes more problems. The deer are where people cant hunt. More seasons & changes don't do a thing for that.

Don't change anything with crossbows. I went about 20 years doing no bow hunting just strictly gun hunting. When crossbows became legal for the average person to use, I tried it out and got hooked. I love crossbow hunting now and almost enjoy it more than gun hunting. Please don't mess with it now as I'm sure there are several other people who feel the same as I.

Need to give archery hunters a few days before the squirrel gun guys start running around shooting up into the trees and chasing the deer into hard cover. Lost my scouted buck opening morning when a squirrel hunter walked up on me in a tree then started shooting squirrels 200yds away as my buck was approaching my tree setup...buck turned and walked away educated.

Please DO NOT support any extended 19 day gun seasons. Please eliminate the Holiday Hunt...what is the percentage of bucks shot during this time (accidental, buck fawns, bucks already dropping antlers). This is a great time period where it would be nice to be able to bow hunt for does and bucks but that possibility is eliminated with this bogus Holiday Hunt.

Please bring back Back Tags. Trespassing is less likely to occur with visible back tags. Without the back tag, the trespasser is virtually anonymous. This can lead to undesirable confrontations in the woods. With Back Tags, the land owner can contact authorities who with the use of the tag number, can locate the trespasser and take appropriate action.

2019 early bow season I saw deer every day in the woods. When gun season came around their were 4 hunters on my property and no one saw a deer. I personally hunted all 9 days and never saw a deer. Which is really unusual. The rut was well over with and the deer just were not moving. It is hard to fill the bonus tags when you don't see 1 deer all season.

what happened to backtags for hunter identification?how do you report a violator without id?What happened to registration stations to keep youth involved with other hunters success?Since crossbows are now used by all ages, poaching and vandalism have increased. There are too many deer seasons, the deer do not have time to calm and are always stressed.

I would like to see the state and the DNR do much more testing and give out more information and suggestions on helping to control and or combat CWD. If there is more money that is needed not just deer hunters but all Wisconsin outdoor sportsman couple and most would be willing to contribute a dollar or two (through license cost) to fight CWD.

this year turkey hunting on private lands, I notice alot of deer manly small deer than larger ones..on other news I heard that it was suggested to open season on badgers...That is very dumb.. get federal judge in this state to open up wolf hunting,they are getting carried away.. before badger season how about eagles,they are abundant

The only two things I'm against is the extended archery season,and the holiday hunt I believe to many deer are shot because people in my area have standing crops to hunt over the late seasons.all these free extra doe tags are ridiculous that is just to many per license,I could see 1 free and have to purchase the others. Thank you

Stop the public or private B.S. the info collected is never used anyway, it doesn't take 3 months for a computer to add numbers. If you want to know why interest in hunting is down, look at the regs there are a lot more it is illegal to -- than you may. The DNR needs read it's charter, help the sportsman not harrassed the sportsman.

DO NOT put gun season the first week of November. You will ruin the rut for bow hunters. It is fine where it is. The use of the crossbow needs to be toned down. We need to go back to the way it was where you needed a doctor’s note, have a disability or be retirement age. The use of the crossbow to hunt is getting out of hand.
Let's get back to a 9-day season for gun deer. It is my belief that if the time is shortened that gets more hunters in the woods during the hunting period, if they truly want to harvest a deer. I believe that people wait until the end then try to make push fill unfilled tags yet the weather in December will often restrict this.

Go back to earn a buck. I hated it then, but would support it now. I agree we need to get rid of some does. Having said that, if you implemented a doe only season I probably wouldn't hunt at all. I think you will lose hunters that way. If I don't hunt, then my wife and kid very likely don't either.

It always felt like the DNR did a much better job with population management when "earn-a-buck" could be implemented. Some of the comradery with the sport left when in-person registration was done away with. There has also been rumors of some folks not registering deer through the online/phone in system.

I just want to say is leave thing alone. Yes, it was a hard year to harvest deer you have consider the weather and the amount of corn that didn't get harvested during the hunting season. We have had bad years in the past that is part of hunting, so please leave things alone. Concerned avid hunter.

I do not hunt the holiday antlerless hunt. I would gladly do so, as would my grandsons, if I could harvest a buck. I intend to harvest several does this year, something I have not practiced in the past. 'earn a buck' taught me not to like being in the woods while mature bucks walked by...

I would like to recommend the elimination of man made watering holes to help prevent the spread of disease among the deer population. In our area the deer population is at a good number but when they congregate at these water holes it increases greatly the chance of spreading disease.

I would like to see an antler size restriction in this county. I think the potential for very large deer is here if we can let them grow a couple more years. I would like to suggest a 4-point per side rule. But still have the flexibility for kids to shoot a lesser buck.

I have continue to hunt due to the option to use a crossbow. If this was taken away or the season limited/shortened I would most likely not continue to purchase a license. Thank you for all that you do to provide us with a great opportunity to hunt and enjoy the outdoors.

I thought the video was very well explained and slow, which helped to understand a little better and put things in perspective on the way of thinking! I would like to say the extended Archery season was very pleasing... in that it helped with not getting the winter BLUES!

Neither I nor those in my group support the issuance of three doe tags per harvest permit. Although I like venison, I typically harvest only one buck or doe per year. In my opinion, the issuance of additional tags makes the gun deer hunt experience less attractive to me.

The antlerless deer seasons, and holiday season should be earn a buck, so you could utilize the buck tag already purchased. This would also increase the number of antlerless deer harvested. This would only be for those which still have their original buck tag to use.

Please bring back the back tag scenario. Last year we had one of our hunters that had a guy shooting at him and we had no way of distinguishing who was shooting at him. So we had someone running around committing attempted murder with no possibility of who it was.

Crossbows are ruining hunting as a whole! Crossbows should be limited to elderly and disabled. I don't believe there were fewer deer, just more pressure because 3-year-olds are shooting crossbows. So deer are getting smarter and injured and not retrieved.

Regulations should go back to the way they were pre CWD. Also add an option to be able to purchase an additional buck tag for residents of the state. Raise non resident hunting fees. Possibly go back to earn a buck if you have a way to regulate it good.
Overall, the amount of deer seen and harvested seemed low. Buck population seems high, while the population of doe seems lower than in past years. We’re surrounded by farmland that have more access to Agriculture tags than in past years.

I agree with the Holiday but I also think bucks should be included if we are trying to reduce deer numbers to a manageable level but I also disagree with the 4 day antler less hunt. Leave it up to the counties to manage the deer herd.

Your number was way off on how many deer died from Stoddard to Coon Valley this last summer/fall from EHD. It was somewhere between 150 to 200 that were found dead from the land owners I talked to. Those deer are gone.

I believe CWD testing compliance rates would increase if the DNR didn't collect so much info on the hunter and the landowner, which can then become public. Hunter and land owner information should be protected.

I feel that people in general are hunting for horns instead of harvesting for meat so by extending the season is foolish unless me could somehow someway give it to the food pantries or something along them lines.

I understand the 3Y goal is to maintain, but we are above the 2017 population. Why are we not targeting a higher doe:buck ratio to achieve the -7% impact in the presentation? (i.e. 3370 bucks and 6740 doe)

You need to bring back, the back tags as people are trespassing and no way to identify the trespassers and especially one group of people in the area know that and just run when you see them.

There are too many antlerless tags being issued. The deer numbers seem to be dropping quickly on public land. High number of predators and high hunting pressure have taken a toll.

Amish group hunters are not checked very often and have no regard for property lines, or ethical hunting practices. They often poach off season, and never investigated for it.

While bowhunting this year, I observed a high ratio of bucks to does, a higher number than in past observations. I do believe that what I saw last year was a healthy ratio.

Don't like how many doe tags you give with each license we buy. The deer population is way down if you ask me. I don't want the gun season to go longer than 9 day earlier.

The area around Wildcat and the public land near La Farge had very little sign of deer. Many people I talked to said it was the slowest opening day they have ever seen.

Give out more free antlerless tags. The DNR does not need to charge $12.00 for additional antlerless tags. Coyotes and wolves eat more deer than the humans do.

I would suggest eliminating the 4 day antlerless hunt. With bowhunting becoming more popular, it cuts into late season bow hunters opportunity to harvest bucks.

There is still large amounts of deer in this county. Keeping the antlerless hunt will keep the numbers down, but at the same time an overkill is not an option.

I’d love to kill the diseased creatures but I don’t want to eat them. Get rid of the wanton-waste rule for this species. Otherwise, I will not be hunting.

Open the regular gun season 1 weekend earlier...just for two days....close backup for 5 days...then re open for the next weekend for 9 days. Thank you.

Perhaps consider allowing landowners with 200 acres of farmland or at least 100 acres of woods some flexibility in purchasing doe permits.

I am concerned about the coyote population increasing. Also, keep archery going up until gun season, and let us bow hunt during gun season.
Hunters 65 and over should get a license at a lower rate to keep their interest in hunting. Just like fishing and small game.

If the NRB decides to extend the archery/crossbow season, I recommend that it should be antlerless only. Thank you.

I'm in favor of rolling back the crossbow hunting season to make it much shorter than the regular bow season.

Adopt a deer Management program like Minnesota and Michigan with only certain size bucks able to be harvested.

2019 I hunted first 4 days of gun hunt and didn’t see one deer. First time this has happened in 15 years.

I think the license fee should be reduced for anyone over 65 to keep them in the woods to enjoy hunting.

Thank you for allowing community input to be considered when the rules are being written each year.

I would like to see a 4 point on one side antler restriction to get to an older class of bucks.

You should make the holiday hunt you can hunt Antlered for a reward of shooting do Antler less.

We do not see a lot of deer movement Due to the lack of pressure from Deerhunters around us.

Give management authority back the biologists. Allow for t-zone October hunt again and EAB

Earn a Buck would help control deer population.......population is high in vernon county

Bring back printed tags! It's tradition and make everyone at deer camp feel involved.

Would like the gun season to not be early or late in the rut, rather in the middle.

Earlier season for gun. Too cold, out of rut, preference for bowhunters not fair.

Try and get more anterless deer harvested, earn a buck is an option.

I would like to thank you for including the public in your decision

I do not want to see any changes to the crossbow hunting season

Why no questions about EHD and how it affects decision making?

Found a lot of dead deer guessing from blue tongue

Incorporate shotgun with the muzzleloader season.

There is a lot of deer/vehicle collisions.

I think the recommendations are good.

Please leave the deer seasons as is!

would like to see earn-a-buck again

Make the season like Minnesota’s.

no holiday hunt!

leave it alone
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

657 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 238
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 205
   - I hunt in this unit: 600
   - General interest in this unit: 117

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 551
   - Bow: 250
   - Crossbow: 230
   - Muzzleloader: 132

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 25.59
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 152
   - Mostly Private Land: 56
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 95
   - Mostly Public Land: 87
   - Exclusively Public Land: 201
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 9

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 11
   - Not too crowded: 65
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 81
   - Somewhat crowded: 99
   - Very crowded: 174
   - Not applicable: 9

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 140
   - Fewer: 182
   - Same: 185
   - More: 96
   - Many More: 44
   - Unsure: 10

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public :</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT :</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the Population Objective is not &quot;Increase&quot;...</td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>1.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First of all I'd like to start out saying, I scout whitetails 8 months out of the year, I run a good amount of trail cams throughout the county and I hunt about 3 months out of the year very hard. Its hard to have success here if you are looking for a decent buck. But being out there all the time I am able to see whats going on. I hunt all public land, county, state and federal. Historically Vilas county has been one of the worst areas in the state to harvest a mature buck sporting some decent head gear. This is due to lack of nutrition, severe winters, predation and just overall stress. I think we should be the first county in this state to set the bar and pass a 3 pt on one side antler restriction. Not to grow trophy bucks but to protect spikes and forks so they have a chance to go through the cycles of life and maybe they will have a chance to mature more. Seems like non resident hunters and hunters from southern WI come here and harvest the spikes and forks way to often. We do not have a quality herd because of this. People like seeing a nice buck, it brings business to the area, and when one is harvested the business continues onto the taxidermists, maybe the butcher shops. If muskie fisherman can get a 50" size limit why can’t we get something to help deer in the whitetail capitol of the world? We should try it, what's it going to hurt? People will have more success and they will be happy. This should be an option and many of us would like to see this. Otherwise we would like to see one buck per hunter a year. We are losing hunters not because they aren't seeing deer, because they aren't seeing any decent bucks. I also would like to mention that my trail cameras do show the wolf population increasing every year. I also pay attention to the winter severity and this winter we are at a very severe number already for stations in Vilas county. So there should be no antler less tags issued for public land after any severe winters. I believe it should be lowered for private land as well after severe winters but there are areas near cities and towns where the doe numbers could be maintained. The extended rifle season will hurt our fragile deer herd, and the continuation of crossbows for anyone all archery season is really having an impact on the buck population, I do not agree with either. We need to have a crossbow season and stay with the traditional rifle and muzzleloader season. If people are in the woods with rifles at the tail end of the rut it will be devastating to our buck population, they are like sitting ducks. One way we could make things a lot easier is change the way the seasons begin. This is a suggestion for the whole state. There are years we hear how the season started to late like 2019 so that lowers the harvest of bucks. There is a simple fix, make rifle season open on the same date every year like MI. This is my idea on season structure and I believe it would improve our state and simplify everything; Archery Season - Sep. 15th-Jan. 15th statewide continues Crossbow Season - Nov. 15th-Dec. 15th statewide continues Rifle Season - Nov. 20th-Nov. 30th statewide, weapon of choice Muzzleloader Season - Dec. 1st-Dec. 10th statewide No extended archery hunts, no holiday hunts, let the counties control their herds as needed. Lets make this the greatest state to hunt whitetails because right now we are falling off the map, losing business and losing hunters.
4 Reasons why The Northwoods Deer Hunt is failing, and may likely lead to its ultimate end - 1. Hard winters; 2. Lack of agricultural crops/food available in the area; 3. Overabundant predator populations given the land space; and 4. A lack of hunters in the Northwoods, primarily because of reasons 1, 2, and 3. There is no joy in hunting year after year in the Northwoods to freeze, and then in most cases of recent years, not even see a deer at the same time. Hunting should never be about the kill, there is no better way to enjoy the outdoors. Yet to essentially know each year when heading North, that you virtually have no chance to harvest a deer, purely from a statistical perspective given the conditions, has made many hunters leave the North in order to deer hunt, and others to leave the sport altogether, which is bad for everyone in this State, terrible for the future of the sport, and counter-productive for the future of managing wildlife in this area. There is a deer migration which has been occurring now for years; the animals from the Northern forests have been conditioned to leave this area, to go to areas where there is: 1. substantial food supply, and 2. milder winters. The 3rd reason or catalyst that has spurred on this migration of deer to the South, is that virtually all forms of predatory species in the North, have remained unchecked, all the while reasons # 1 an 2 are present. Wolves may not be harvested, bear are arguably under-harvested and are known to take their toll on the fawns each spring, which is particularly damaging to the herd. Coyotes and various cat species are equally unchecked, given the amount of land, and the limits surrounding taking these animals. If the deer can find no relief from the winter climate, and have no food, they will have been conditioned over time to take zero risk in living in these areas, when they have recognized that predator numbers are higher. There should be no question in anyone's mind as to why there are no deer in the Northwoods. There are few deer in the Northwoods because they have left over time for more manageable and survivable conditions elsewhere. Control the variables which could entice more folks back into the Northwoods to hunt - 1. Liberal rules for taking predators in the area, these species need to be dispersed more widely, and to areas where the deer herd can better handle predation. If they are hunted more frequently there, they will be conditioned to leave and the local deer populations will have a chance; 2. Revision changes to deer hunting rules, fees, & other in the Northern DMU’s versus other areas or DMU’s, in order to get more people back up there to deer hunt.
I spend a lot of time in southern and central Vilas county. I am on the back roads and in the woods most of the year. Deer are not equally distributed throughout Vilas county as there is not enough food or habitat in old growth forest. I have seen a large amount of logging this winter throughout Vilas county which should increase deer habitat throughout the county and allow the deer population to expand throughout the county. The predator population really needs to be addressed. Yes the wolf population is high but the coyotes are doing a lot more damage to the deer in the county due to their sheer numbers. 5 deer were killed in our subdivision within feet of homes this winter by coyote packs. Hunter pressure in the area I hunt which is mostly public land was non existent last season. While the 1st two days were ideal, the rest of the season was unhuntable due to the high snow totals. You could not even get off the main roads to park for the last 5 days and in our area deer went nocturnal due to the presence of a pack of coyotes. Every deer track I cut during the season was followed by a coyote. The feeding and baiting ban is ridiculous. Driven by the presence of CWD in a pen in Three Lakes everyone is penalized except for the Private deer farm. They are allowed to stay open and new cases arise each year. Many people feed deer because they love to see them. Sometimes this extra feeding provides calories for the local deer population to survive the harsh winters we have had the last 3 years. Deer interact with one another and family members lick each other constantly. Deer from other families will fight constantly driving off deer that are not in their family groups so the premise that feeding deer will increase the spread of CWD has little merit. If that were true, every deer in Vilas and Oneida county would be infected by CWD. With the poor soil and harsh winters, bucks in Vilas have not been getting the proper nutrition to produce even average antler growth. We had 17 different racked bucks on trail cams last year but they didn't have any mass or tine length. 3.5 year old bucks had 4 and 5 points. If an antler restriction were put on bucks in Vilas there would be very few bucks harvested at all because it takes 5-6 years for the bucks to achieve trophy proportions. Lastly I see people complain all the time about the lack of deer in Vilas county. There are plenty of deer here but you need to put forth the effort to find their food sources, read their sign and get a grasp of their movement patterns and get off the road. Most hunters are afraid to get off a road or trail on public land from what I have observed. I specifically want to respond about the considerations to ban baiting. I have hunted the Northern Forest for over 30 years. I have a small vacation home in Vilas Co. but no hunting land. So I hunt all public Forrest. I used to do a lot of hunting in this area but since the ban on baiting, I find it very hard to financially justify a 3 hour drive to and from home every weekend to hunt in an area where I can seldom if ever see a deer while hunting without bait. The territory is too large and deer are beyond challenging to pattern. I feel like the current DNR rules on baiting are driven by the large land owners who then with their food plots can control the deer movement. Is a food plot different from a spread out pile of corn? The deer are still eating in close proximity and feeding on the same plants, probably in larger numbers than I have ever seen on a bait pile. I fail to understand how this is not obviously the same. In addition, the bait pile is gone in a day and sits empty until the hunter has the opportunity to return. The food plot is always there. This practice reduces the opportunities for the average hunter that utilizes public land to hunt. The hard working "The little guys". In addition, to my knowledge, most if not all of the CWD found in the Northwood's has been related to deer farms. Rather than ban baiting to stop the spread of CWD why not address the real problem and ban the deer farms? What do they bring to the state? They are and have been the biggest problem with CWD in the north woods. Many other states, countries, have CWD and don't ban or restrict baiting. I personally believe just like VHS die offs, grouse cycles, poor spawning/nesting seasons, predator populations, weather etc.... it is mother natures way of controlling her own. I personally have never seen a sick deer in the woods and have hunted as well as spent an awful lot time in the wild, as I am a very avid outdoorsman. Lastly, I am a hard working blue collar guy and I can tell you me, many of my friends, and co-workers feel like the ban on baiting only values the rich guys with all the land. The ban on baiting in unnecessary and unfair. Thank you for listening, I hope this feedback is felt and heard.
It is obvious from the information presented that there is a deer population problem in Vilas County and as conservationist and deer hunting advocates something has to be done. I think the issues most affecting the herd are winter mortality, the number of predators, and the lack of habitat. We cannot control mother nature. We have very little control on the predators except for trapping permits and too few bear permits. We have no control on the number one predator the wolf. Hopefully more can be done regarding logging to provide better habitat. I find it difficult allowing antlerless permits of any type except possibly crop damage and only if there is sufficient proof. The population is too fragile. I love hunting in northern Vilas county and have been doing it for 62 years. Thank you dad. I know there have been good years and not so good. But what worries me the most is the predator numbers. That combined with the bad winters are taking their toll and tilt the scale in the favor of the predators. For the past 10 years I have been maintaining five personal trail cameras on public land. For the past two years I have maintained one DNR camera. This has always been more of a hobby than anything else. If placed in the right spot you will be amazed at what shows up. My DNR camera is a good indicator of a cross section of wildlife in Vilas county. My cameras are proof of the predator problem in northern Vilas county. This especially true in the past four years. The predator photos especially wolf photos have risen at an alarming rate. Bobcat and coyote photos have been and up and down. Somewhat a factor of the number one predator. I notified the local DNR office last year of the increase of wolf photos and the decrease of deer especially buck photos. If you want my opinion, the a late opener low buck harvest is a small part of the real problem. This was not only verified by my 2019 photos but also from my observation from my bow stand and time in the woods. Also, I saw very few fawns and twin fawns were the exception. I hope this has helped.

Having hunted in Vilas county for the past 56 years I have seen a dramatic drop in deer density at our camp. The peak deer density was back in the late 90s to early 2000s same as your data reflects. The historical data the department has shows an alarming trend in deer harvest numbers. Based on the data I reviewed the peak harvest occurred in 2000 with 10,077 deer harvested as compared to this season of 1398. This constitutes a 84% drop. In 2007 the total kill was 6175 as compared 2019 of 1398, a 76% drop. Buck harvest total in 2000 was 4706 compared to 1398 this year, a 70% drop in harvest. We have come a long way since the glory years and continue to head in the wrong direction with deer density. If you add in projected wolf kill for Vilas County of 720 you can see its going to be very difficult to grow the herd. Several questions come to mind as one reflects on the numbers, has there been any analysis by the department to see if this downward tend correlates to increase wolf numbers I suspect it does. Some people say the need for doe permits is to prevent high numbers of yearling bucks being harvested. This would then lead to more mature bucks in future seasons. We have always harvested a large number of yearling bucks every season as SKA data supports because they are the easiest target, older bucks are more wary. I believe we are losing a greater number of mature bucks because of their weakened state following the rut to wolf predation and winter severity, not because we do not have doe harvest permits. I have had the opportunity this late winter and early spring to walk many areas of Vilas county forest mainly in Eagle River, Conover and Star Lake regions seeing very few if any tracks or sign even in areas with good woody understory available. The only areas where deer were found was near residential areas. Based on my observations and your data I would like to see no doe permits and a goal to increase the herd! Thank You
This review did not even touch on my biggest concern. Baiting. I believe in the Northern Forest deer sitting go significantly down and the kill numbers will go with it. If controlling numbers is Your biggest concern allowing baiting should be your first step. CWC was introduced through Game Farms. This is a fact. Your average hunters are being penalized because some people are profitting from raising deer. If you want to remove CWC from our state start where the problem is, remove the game farms and allow everyday hunters to see and harvest more deer. I believe if you ban baiting your only hurting the people buying the license and when you talk about poor kill numbers. Please put down one of the main reasons for this to be banned baiting. I’m sure you hear this a lot but I am an avid outdoorsman and have hunted all over the world in many different conditions. Hunting mature bucks in Northern Wi without the ability to attract does is very tough. We’re not hunting in large acres of crops. I hunt public land 90% of the time. I would gladly prove my point if you pick any one person and have them solely hunt Vilas Cty without bait and I’ll hunt private land in the south over large crop fields and we’ll see who claims the trophy. I’m not saying it’s impossible because I’ve shot trophy bucks it in Vilas Cty. But like I said I spend countless hours in the woods. I see dozens of deer just driving around and thru the hunting season and have yet to see a sick deer yet we’re banned from baiting. Please consider the whole picture. If your going to address CWC. Start at the source. To my knowledge there is no cases in the wild in Cikas it and surrounding counties. Only inside game farms. Please ALLOW baiting in Northern Counties. Texas allows baiting and has one of the Largest Healiest herds in North America. Thank you for your consideration.

I have hunted from my deer camp that once had over 8 guys. In the last 5 years our group dwindled to only 2. We haven’t harvest a buck in over 5 years and the last two seasons haven’t seen a deer until about Monday. My 3 sons once hunted from our camp but haven’t hunted since the population crash. I will not bring my two grandsons to Vilas county not wanting to discourage them from hunting so they hunt my farm in Portage County but I remain in the north-woods. This year I brought my horses and on Friday the day before the opener I rode for 10 miles after the fresh snow through my hunting area which is north of Phelps. I only cut about 6 deer tracks non of which was significant in size to indicate a buck and I saw now rubs in the 10 mile route. During the summer I see enough does that I thought the population was up but track evidence from 2018 and 19 indicate they congregate along the highway hence more visibility and near buildings. Drive off the main roads during deer season and you will cut very few if any tracks. This herd needs to grow less than 20 deer per square mile with no mature bucks makes for a disgusting hunt. 2019 was probably my last season in Vilas county until the deer her replenishes. Its a shame because I recently finished building a new cabin. I gave up hunting Michigan for the last 10 years for this very same season. I also see very few hunter in along the roads and I know of another group I spoke with that will not be back next year. Winters have been tough and deer are avoiding predators by hunkering down near residents. I also think that previous doe harvests and bad winters have removed the matriarch does from the herd that once lead deer in my area to the yards now leaving sub family groups to cluster in marginal winter areas making them more vulnerable to predation.
There are far too many antlerless deer in this unit then the CDAC members in this county believe. The CDAC recommendations have done more to hurt deer hunting, forest regeneration, hunter numbers, reducing the future of youth hunters and hunters in general. I've been to couple meetings, they are a waste of time other than the info the WI DNR biologists present. Wisconsin had the best whitetail deer management in the world, not just in the USA. So we went to a committee of non biologists, non wildlife education background people to tell the experts what to do. It's been a disaster in Vilas county. I have so many friends/family that no longer hunt here. Many have stopped deer hunting over the joke that our management has become. It's a sad thing for the future of hunting/outdoor sports in this state. I teach hunter safety which makes it even more frustrating. Please let the DNR manage the deer hunt and follow their recommendations. All my neighbors hit deer w/ their vehicles (3) in December/Jan after our gun deer season. I've left skid marks all over Vilas county but I have not been able to get a doe tag here in 9 years! I can't even shoot one w/ a bow and arrow! I have a very low opinion of most CDAC members in this county. That is based only on their knowledge of what they should know but don't. Please let the scientists and DNR wildlife biologists make all recommendations. It will benefit local business, hunters, landowners, forests so much more. Then enforce the baiting/feeding rules. Cross bows are taking a lot of deer illegally and are being registered in other units if at all. A lot are not being registered (antlerless) That will only get worse w/ this farce if it is allowed to continue.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this survey. It was not clear to me earlier in the survey when asked about the number of deer I saw in 2019. I would like to clarify what I saw and when, compared to 2018. In 2018 I saw antlerless deer while hunting during the gun/rifle as well as the muzzleloader season. I also saw antlerless deer during the summer/fall while on our private hunting land. Also in 2018, I captured images of bucks on my trail cameras on private land, mostly at night but a few images in the daytime. Most of the buck pictures were in late September - mid October 2018. I regularly saw antlerless deer on private land throughout 2018. In 2019 I saw antlerless deer during the summer/fall on private land. I also saw antlerless deer on trail cameras throughout 2019, and like 2018, I saw bucks on trail cameras in the fall - late September into early October. The last buck picture I had was October 5th, 2019. I saw no deer during the gun season, and I did not hunt the muzzle loader season in 2019. I have not yet been our private property in 2020 to check the trail cameras, so I don't know (yet) if cameras have captured deer in 2020. I would prefer to see more bucks, and I also know that there are about 1000 factors that go into seeing bucks during the gun season. I am not a professional hunter, but it is an endeavor I do enjoy and hope it continues on for future generations. My deer camp has harvested two bucks in Vilas County since 2009, one shot in 2009 and another in 2010. The deer camp has been hunting our private land and public land around it since the 1950s. We have seen consecutive years without bucks taken previously, but never 10 years, which is where we are now.
I have hunted in Northern Vilas county for 58 years. Only missing for four years while serving my county. I am a Snapshot Wisconsin volunteer and have been placing five personal cameras in the Vilas county forest for nine years. I have witnessed the good years and the bad years. How can we turn this around? What stood out to me is the lack of buck sightings last year from my stand and from my cameras. Some people blame the late gun opener for the poor buck sightings and low buck kill. I knew long before the deer season that it was going to be a poor year for buck hunters in Vilas county. I reported to the DNR last fall the number of wolf sightings from my cameras and wolf tracks has been on the increase for the past four years. The deer have never been under so much pressure in the north woods. The fawn numbers are down and it is very unusual to photograph twins. We cannot control mother nature but we should consider controlling what is controllable. Increasing the regeneration of deer habitat in the county. More trapping incentive's especially coyote. More bear tags. More pressure on the courts to control wolf population. I also think we should allow the experts to make the decisions on deer population and not politicians and other assigned special interest nominees. It is good that the general public has input but I long for the days when we had a chance to see trophy deer in the northern forest of Vilas County. Whatever we are doing is not working. One last comment. Put an end to online registration and baiting. I am not sure the millennials know how good true deer hunting in the north woods use to be. I think with the right leadership and can be again. I just hope it is not too late.

Vilas county and the northwoods in general must maintain some level of antlerless harvest to provide incentives for hunters to travel to our area and maintain the northwoods hunting tradition. The promise of a big buck is gone. I am an avid public land “big woods” hunter and have all but given up on the potential for killing a nice mature 8-10 point buck in Vilas county. My partners and I have spent many hundreds of hours scouting and hunting the National Forest up here over the last 30 years and sightings and sign of bigger bucks have become almost non-existent. I know many life-long locals in the Phelps area that have stopped buying deer licenses for that reason. At my home I am blessed to make 3-20+ deer sightings almost every day of the year yet the largest buck I may see all year will typically be an 11 inch spread 6 pointer usually early season or during the rut. I would support whatever management steps are necessary to restore some “hope for a “nice one” again. I have started hunting Rusk County and am experiencing dramatically more nice buck sightings. I won’t hunt Vilas again until I am able to capture at least one decent buck on camera. (15 inch wide 8 or 10 point). My present theory is that stress from predators is resulting in more buck kills when they are exhausted from the rut. FYI- the last “good old days” of big buck hunting ended about 1995. Two variables after that are baiting and wolves. Check old issues of Vilas County news from rifle seasons in the past. The issue after rifle opener looked like a copy of North American Whitetail magazine.

I think there should be no antlerless harvest this year, and I believe the buck harvest should be only bucks with a minimum of three points on each side. I know this would hurt hunting in Vilas county in the short term but make it better in the future. I travel at least 70 miles a day in Vilas county every day throughout the year and all I ever see is town deer, which are does and maybe a buck once a month. I also hunted the archery and gun seasons and never seen a buck during either season. Also again last year more does harvested then recommended antlerless harvest. Along with a very severe winter are all reasons there should not be a antlerless harvest. The deer I am seeing this spring are very thin with ribs showing and I question whether they will survive. We need more does to build our buck population and protect our small bucks. There are not enough bucks right now to breed the does we have. The youth hunt should not go on all the way till a person turns 18, it should end as far as harvesting a doe after they harvest a couple deer and then follow the same rules as everybody else. The changes made a few years back are destroying deer hunting,(no registration, no back tags, no clear zone boundaries) have all taken away the ability for a person to report a violator. No matter what your decision is good luck trying to enforce any hunting laws. The whole system is ripe for providing distorted information. Good Luck from another hunter who is very disgusted with the current state of deer hunting.
It’s incredibly difficult for me to understand why we have lost the traditional means of registering deer in Wisconsin. What it’s become is an “honor system”, and I absolutely know what I’m talking about, unfortunately I’ve seen it, I hear about it, and it’s being abused- big time! To the degree that I assure you, your harvest numbers are a joke. And it will continue, because it’s that easy to do. To not claim your kill immediately with a metal tag, invites dishonesty, if you don’t believe that, your fools. Absolute fools! The loss of back tags, is another ignorant move I’ll never understand. Why would you prevent honest hunters from identifying dishonest behavior, poaching, trespassing, with a identifiable tag that could be reported to local authorities. WHY? How much revenue have you robbed local deer registration locations, Ma and Pa businesses, taverns, convenience stores, etc, by online registration or 800 numbers? Not to mention the tradition that most every deer hunter 15 years old and older once knew, and very much enjoyed? WHY? If you value accuracy, honesty, economic growth, dump this total B.S. system you’ve implemented in Wisconsin! Go back to what worked well, for everyone, for decades! The dishonesty spawned by the new “regime” is alive, and doing very well. Take it from one who knows absolutely what I’m talking about.

I along with the others in our group that hunt have all concluded that since the wolves were introduced the deer population in the northwoods has decreased dramatically. Some of our group has decided to hunt elsewhere and some of the others have stop hunting altogether because they are so disgusted with not seeing deer. Two years ago we had three of our hunters that were out in the woods hunting for four days. None of them even saw a deer of any gender! That is pathetic. Our group only goes now because of tradition along with the fact that it is the only time when many of us get to see each other during the year. I have considered ending my Wisconsin deer hunting but can’t since our group stay’s at my place for the hunt. The wolves must be dealt with. Have a much larger season and very high harvest rates for them. What makes it even worse is Vilas along with the other counties that border Michigan have to deal with poor policy by their DNR not believing that the wolves are a problem in that state also. Something has to change or deer hunting will become only a memory instead of reality. Guess that’s what the tree huggers, anti gun and anti hunters want. How many businesses that depend on revenues from hunting have to fail before our DNR acknowledges there is a problem? Sincerely, Upset Hunter and Taxpayer

I am basing my opinions on the fact that I have deer hunted in Vilas County for over 50 seasons and I am a resident of Vilas county. Although the season started at its latest this year, opening weekend weather was perfect for hunting. We had enough snow on the ground and the temps were mild. This allowed hunters opening weekend access to their areas and the weather allowed all day sits either on the ground or in a tree. I know a major weather pattern came through mid week, but aren't the majority of bucks harvested in the 1st 3 days of the season? On opening day, I sat in my tree stand from Sunup to Sundown and saw 2 deer all day. Back in the 2000-2006 era, it was common to see 10-20 deer on opening day. Deer sightings have gone down ever since. Comparing this to the 2018 season, I hunted 7 of the 9 day gun season and 5 muzzleloader days and only saw 5 deer the entire hunting season. I think deer season in the Northwoods will never be like it used to be in the past. Gone are the majority of deer camps and the lure of the Northwoods hunting experience that drew all the hunters up here. All you have to do is check out area buck pools to see how hard it is to harvest a buck. Despite everyone’s best efforts to manage the deer herd, we just don’t have the deer herd that you think we do!
The number of deer being poached is ridiculous. Many people “recycling” harvest authorizations. Many people filling out false information when it comes to harvest authorizations. Many people not buying tags at all, with no in person registration it gives poachers a free for all to kill as many deer as they can. Also, the number of deer being taken by Natives is absurd! How is it only 200 antlerless tags given out but one native can go out and shoot 6 in one night? Either you are oblivious to what’s going on or you are ignorant and don’t care! On top of all the poaching and unlawful slaughtering of our deer herd from vehicles in the middle of the night, we now have to worry about the wolf decimating the population. It is already too late, damage that can’t be undone is happening right before our eyes and it is pitiful that our generation simply turns a blind eye! A 6 point minimum on antlered deer would drastically improve the quality of bucks harvested in Wisconsin. Also, sell less out of state licenses for more money! Wi is way to cheap of a state to hunt in there for we attract scum that can not afford to hunt anywhere else. People that exploit our laws and our game! STEP IT UP WI DNR, YOU ARE FAILING OUR STATE!!!

I watched with interest Michelle Woodford’s video on deer metrics and appreciate the impossible task of finding many concrete conclusions on deer populations with so many variables involved. At the same time efforts must be made to manage the deer herd on the best available information, so I would add one suggestion that might be worthy of your consideration: The deer/auto collisions data are sadly lacking anything like the true numbers due to the fact that they are based on REPORTED accidents. Many deer are hit and either stumble off to die later or are not reported at all. I have a suggestion here that could be of some use: As a retired person with the time and in an area with many deer accidents, I would be willing to keep a tally of actual deer carcasses on a stretch of road, say County N from Sayner west to County M in Vilas County. I would record the date, location, sex and size of deer. Perhaps another person could watch State Hwy. 155 from Sayner to St. Germain? I’ll bet with your leadership a network of observers could be organized to help provide a better estimate of deer numbers in those areas? Just a thought.

I would like to see a one deer permit considered that would allow hunters to harvest either an antlerless or antlered deer. This would enable hunter that choose to hunt for meat to harvest a mature doe if they choose. Additionally, it would reduce the number of immature bucks harvested. When the only option for hunters is a buck, too many take the first deer they see with antlers. Way too many immature bucks taken every year. Way too much poaching is occurring by rifle hunters during the archers season. 2019 was extremely bad with the number of rifle shots every dawn and dusk all throughout the archery season. Need to either allow baiting or not allow sale of bait and fully enforce rules. When I grouse hunt, I find a lot of bait piles all throughout the public land I hunt. Additionally, I see/know of a lot of people baiting and with "feeders" on private land. Your only opportunity to harvest a deer without bait is to set up on the paths leading to other people's bait piles. Personally, I am in favor of lifting the baiting ban. The bait ban is in place in Vilas county due to game farms and import of deer. Eliminate the game farms and import of the deer and there would not be CWD in the area!

In the years since the buck only hunting and the reintroduction of wolves without management the deer harvesting has gone down the areas I hunt immensely. I have seen fewer hunters every year. I have seen a plentiful amount of does every year but seeing a buck seems to be like finding gold. There were a few years when all I witnessed the whole year summer included was wolf signs. I scout pretty much year round in the area we have plenty of deer lately it might be time to start allowing for more doe tags on public land. The amount of tags on private vs public seems very disappointing. As an outdoorsman and a hunter for my entire life I feel that paying for licenses every year for a dwindling chance to get a deer is very concerning. I feel that people who don’t pay for the conservation of our wildlife are making things more difficult for hunters and fisherman. I believe baiting should seriously be discussed again because of the unfair advantage private land owners have in both numbers of tags and the ability to plant crops to attract deer away from public land. I hope my voice is heard and hopefully many others that hunt in the area as well as my fellow outdoorsmen and women.
During the 2019 season we hunted out of a camp with 8 hunters over the first 3 days of the season. We saw a total of 6 deer, all does. Most years I personally see 3 to 6 deer per day. I spend a lot of time grouse hunting or working in the woods the entire fall season. I felt there were somewhat more deer based on my observations in 2019. However, based on past years the population is down significantly. The objective, at least for western Vilas should be to increase the herd. I know eastern Vilas members of the CDAC believe there are too many deer so the CDAC probably settles on a maintenance objective. The old deer mgt units addressed this situation better than the current county system! Finally, the DNR should enforce baiting & feeding restrictions on an equal basis. Around Papoose Lake area many residents continue to feed deer. Yet I have not heard of one person being prosecuted for feeding. The deer congregate around the residences during the gun season. On Monday of the season a DNR plane spent at least an hour over the hunting area around Papoose Lake. If this situation continues you are going to lose more hunters & license revenue in Western Vilas County!

Antlerless Harvest & Quota: With a harvest last year of 303 antlerless deer, having a quote of only 200 seems like a disconnect. Current recommendation for 350 tags for private land and 150 for public also go well beyond the quota of 200, though not all hunters fill those tags. During the April 8 meeting, there were comments about lots of does and damage to the forest. Seems like a higher quote would be appropriate, and more antlerless authorizations. Comment was also made about non-local hunters being good for license sales and the local economy. Given that, I think the 350 tags for private land is good, but would suggest a higher number, maybe 200 or so, for public land tags, versus the 150 recommended. Also, re feeding, I think there are still lots of folks in the area that still feed deer. Maybe old habit for them, or they don't think their bit of feeding is making much difference. A little infraction is still an infraction, and all those add up to more than each individual thinks. "Oh, I only put out some corn for 'my' deer." I think better communication is needed to discourage such feeding.

My biggest topic of interest regarding our deer herd is the buck quality. Northern WI is known and loved for it's wilderness. Our bucks should represent the beautiful mature forests that they can thrive in. We teach responsible marksmanship in hunters education. Requiring hunters to know there target and confirm that deer has 3pts on one side before pulling the trigger is not asking to much. It's unfortunate that as a resident of Vilas County, I travel to southern WI to bow hunt 150 inch bucks because it's near impossible to locate and hunt 120 inch bucks in Vilas Co. If our buck herd had time to mature, hunters from all over would buy a non resident license for an increased cost in that license. Instead, our hunters are going elsewhere and I don't blame them. WI is always behind on these topics. Increased size limits and catch and release could and should have been spearheaded by our DNR but musky clubs had to fight for change. Look at the 50 inch class fish our lakes support now. It's time we do the same for our buck herd and give the spikes and forked bucks a chance to become men.

I hunt with a bow. I am probably a couple of steps above the average hunter in knowledge of whitetails. I saw 2, count that 2, deer while hunting in vilas last fall. Two doe, for a month in the woods, unreal. My son and I hunted for a week straight last week in Oct., he saw no deer, I got a glimpse of one. Year before I hunted Vilas at least 100 times, saw 12 deer. Had cameras out for couple of months last year and had one, one picture of a semi decent buck, normally have nice deer where ever I put out a camera. Less and less people in the woods up there. I really thought about not buying a license these last two years, I mean you have that phoney thing about baiting because of cwd in the deer farms, I get by without that, but why don't you shut down the deer farms since that is where the cwd is. But those people have money and money talks and that says it all. And deer registration is different now also, I mean why register a deer when you can take it home and cut it up and keep on hunting? It's like your giving these bums license to violate. I don't get it.
in the past I tried to suggest that a standard number of antlerless tags be available every year. A minimum number should always be available no matter what kind of winter we had or how many car accidents occurred. This number could increase if deer numbers explode. But the number should not drop below the minimum. It could be used during all deer hunting bow or firearm. In the 80's I used my tag as an insurance policy in case I shot a sub legal buck or big doe with her head behind a tree. I believe the tag system was much better than the previous party tag as I only hunt with one other person. I also hunt michigan and found their buck patch a nice way to get deer info from hunters who wanted to register their deer. I also think its foolish to have private and public tags. I think hunters should be able to fill their tag anywhere in the county. It seemed the group(CDAC) only thought that deer numbers were high between eagle river and st germain should there be an area within the county where more tags are available. such as a sub unit where additional deer control is needed.

9553  Thank you for an excellent video presentation on the perceived state of the Vilas county deer herd. My experience and knowledge of the public areas we hunt are that the deer herd is much smaller than what was discussed in the video and getting smaller. Our group of eight hunters is seeing less deer and our success rates are even worse. I would like for Vilas county CDAC to change it's goal from "maintain" to "increase" the herd and do away with all antlerless permits for at least one season and then re-evaluate. Another tool I would like to see available to the CDAC is the old "Party Tag" for antlerless deer. This was a good program in that it allowed groups to harvest a "camp meat" doe to eat throughout the remainder of the week. It required 4 hunters to apply for one permit, as part of the group hunt. There are to many factors that affect the size of the herd and it seems they are taking a toll on the herd size in Vilas county. Let's let more antlerless survive the hunting season and try to increase this herd size. Thanks for allowing me this opportunity.

9554  In order to get the proper management in this area we need to increase the antlerless tags enough to make a significant impact and draw more hunters in the area. This area used to be booming with hunters and deer and then the DNR went overboard with too many antlerless tags and bonus tags and after several good years of killing it greatly impacted the herd. This combined with a couple tough deep snow winters, lack proper predator management (wolves and Coyotes) and other factors, the levels went significantly down which then turned off many longtime Northwoods deer hunters to go elsewhere. Adding this factor with several years of BUCKS ONLY, continued to push hunters away. Now that the population is back, we still need more hunters in the woods to get the deer moving and manage the herd through hunting. This is what will draw more hunters back into the Northwoods. There is so much area of great public land to hunt, but not enough hunters. Again, don't over do it with multiple antlerless tags.

9555  I believe that the harvest and population of deer are centered around the populated areas of the county. I travel from Boulder, Sayner, St. Germain areas routinley. I see deer with in one mile of these areas along the roads until bow season. Then with the exception of the rut it is a dead zone. I have hunted in many places in Vilas Co. near Day Lk., Muskeluge Lk. Whitney Lk., Big Lk. And many more, basically were ever the herd moves. But fore some reason he herd has left the forest for the protection of town and additional food opportunities. Public ground hunters see not so much as a track during gun season and it has been that way for the last ten years. The only way a gun hunter is allowed equal opportunity to harvest a buck is if they are in rut. Please allow gun hunters a equal opportunity by adjusting the opening dates similar to Minn.or other surrounding areas. One other thing, change the cost to out of state lic. Fees to equal the cost of a out of state lic. In the state of the hunter applicant.
I've been hunting primarily in Vilas county for over 50 years. I've watched the deer population be strong in the 70's, drop down in the 80's due to over antlerless deer harvesting, increase in the 90's, struggle to come back in the 2000's. Since then the population of large bucks has decreased considerably due to poaching. Also, increased numbers of predators especially wolves, bears and coyotes and even fox(primarily killing small fawns), snow kills from large storms primarily later in the winter have all had negative impacts on the herd numbers. The number of predator kill carcasses I see in the woods especially while snowmobiling, has increased significantly! In my opinion there are too many negative influencing variables in the northern zone to have antlerless quotas at all. A significant number of "nubbie" and small spiked bucks are also harvested under antlerless permits. I would not recommend antlerless harvest at all in the north. Thank You.

We hunt exclusively on private land. We saw no deer on our 500 acre units in 2019 for the entire gun deer season, much less than the numbers we saw in 2018. We did however see a number of wolves (4-5 over the week), and wolf sign was prevalent. We do not support baiting, and we also are highly opposed deer feeding by residents. We cannot understand why a ban on residential feeding by homeowners and vacation residences are not enforced. If baiting ban discourages the promotion of CWD, why can't the DNR or law enforcement use the same logic for feeding..........yet, it is never enforced. Gas stations and roadside vendors freely sell 50# bags of corn to these residential individuals who have feeders and large yellow piles in their backyards to view deer. This is not helping alleviate the CWD problem and it also does not help the deer populations diet. Why can't the DNR or other law enforcement organizations, stop or cite these violators?

The amount of deer seen in Vilas County, in my opinion and observation, is rising each each. It is not unusual, on lake roads, to see 10-15 (mostly does) in mile stretches. In addition, the online sales of antlerless tags has to be limited. The purchase online method left out hunters that were engaged in morning work activities. The antlerless tags were gone very rapidly. The DNR should have a morning online session for a couple hours and an afternoon/evening online session each session would have limited antlerless tags (divide tags in half). This would bring in the morning hunters, allow them to get home and be involved and not left out. Each session should start on time and not allow hunters to login early to save a spot for their purchase. I tries last year to login at start time and I was ~14,000 in line about one minute into the online purchase. We means many hunters logged in very early. Please consider. Thank you!

When I started hunting in Vilas County I would see 20-30 deer during bow season. Last season I only saw 5 deer all season. Also during my time hunting in Vilas County I’ve noticed the wolf population go up. From seeing little wolf sign to not hunting grouse anymore due to the high amounts of wolves in the area. I strongly believe that we need a wolf season. I also think the wardens really should be checking county land. My dad and I have seen many people hunting from their vehicles. Baiting is another issue we see a lot of. Unless it changed and I never heard but I’m pretty sure baiting is illegal in Vilas County. It’s unfair to the hunters who follow the rules and you see a guy carrying in a 50 pound bag of corn to his stand. Finally guys leaving up their tree stands. I make sure I pull mine every night if I’m hunting county. Just this past week I was up turkey hunting on county land and I found 3 tree stands still up.

I am a passionate sportsmen. I enjoy hunting and fishing he northern Wisconsin lakes and public hunting lands. However, not enough is being done to promote the deer population numbers in the northern counties like Vilas, Oneida, and many others. There are way to many deer seasons. Doe only seasons are killing the populations in the north. The majority of does are only having one fawn due to harsh conditions in winter. Those yearlings are not making it thru these extreme snow conditions and predators. Back 25 years ago the deer did not have to content with the wolf like they do now. The average wolf kills 7-10 deer a year. In 1 square mile that brings the deer herds survival to a very low rate. I am now seeing more wolves and coyotes than deer during the gun deer season. Spending gas money, food, housing, gear, license, and you are up to $500-$600 a year not to see deer is getting old.
Baiting with corn has gotten completely out of hand. Any given weekend you can see huge trailers with hundreds of pounds of corn rolling up Hwy 45 and Hwy 51. This simply must stop. We have 120 acres of private land we hunt and the deer that spend summers on our property are pulled off the land by corn piles. This must be enforced. I understand that there are a number of people who want to watch the deer all winter. I’d suggest a complete ban on corn for the year except January 1 through April 30. This stops the illegal dumping during deer hunting yet allows those who wish to see deer out their window in winter the ability to do so. As part of this, retailers would need to not sell corn during the closed period. Also, if law enforcement sees a loaded trailer, that person must be stopped. Once the word gets out that fines are handed out, many will quit dumping. (apples as well)

I have hunted in the same area since 1971. Last year we had 6 hunters-each hunting sun up to sun down. Our stands are on public land in the Black Jack Wilderness area/Anvil Lake. Total number of deer seen in three days of hunting: 0 Total man hours in the woods over three days with 6 hunters: 162 hours. Number of fresh tracks seen by 6 hunters over three days of hunting walking to stands: 7 sets of deer tracks. Total number of wolves seen in three days of hunting: 12 (different wolves based on color and size). The loss of habitat, the low fawn recruitment rate due to predation from a variety of predators, and heavy wolf predation has decimated the deer herd in most regions of Vilas County. Forty years ago this was the deer meca of the world. Now most hunters no longer venture north. We have lost 4 of our group as they will not return. It is a sad deal.

I have a major concern about the age structure of bucks in the county. We have very few mature, 2+year old, bucks. I base that on observation of actual animals and of rubs/scraps. I also don't believe the private/public antlerless program works, because the intent was to target eastern Vilas; however, the private tags can be used on the extensive parcels of private land in western Vilas as well so while the intent was good the actual result is not as planned. I base my comments on a 30 year career with DNR, over 20 working in Vilas County, and my degree in Natural Resource/Wildlife Mgt. from UW Stevens Point. Antlerless permits here need to be replaced by hunters choice, the county needs to be managed by using the quota units, 25,36,29, etc. Serious consideration needs to be afforded the one buck license per season, regardless of weapon.

The deer population in the Vilas county region, especially in Public land has been decimated. We have been hunting the region since 1949 and our worst 3 years ever were all within the last 10, with 2019 being one of them. I didn't see a single deer. The depopulation of the deer herd is causing less and less people to come up north, causing a severe economic impact on the region. We need to protect the antlerless populations, build the herd size back up, eliminate the ridiculous toll that wolves are having on the area, and hope for some less severe winter weather in order to regrow what once was a proud whitetail area of the state, which now is becoming a wasteland. Wolves need to be controlled or eradicated, they literally followed one of group members out of the woods one evening, he may never hunt again. Its time to make a change!

We / the hunters of Vilas County should all be concerned with the incredible number of predators now proliferating in our woods. What will it take to convince our leaders that we have unmanageable population of bear, wolf and coyote decimating our deer herd? Additionally, we are playing with fire hoping nobody gets hurt or worse yet killed by a predictor. Hunting for over 50 years in Vilas County has taught me a few things. Respect for the woods, danger is always a second away and planning to have fun and enjoyment in the woods also includes being prepared. My wish is I am wrong but it could be only a matter of time before the increased predator population becomes a situation that is going to take drastic measures to correct. Should we not start corrections sooner rather than later? Thank you and best of luck with your planning.
In my "back yard" deer have been kept alive by neighborhood feeding, although appreciative of the deer's survival what this causes is deer that have a limited gene pool, unnatural behavior of the deer, (feed based activity), I find few deer in the woods but all congregate in a circuit of the neighbor feeders, I don't want to hunt these back yard pet deer I want wild deer to chase. we have a herd of approx 10 local deer that are are small and do not develope much in the size of racks, we have bucks that come into the area during rut but are gone soon after (it seems), I understand feeding is banned but what good are laws that are not enforced, but how do you do that with limited funds and field agents? I am totally against this phone in registration, that being the loss of a tradition I suppose but how do you keep anybody honest?

I have hunted the Northwoods (public land) for many years with generally very poor success. Although many antlerless deer are spotted along roads, it is a tall order to see any deer at all deeper into the woods. The only people I've seen who were relatively successful relied on baiting. Although I am not very enthusiastic about baiting in general, I do not think it should be banned unless food plots are also banned. If the excuse given for the elimination of baiting is to prevent close deer to deer contact to prevent the spread of CWD, then food plots and baiting are doing the same thing - artificially attracting deer to a small area. The hunter who does not have a managed piece of land is put at a distinct disadvantage. This will only serve to discourage even more hunters from what appears to be a struggling sport.

I find it interesting the total lack of information presented of the wolf population and the impact on the northern Deer population. The Nineweb Lake wolf pack has changed our hunting experience over the last decade. The DNR stated they wanted a population of 350 in 1999, in 2011 DNR listed the population between 782-824. Today the wolf population is over 1000 which is probably a conservative number. Our group has taken a daily inventory of deer activity in the area we hunt dating back to 1982. Average of 10 hunters in the woods from 1/2 hr before shooting time until close, we stay in the woods the whole day. The data shows far less deer these last 5 years. The bear population also has to be accounted for in the fawn population growth, again no mention of this animal and it relationship to the deer herd.

Not just for this unit but for gun hunting in general I would propose a deer hunting permit period. Not a buck only, not an antlerless deer only, just one deer of either sex for each permit holder. That way it would generate much more interest and those who want to harvest a deer would have a chance and those who want a buck would have a chance and the herd wouldn't be decimated like it is with all the antlerless permits. Until about 15 years ago or so we had to post our land and had to redirect hunters who came up from Milwaukee and Chicago off our land. Since the slaughter years where people could buy as many fawn permits as they wanted the deer herd is down to nearly nothing. I am sure you see just as many deer from your office now as you did then which is zero and now that's what we see in the woods.

Deer almost nonexistent. I have a house in northern Vilas, spend a lot of time there. Haven’t hunted there in over 10 years because of the lack of animals. There are more beaver and otters than deer in the area (seriously) and of course coyotes and wolves. The off Reservation Tribal "harvest" is concerning as well. Every year, between me or one of my neighbors on either side of me, there will be a wolf kill in one of our yards. (3rd year in a row) we need more predator control. Also a 4 point per one side antler point restriction as other states have implemented. My serious deer hunting is conducted in other states now because of the lack of quality and opportunities in Wisconsin. I know alot of other people personally who do/feel the same. We need more deer.

Was very disappointed that I was not able to draw an antlerless tag for 2019. My queue number was very high and all tags were sold long before I could be considered. Wish there was a preference point if you tried the previous year, but didn’t draw. We had a tough winter snow-wise this year, and have just recently seen a lone deer (since gun season). I live here, so am very aware of the critters on my land. In our area you can always tell when gun season is approaching; the deer stop their normal patterns because some folks insist on baiting and feeding. We need to ban baiting and feeding statewide, and I did vote for that on the spring hearing questionnaire. Why can’t we ban the sale of bait in counties that are not allowed to bait? Thanks for listening.
There is lots of deer in Vilas Co. The bucks have good numbers, just hard to shoot, because they move at night, instead of sun light. Deer are very smart in this part. Hide very well with how much forest and land there is. No one go's way back where they are all at. The doe population is growing great. But can't shot them. Lots are getting old, because of no hunting female deer. I have seen lots of female deer. I think with that there should at least be one doe tag per person in the Vilas Co area in the season. The wolf's way to over populations. There so much sign of the and pics I have got. There killing the deer off to much. Even for those old female deer and small fawns. U can't hunt the females like I said. I hope u like what I've said. Thanks

We have a cottage outside Land O Lakes and have hunted there, on the adjacent public land, for many years. I moved back to Wisconsin 16 years ago and in that time we have shot one deer with an average of three hunters in our party. We just don't see that many deer in and around our property. I saw eight deer total this past gun deer season. I was very happy to see five of them in one group. Also, driving home, usually on the first Sunday afternoon of the deer season, It seems like I have seen far fewer deer on trailers or hanging out the back of pick up trucks. It appears to me that in the past few years there are far fewer deer being harvested compared to other years. I don't know if it's predators or hunting but deer numbers seem to be down.

The population in Eastern Vilas is certainly higher than in Western Vilas. Therefore if the county is viewed as a whole (similar throughout) when setting quotas it affects the west part adversely by harvesting too many antlerless deer. Wolves and coyotes were seen very often on our trail cameras in the Town of Winchester. I believe predation is higher (as a per cent of deer population in Western Vilas County. This also adversely affects hunting success in the west. I believe there as illegal feeding going on and this needs better enforcement with some serious fines to stop some of this and reduce the risk of CWD. The rule is there, enforce it. Perhaps Eastern and Western Vilas County should be managed as separate management units.

The wolf population is getting worse every year everyone agrees the numbers are wrong. Everyone is seeing more in person and on trail cam and hearing more at night. How can you be blind by the low number of kills in Vilas? Lack of deer and increased predation is the reason. I hunted 5 days during gun season and saw a doe and fawn opening day. I remember seeing 30 deer opening day when I started hunting in the 90s. All those years of herd control and earn a buck was a horrible idea. Now I'm lucky to see one deer on trailers or hanging out the back of pick up trucks. If you truly care about the population you would get the supreme court to overturn the wolf decision. Look at how fast the quotas were hit when we had a season.

For this unit and the state I would prefer a step back. Archery season is hunting with any bow. Long bow, re-curve, compound or crossbow. Archery is archery and requires skills to be accomplished at it. Gun season is with a firearm. No special hunts for types of guns or populations, just the 9 day hunt. Further I would like to see no baiting of any kind. The true skill of hunting is not sitting over 500lbs of apples and corn, (as I see commonly in the woods as I hunt), but 'still hunting'. I mean Scouting an area, patterning animals and skillfully stalking to within range to put your arrow (or round) in the kill zone. Baiting really throws off the normal patterns deer have. Lets go back to true hunting where skill is used not bait.

First of all bring back big game registration stations. Secondly, junior tags need to be filled by the junior, far to many deer were harvested by non-juniors. I've been keeping records myself of total deer numbers in the same area my family has hunted on public land for over 20 years. I've only hunted it for 17 years and the last 4-5 years I haven't seen an upswing or downswing in deer numbers. I feel predation and lack of food source hurts the population the most. I would like to see a few more public antlerless tags added but I'd also like to see it turn into a draw and have the money for the people who didn't get a tag spent by the Vilas County deer advisory committee in restoring public land. Hope this helps you guys.
Doe permits should be increased to 1,000. And even that amount is very low for a county the size of Vilas. It will reduce the pressure to take a small buck. Balance the ratio of does/bucks (which we believe is about 30-40 doe/1 buck). The deer herd is very healthy, increasing in size and was not impacted by winter weather (which was very mild). Hunters should be encouraged to harvest aging doe as they adversely impact the rut. Also, the deer season should be extended to include 2-3 weeks prior to the traditional opening day. This is in recognition of changing climate patterns, when the rut occurs and the likelihood that a season extension will have a modest impact on the overall deer harvest.

I spend a lot of time in the woods, I hunt from Eagleriver to Saint Germain, the deer population has definitely been decreasing on public land. In years past there were high numbers of deer, maybe to high, but now I can’t even find tracks. Lots of predator sign. Wolves move into areas where I hunt and all I see is poop with deer hair and bones, than no deer, when wolves move on than coyotes move in only shots I heard last gun season were on private land where deer baiting is going on. I hunt border of vilas and oneida co. This spring I’ve yet to see a deer track anywhere I hunt, mostly coyote tracks and one wolf track, I’ve never seen anything like it, probably my last gun season unless something changes.

Generally, I have been hunting this unit since I was 13 years old. When I first started hunting this unit it was not uncommon to see 20-30 deer a day. It progressively got worse and worse each year. We started to notice a rebound in population each year of the buck only seasons. As soon as a antlerless were allowed to be harvested again the amount of deer seen in the field started to decrease again. The 2019 season was one of the worst in regards to deer seen. It is my recommendation that this unit go back to buck only across the board for a minimum 5 years and after the initial 5 years the antler-less harvest should only be allowed for youth hunters.

Generally, I have seen more deer the past 2 years than in the previous few seasons. This goes for both bucks and does. This is true for the private property I am fortunate to hunt on as well as the general area which is a mix of public and private land. For only the second time in the past 22 years no one in our hunting group harvested a deer in 2019. This was by choice, we all saw does, however, they all had fawns and we won’t harvest them. We hunt private land and have DMAP tags. We had a couple young(spike) bucks come in and they got a pass as well. We had tons of trail cam pictures showing 4 mature bucks but they all disappeared about a week before the gun season opened.

More deer need to be harvested on private land and having more private antlerless permits will help. Would be nice to have a chance to take a doe to fill the freezer vs the option of taking a small buck to just fill your tag. I agree with keeping the youth hunts as this is our next group of hunters and if they don't see more deer they won’t want to hunt. Tourism is very important and less quality deer hunting chances mean less dollars and less hunters managing the herd and taking their dollars somewhere else. The Forests of Vilas county are very import for public and private income and the herd needs to be kept under control to make sure the forest stay healthy.

Please implement a draw for non residents and not over the counter tags. The draw would only allow half of the total number purchased in 2019 and also charge draw for non residents double the price of the 2019 season? This would still give the DNR the money and would help the heard population especially on the Northern Forest Zone. Or only allow the amount of tags drawn by half of the non resident harvest from the previous season in that zone. It’s unfair to the residents when we stick are hard earned money and time into the system and non-residents reap the benefits. Most states only have non-residents draw and charge them double the money. Thank you for your time.

You can walk through the northern highland forest and find acorns everywhere. Now, either the acorn crop is more abundant than ever or the deer are over harvested. There is not a piece of public land that should not be HUNTER’S CHOICE. All of Vilas should be HUNTER’S Choice. I grouse hunt Vilas every year. Last year I put on 32 miles in 4 days, never saw a deer in places where back in the 90’s I would kick up 12 to 15 deer a day. It has been this way for 20 years now. There is plenty of natural forage to sustain 30 deer per square mile in Vilas, to say otherwise is a boldface lie. Get out from behind the computer models and put boots on the ground.
Over the course of the past +/- 3-5 years (2015-2019), I have finally been seeing a positive trend in the number of 2-3.5yo bucks reflecting previous management changes, based on my opinion. Doe groups have been healthy too. Overall, I would say the deer population in my greater square-mile area has been steady-to-growing in a positive way, best that it has been in the 17 years of hunting our area. My direct concerns are related to any changes too drastic that would negatively impact these positive trends. Additionally, predator numbers (Coyotes specifically) during the past 3 seasons were the highest they’ve ever been. Thank you for your time and efforts!

From the harvest numbers last year it is clear you need to sell less antlerless tags, hunters shoot 50% higher than the quota, 303 killed for a quota of 200. Where you shot 50% higher 103 exact above your set quota last year you have to reduce this years quota to achieve a maintain, I highly recommend a zero quota for Vilas county with only junior hunters allowed to kill antlerless deer. If you refuse to go to zero quota, at a minimum you must reduce quota to reflect the over quota take from last year, you also have to reduce the number of antlerless tags sold to more closely follow the previous, near 60%, success rate of harvest.

I have been hunting in Conover for many years! Seen more downs than ups! We had 3 good years back around 2004 with big bucks! Then numbers started to decrease due to hunters, tag numbers, wolves and weather! 2019 we saw many more bucks and does on camera but mostly at night! Think baiting is still around even thou illegal!2019 did see more deer sign which felt better! Trying to keep my teen kids interested in hunting to keep family tradition going but very hard! I have noticed deer stay near cabins for food and safety! A lot more sign! Wish state would ban and enforce baiting more! Real hunters don’t need bait

Making gun season longer is not the answer! Family traditions for years, evolved around deer season being the same week as THANKSGIVING. Extra hunts only give more opportunity to poachers. An early mentor hunt for younger hunters is great for the experience, with a mentor. Prepares them for the real deal 9 day. Go back to, over 12 to hunt with adult, 13 hunting alone. Higher prices for lic, only chases away the hungry, who cant afford missing work, and the lic. Perhaps a budget cut in pork barrel spending, and more studies by people who don’t know wildlife is the problem, not the answer.

I believe that the deer herd in the southeast portion of the county has a very out of balance of doe to buck ratio. Especially on private lands. I believe this is do to property owners shooting more and younger bucks due to the lack of anterless tags available. The 350 private tag proposal, in my opinion is a low. I personally would like to see the number closer to the 500 mark or even higher. This is just personal observation mainly due to the fact you can’t drive through any residential area and not have to stop for deer or almost hit one. Looking forward to seeing the final numbers.

Deer distribution is still a problem. While numbers are exploding in residential areas because of a lack of hunting, backyard feeding is also a large problem. The ban on baiting has further shifted the population as there is no enforcement for feeding deer at backyard feeders, yet a hunter hunting in the middle of public land no longer has the ability to pull deer from adjacent backyard feeders. In many cases, the areas where you see multiple car hit deer, there is a feeding station that the deer are going to. I see it in my line of work where I am in the house noticing these feeders.

Deer hunting was terrific in the mid 90’s until around 2005 and then we over harvested the deer with way too many does being killed. Hunting was terrible from 2007 until 2018. We are finally getting reasonable hunting where we have a chance but shooting does is still a problem. I wouldn’t be in favor of that for another 2-3 years. Feeding and baiting was also a huge problem because the deer left the woods and moved into the yards. Keep the ban on feeding and baiting forever. I personally believe this is the greatest change that has occurred to give us a chance on public lands. Thanks.
I take deer hunting very seriously, I scout all year round. I hunt other states and Canada. Vilas County has changed a lot in the last 8 or 10 years. I use to see more mature bucks I mean 4 year old and older and that is what my harvest standards are a mature buck or nothing. I believe part of the problem is wolves and part of the problem is to many young bucks getting harvested over illegal bait piles or out the window at the bird feeder with a crossbow. I would love to see antler restriction I think that’s the only way to get older bucks back and have a very liberal wolf season.

Your antlerless quotas were too low last year. It was obvious that doe numbers were up in 2019. Did not see a buck in bow, gun or muzzleloader seasons. Opening morning of gun a group of 12 does came through. No one in our group had drawn an antlerless tag. I’m losing interest in deer hunting and so are the guys I hunt with. Can’t shoot one of an abundance of does for the freezer and the pressure you continue to put on the bucks is ridiculous. You are ruining the deer hunting experience in Vilas County. Raise the number of antlerless tags. You are being too conservative.

Why there is almost no satisfactory deer hunting in Vilas County: Rampant deer baiting and feeding NOT controlled by the DNR. Too many wolves and other predators. Native harvest. Poor habitat control. Overblown disease reports (wasting disease). Poor government regulation on seasons. The "herd" in Vilas County and much of Northern Wisconsin is reduced to a captive herd that is limited to those areas where they are feed (close to human residences) and valued more for their viewing pleasure than as a hunting resource. There is very little hunt or tradition left in the sport.

In my opinion, the buck only rule seems to be helping a little bit. I would like to see a minimum of 4 points on one side law introduced. Way too many people around here (and tourists) shoot the first buck they see & it’s ridiculous. More often than not, it’s a small, young buck. Some of us are still “trophy hunters” & would like to see the numbers of larger bucks increase. I understand there are still big deer around here, but it’s definitely not what it use to be & those numbers are way down in my opinion. Hopefully this is taken into consideration. Thanks.

I hunt alone & I am a seasonal resident. Last year I did see a lot more deer on the surrounding roads outside of Boulder Jct. While I’ve been hunting basically the same areas where I have had past success, sightings of deer have diminished. The last 6 years I can count on one hand the amount of deer seen while hunting. A good deer hunt isn’t just about harvesting one! It's seeing other forms of nature, but also having more opportunities to see more deer while hunting. In the old (Unit 35) which I hunt, there should be zero doe tags to build the population back up.

You continue to make hunters pay for the years of incompetence you subjected us to. 12$ bonus tags, T-Zone hunts, etc. Predation. How about we take into consideration other states and implement antler restrictions. Why does Montana, Wyoming, Kansas have giant whitetail? Restrictions. Using the same deer season criteria for Waukesha farmland and the swamps of Eagle River? Let’s use the years of fleecing customers out of money promising the deer heard is robust and actually use science to structure our season. 3 on one side for 3 years. Then let’s evaluate the heard.

I have been hunting in Vilas county for more than 30 years. We used to see good numbers of deer. But, in the last 10 years or so, we have seen a steady decrease in deer numbers. Some deer hunting seasons we have not even seen one deer. Many seasons we only see one or two deer. Too many does and fawns being continually killed, hard, long winters, and too many wolves and bears feeding on the deer. We need to do all we can to increase deer numbers - not “maintain” or decrease numbers. I am pleading to stop all doe and fawn kill permits in Vilas county!!
I have noticed with "supposedly" no baiting/feeding that the deer herd has moved from the housing areas into the wooded areas, in my area (nothing worse than sitting out all day in the cold and see 1 baby spike deer, then drive in for the night and see 10 at a feeder in town) Just seems seeing 3 or 4 deer in a 10 day hunt compared to 20 to 30 deer back in the 80's and 90's, that there must be something effecting the deer herd. Wolves, Bears, CWD, over-hunting??? Maybe it's time we consider a "NO Hunt" season and let the north wood herd bounce back.

It sure would be nice to see the number of deer that are killed via predation during the year in this survey. In our area of Vilas County there were 2 to 3 times the number of deer seen 2 weeks prior to the gun season vs. 1 week before the gun season. BUT we also noticed what seemed to be 6 different sets of wolf tracks in the area a week prior to the deer season gun opener and we think the deer vacated the area we have a house in and our hunting area because of the wolf presence in the area the week prior and the first 4 days of the gun season.

Turkeys in the north woods eat too much deer browse, and the large bear population can hurt the deer population every year. Many illnesses come from birds species in our world. With the added turkey population for example, in an area they don't really belong like the north woods, does this contribute to the spread of diseases like CWD. Elimination of special group only hunts. Have all hunting during regular seasons; Youth hunt for example should be eliminated, and teach the youth to follow normal hunting practices in the regular season.

I have hunted vilas county for more than 35 years and am not getting any younger. I hunted years when baiting was allowed and when it has not been allowed. My experience the last few years without bait allowed has been very negative. This non bait rule has made it so difficult. All I ask is if a person could put a coffee can full of corn out and spread it. It would bring back the fun and create optimism which is needed to create excitement of possibly seeing a deer with the chance of making a ethical good clean kill shot on the animal.

As always we saw a large number of antlerless deer during the season, in some ways almost reminiscent of the late '90s and early 2000's. One of the biggest concerns for me this year is making sure hunters are encouraged to come up to Vilas county given the impact that Gov. Evers' handling of the COVID-19 situation is having on the economy. It's already shaping up to be a tough year on local businesses and a strong hunting season would give them a boost. Likewise, the chance for families to put meat in the freezer is important to me.

Support antlerless permits, could be more for private lands, taking one antlerless deer per square mile of deer range would also be conservative. I support 100% allowing youth to take antlerless...but the youth weekend should return to the LAST weekend in October where it was before the bow hunters complained. Most hunters I know hunt for the experience and for the meat, very few hunt for large antlers exclusively. Could have the state discuss adding a second buck tag with antler restrictions and have an earlier opener in the North.

The deer population has been steadily declining for the past few years in the area where we hunt. I have several trail cams set up from Sept. through the gun deer season and I can honestly say, the deer numbers have dropped drastically. We hunted 4 solid days and only saw one small fawn on the morning of day 2. During the gun deer season I had more hunters show up on my trail cams than deer. Also, there was very little shooting during that same time frame, thus resulting in only 4 days of hunting. Very discouraging to say the least.

Please add many more doe tags to 2020 season have not shot a buck in past multiple seasons never see any bucks but see tons of does in woods always Need venison in freezer!! Way too many does everywhere all season They are a pest in yard on highways car accidents etc. They are ever where all the time at minimum add doe tags to archery season both bow and crossbow so I can get a deer for food please If doe tags are not available anymore going to quit hunting Deer hunters have dramatically reduced in vilas county Thx

Leave the Vilas county zone alone. Do not mess with the hunt in that area. From what I have seen the buck population is not the quality it once was which I believe should actually be managed with a size limit. Meaning no spikes 4 points or better, but just my two cents. I would however recommend closing the logging roads by lake Laura are for safety reasons. I hunt this area and felt very unsafe attempting to hunt areas I would normally due to high traffic in and out all day long. Again this is in my mind a huge safety issue.
I hunted more this year than any other year in recent times. I usually hunt 22-24 days per year. In 2019 I hunted about 32 days including 14 days on the pre rut and rut. I saw 3 bucks during the rut and a spike during rifle and none during black powder. The late opener would have no impact on the deer sightings during the rutting periods. Deer populations are down. Predation is up, whether from bear, wolf or coyote. We need to limit doe tags to youth only and implement effective management to grow populations.

I have hunted the same woods for all of my adult life. When you sit in a tree stand for 4 days in a row and not see a single deer for years and years then there should be a 5 year halt on shooting any does for bow or gun. Let the population get back to where it was in the 50’s. My father hunted the same woods and used to always see deer. Northern Wisconsin used to be the best deer hunting in the state. Over the last 20+ years the amount of deer has gone down and the amount of mature bucks is non existent.

It appears that the number of antlerless bow permits that are given out each year for private land are extremely low. I have not hunted in the area since the county limited the number of antlerless deer tags available (10 years or so). If you want to keep tourism up and increase the economic benefits that bow and gun hunting brings to the county, simply increase the number of antlerless permits for bow/gun and have a later start date. That seems to have the greatest impact on the deer herd.

I've been hunting in Vilas county for 22 years or our family cabin was built in the 1930s and we have been watching the population of deer continue to go down I have only shot 2 bucks in 22 years. That gets pretty discouraging. My son is getting into hunting and it is not enjoyable for him whatsoever. I am thinking that we should think about moving the gun deer season up one week to try to hit the rut a little bit more For more enjoyment for our youth Thank you for your time and listening to make comments.

The DNR has lost all credibility with regards to Deer Management. The hunter is the LAST shareholder considered even though hunting has paid the bills for decades. Insurance companies, predators and non-hunting interests drive too many decisions in deer management. It is no wonder that hunter recruitment is declining. How can I get my child interested in the idea of sitting all day in the woods and seeing nothing? The tradition of the Northwoods Deer Camp is gone. Thank you for your incompetence!

We need first of all to slow down the predators for sure especially with the amount of snow we get in Vilas county. Second thing is way to much logging with now vast amounts of open space the deer numbers have really dropped. Third is the off reservation deer hunting , what right do the indians have shooting in the middle of the night from the back of a pick up truck on the road. the doe hunt needs to be dropped totally for 5 years for sure it is taking a toll on th herd we have left

Open up a wolf hunt we need this to help keep things in balance and go back to application point system for doe tags this the best way, it was fare for all hunters. We have to work.we can’t set on the phone or computer at work to apply and some of us don’t have wife’s or kids to set on line to see if we can get one. Can the northern county’s open the gun hunt on Wednesday, eight days be for thanksgiving day And run to the last day in November. Go back to registering deer at a station.

Kill the wolves already. What are you guys doing?! Maintaining the deer population is not enough. There are wolves killing WAY to many deer in Vilas County. I have little faith in the DNR after it has ravaged the northwoods with the introduction of wolves and their boneheaded recommendations to only “maintain” the deer herd. Are you guys even alive? I’ve seen blind umpires make better calls than you. In all seriousness, the deer herd is too small in the northern forests.

Every year the deer heard seems to go down. Our hunting party used to see and shoot bucks every year with bow and gun for the last 28 years. We haven’t seen or shot a buck in the last 4 years. The wdnr is always worried about disease. The 1990s had lots of deer with no disease. Then came t-zones and earn-a-buck. Yes, wolves and a few bad winters didn’t help. The main problem was over harvest. People keep dropping out of our hunting party because it just isn’t worth it anymore.
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<tr>
<td>9617</td>
<td>I think Wisconsin should consider a one deer per year quota with the hunter choosing the hunting method that they desire whether it archery, gun, crossbow, etc. While there seem to be pockets of deer around there are also big areas with very few if any deer so the maintain system for this unit doesn't seem to be aggressive enough when this area needs to try to increase the herd more, there are quite a few predators around. Thanks for this opportunity to express my concerns.</td>
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<td>9618</td>
<td>The trend I have seen in Vilas county is the abundance of does and fawns and few bucks. The bucks we have are year and a half to 2 and a half. There's no age class anymore. With little to no does to harvest all these young bucks are shot because hunters want venison and that's what's available. People can't pass the young buck and use a doe to put meat in the freezer. For me to watch trail cams for 7 months and see a forked horn as my biggest buck, it's very disappointing.</td>
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<td>9619</td>
<td>Where I hunt there have been to many predator sightings, some coyotes, more wolves than in the past. The deer herd looked like it might be in rebound in 2018. 2019 big drop again. Will give it one more year. Will need to decide to break up our deer camp and hunt further south in the state. Seen 2 deer in 2019. hunted 4.5 days morning to close on 4 days. First year my son did not hunt with me since he was able to hunt. Have enough of looking into a woods with no deer.</td>
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<td>9620</td>
<td>For Vilas county. The DNR should double the bear permits for the next few years. Waiting 10-12 years for a bear permit is absurd. I see more bear than deer for the past 7 years. I believe we should bring back a Wolf season as the pack needs to be contained. I also believe that the DNR should close all deer hunting for a season or two. This will bring the numbers back. However, I doubt the DNR would consider that because that is a lot of revenue they will be loosing.</td>
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<td>9621</td>
<td>I spend a far amount of time hunting on Public Land in Vilas County, and feel that No Does should be taken. Between Wolf kills, Spring Bear kills on New fawns, Tribal Kills off Reservation, and Hard Winters, I feel we need all the Does making new Deer as possible! *It would be nice to see more Bear tags Issued to help out the Fawns ** Most hunters would rather see Deer while hunting, and not shoot one - Than have a Doe Tag and not see any Deer</td>
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<td>9622</td>
<td>Very dissatisfied with the antlerless quota system of obtaining a permit. I have personally witnessed people buying permits for everyone in there family after standing in line for an hour only to find out there are none left. Also do you really think people are abiding to the Private/Public thing!!! With only 500 permits available going on line is also a joke. By the time you sign in there are a million people ahead of you. Not a fair system. Go back to the old way!</td>
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<td>9623</td>
<td>I feel the state need to go back to the lottery system for antlerless tags and move away from the online and in person first come first serve system. This makes it difficult for all hunters to be able to have a equal opportunity to obtain a permit. Also eliminate the public and private permit separation. The total number of permits available should be available to all hunters not segregated by land owners and those that hunt public land. Thank you for listening</td>
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<td>9624</td>
<td>Hunted the same area for 56 yrs Have seen a direct correlation between the increase of the Wolf population and the rapid decline of the deer in our area. The stated Wolf numbers are nowhere near the actual numbers in the hunted area. This is noted by deer movement and feeding patterns. They have definitely changed with the increase of the Wolf population. Less deer, less opportunity, less revenue for Northern Businesses. We have seen the pattern. Thank you,</td>
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<td>9625</td>
<td>As I have mentioned in prior surveys, the deer seem to have habituated themselves around urban areas: towns, villages, residential developments, etc either because of the availability of food or to escape predators--probably both. There may be an over-abundance of deer in these areas while areas outside these zones have few to no deer. Unfortunately these non-urban areas tend to be the areas with the public land which is why I see little to no deer there.</td>
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The number of deer has decreased every year for many years, over hunting, to many extra permits and a greater population of Wolf and Black bear have taken a big toll. I think the WDNR greatly underestimated the starvation numbers that have happened this winter. I would gladly give up the hunting season completely to see the deer herd increase. Listen to us sportsman and not the insurance companies and maybe gun deer season will return to a great experience.

I spend a lot of time in the woods throughout the year and see an over abundant amount of does. This is on public land. Trying to get a doe tag in Vilas on public land is very hard. with only 150 tags available last year I was unable to get a bonus doe tag. Because of this people opt to shoot younger less mature bucks to put meat in the freezer. I get that does help maintain the population but there is not shortage of them by me. Thats all I ever see.

Stop baiting/feeding on public and private lands. Antlerless harvest quotas for public land hunters seems low. Maybe consider some antlerless permits for early season traditional archery hunters, no crossbows during this hunt. After 50 years of deer hunting, I believe that the DNR has lost its focus of providing a quality deer hunt and may be too focused on making special interest groups happy, don't be timid when faced with an unpopular decision.

I was able to harvest a buck this past gun season but that was the only deer I saw opening weekend. I remember when I first started hunting up in vilas county that we could pick and choose what we shot and the drive into the woods opening morning the roads would be lined with hunters. Because we would have other opportunity. Now it’s not the case. My personal opinion is that vilas should be still classified as wanting to increase the population.

I have hunted deer, grouse and ducks in Vilas county my entire hunting life. It has been very apparent that with the uncontrolled growth of the Wolf population our deer hunting experience has suffered significantly. In some yrs. we see more Wolf sign & Wolves than deer. The last effort to control deer population in Vilas county is thru increased doe harvest. Reduce the Wolf/Bear population and than we can talk about a larger doe harvest.

There should only be BUCK harvests, like it used to be when we HAD big BUCKS to shoot at. Antlerless hunts only lead to " If its brown it's down" and that makes for no nubby bucks to grow up!! Nature did a great job between winter kill and predators to control the herd size. You can't go back to when YOU GUYS sold 1000 doe tags and almost wiped out the herd. Nature brought it back, and the fact that there were no doe tags sold.

I see less and less deer every time deer season comes around, there is less shots fired each year. Last year I counted only 5 shots fired, and that is the opening weekend, the 2nd weekend there is nothing. I love deer hunting however its coming to the point nobody wants to go because there are no deer. The same is with fishing as you talk to the locals nobody is catching anything. The north woods isn’t the way it was.

I hunt the area Highway 51 and County Rd. M to Big Arbor Vitae Lake. Last year I saw lots of wolf tracks, no Bucks and very few doe. About 8 years ago there were lots of deer and the DNR started selling $2.00 doe permits for a few years until there were hardly any doe left. Now because of harsh winters and predators the deer are having a hard time coming back. Very frustrating. Would like to see a few more deer. Thank you.

Over the Past several years of gun deer hunting, what I have seen in my area of hunting (Eagle River area) the buck population is way down. More so antlerless deer everywhere still lower than what it was in say the 80's. The bucks that I have seen and passed has been in the low antler sizes of spikes,forks and small antlers. We need to concentrate on building the buck population up not just control the deer population.

This unit has seen numbers of off reservation poaching during the summer and fall. This is unacceptable as it does affect the numbers of healthy animals in the heard. The rules and regulations for deer management should be universally applied and enforced. This does include, but certainly not limited to, the purchase of hunting licenses, limit of animals harvested, and adherence to the antlerless harvest limits.
Areas of Vilas county have way too many deer and more antlerless permits are needed to help control the population. I see 20-30 deer or more nearly every day in the immediate area where I live. The deer are devastating the forest in this area. I understand the deer population in some areas of the county may be low, but there needs to be more opportunity to harvest does in areas where the population is very high.

our group is getting older and stating to hang it up. This is no real surprise, as it is getting tougher for us. The surprise is that not many of our kids are interested in carrying on the tradition. They say one of the reasons, is that they don't see enough deer. I believe this is true. It seems like 20+ years ago we would see 10 or 12 every day for the opening weekend (gun season), but now 2 or 3 is the norm.

Having hunted this unit. Extensively over the last 40 years. The deer numbers have steadily been on the decline. Predators have been a factor for the last 10 years. I think their impact on the deer numbers need to be considered more seriously than they are now. To return the north woods deer hunting to the way it was will need some serious management efforts on the part of the hunters and CAC. Thanks

I would prefer a permanent ban on baiting deer during the entire season for all forms of hunting. I would only agree to Supplemental feeding on an emergency basis during a severe winter and only if deemed necessary by the WDNR field wardens. I have seen bait dumped by the truck load on both public and private land and believe this practice ruins hunting for all the surrounding landowners that will not bait.

I don’t have the answer but I believe there needs to be a better way of distributing the public land antlerless tags than having to log in to a computer and hope you “get ahead” of enough people. Last year I took off of work so I could log in and I did so 10 minutes before the “start” time and had 12,000 other people in front of me. Then come November and the only thing I saw all week was 3 does.

How about letting veterans shoot antlerless too it’s tough for them to hunt. And instead of bonus tags just give residents of the county a doe tag and a buck tag. The tourists only get a buck tag. Im getting pretty tired of buying tags every year and getting all my venison from car kills cause i cant make a legal harvest due to bogus regulations. Bring back baiting and give residents doe tags.

Baiting, close down or make deer farms put up double fences. Over 50 years of hunting in unit 35. Usually 15-20 guys in deer camp, the last 10 years probably shot about 5 deer. Nobody wants to hunt anymore and I don’t blame them. Way to many wolves in the area, no baiting, your not going to see anything...I know nothing will change, all about the almighty dollar and who is getting paid off.

The Northern Forest Season needs to be changed by starting the gun season one week earlier and end the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This will provide hunters to have the possibility of catching the end of the rut (one week earlier will not impact bow hunters as I am one of them) as well as providing more opportunity days in the field. Many times inclement weather ruins opening weekend. Thanks.

I travel 35 miles a day to work. I travel thru sayner, boulder junction and up along hwy b toward bents camp. I would occasionally see a doe with twins in the town’s but away from the town’s I was lucky to see a doe with one fawn. The late snows in the spring of 2019 did have a big impact. There were at least 10 deer that perished with the late snows at the end of dead man's gulch road.

I have concerns about excessive number of wolves and bears and their impact on the deer herd. I am not against having these animals as part of the over all wildlife habitat but am concerned that they contribute to a high fawn mortality rate. The one thing my family and I have noticed in recent years during late summer and the hunting season is the number of mature does with no offspring.

Please drive around and look at all the deer that are on the landscape in Vilas County throughout the year. To only be looking from your treestand during the opening weekend of gun season is ridiculous and dangerous for our resource. There are many, many deer that are available for harvest. Now more than ever with folks out of work and the food supply chain disrupted. Let people hunt!
We have 10 people in our hunting camp that hunt both public and private land. We saw a combined 0 deer in the woods this season. This is why I support a zero quota antlerless harvest in Vilas county. That being said I do believe that we need to support our youth hunters and get them excited to be in the woods so I am in support of our youth hunters being able to harvest an antlerless deer.

We need to grow the deer population slightly in my opinion. If the predator (wolves mainly) population continues to grow, and we experience another very severe winter like that of 1996 I believe, I fear that it will take a devastating toll on our deer population. If the population was a little higher, there would be benefits to the deer in surviving harsh winters, Yarding areas, etc.

Due to the high pressure from bow hunting, as well as the consequence of predation on the population, I plan to forego the gun season for the first time in my life in order to try harvesting my deer by crossbow hunting. Although I hunt hard, I haven’t harvested a deer with a gun in nine years. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results.

My only comment pertains to baiting in this zone. Baiting has been banned for a few years now all due to CWD that was found on fenced game farms. As far as I know, no deer from the wild herd have ever tested positive in Vilas County. I feel it is unfair to punish the average outdoorsman who wants to enjoy seeing deer on a regular basis for what is happening in fenced in farms.

Please help get the population numbers back up! I take kids hunting a lot and we just aren’t seeing deer! Also please look at the no baiting issue! We don’t bait because it’s against the law but everyone else is baiting still which hurts us tremendously! There is no enforcement going on! Heck bars in Vilas county are back to feeding! Thank you I’m sure your trying your best!

In the public forest deer numbers are still low, but in the cottage/home areas there are many more deer due to feeding. This draws deer out of the public forest and makes harvest very difficult. We need to stop baiting/feeding during the hunting season at least, but all year even better. Thanks for the nice video (very well done), and the opportunity to provide input.

It’s time for the Dnr to step up and implement antler point restrictions for the entire northern forest zone. Our buck to doe ratio is so out of wack and the bucks we do have don’t have the age structure for a healthy herd. This decision has to made from Madison. The question is if head of deer management in Wisconsin cares more about our herd health or his job.

I believe there should be no antlerless permits. Between bears and wolves and winter severity It’s already tough enough for the deer. Now throw in the Indians hunting. If we care about the economy also having higher deer numbers would increase hunters. The younger hunters that used to come with us no longer do. Guess why they say they don’t see any deer. Very sad.

I hunt both with bow’s and gun, spend a good amount of time in the woods. 2018 Was a better year as seeing deer in the woods, 2019 no so much I would really like to see minimal antlerless takes given out till the heard gets larger. Any thoughts to trapping deer in the farm zones away from cwd and releasing in the northern zones? It worked really well for turkeys.

Overall deer hunting in Vilas just like the rest of the state is very bad I have spent all of my free time hunting since I was 12 yrs old and never seen such pathetic hunting. bottom line is there are no deer left and way to many predators. I also think the cdac committee's should be removed and all people involved in whitetail management should be fired today!!

Strategic timber harvest to promote deer and grouse habitat (browse) is necessary to increase the deer heard in Vilas and Forrest counties. I grew up hunting in Sawyer County (they log a lot there) and as much as I didn't like the rough logging practices there, (disruption to creeks, careless spring logging etc), it definitely helped to support deer.
Why has the baiting ban in Vilas County not been rescinded per the law? The deer that was tested positive for CWD in the town of Crescent (Oneida County) would not have impacted Vilas County as it was farther than 10 miles. In fact, the baiting ban should have been rescinded for the 2019 season as the 2 years had passed since the Three Lakes incident.

I believe that predation numbers for this area are seriously understated. I think that the impact of predation has contributed to a larger drop in the population. If not the overall population then the areas where these deer move and the greater numbers of deer numbers are nearer the population centers where less contact with predators would be likely.

I was on the website to obtain an antlerless tag at 10 minutes after it started and was so far down the list none of my hunting group was able to get one. The DNR needs to try to find a new system of awarding them where the tags are so limited. But as usual the DNR does what it wants, just look at what was asked for last year in Buffalo county

You need to have a 3 point rack minimum on one side! Everyone seems to shoot anything that they can. You'll never get large racked, older Bucks. This shoot anything, including Does will diminish the heard even worse that it is now. I use to see large heards of 70 plus deer back in the 70's. Horrible management has got us to this point!

After 67 years of gun deer hunting and not seeing any deer much less a antlered deer I am thinking of quitting deer hunting period. This would include hunting in Wood County where there also is no deer. When I started hunting 67 years ago we used to see several deer each and every day now one is lucky to see two deer in the entire season.

Predation is not an issue in our area. The few wolves we have are treasures to those of us who live in the north woods. Seeing an occasional wolf is exciting. The deer herd does not see affected. Most wolf sightings are over road kill. Please do not consider wolves the enemy. Lack of education about the value of predation is the problem.

I feel the antlerless quota has been too high. In the last couple of years I believe the early spring snow storms have hurt the herds reproduction. Many of the mature does I have seen in July and August of last year did not have fawns w/ them. I gun hunted for four days and did not see a deer, in areas where I have harvested deer before.

You need to stop allowing people to shoot Does! You need a 3pt minimum on one side, and Buck only north of highway 8! You will never get a healthy Buck population by killing of all the Does and shooting basically any Buck that walks by. Take some pride in harvesting a Buck. Does will eat out of your hand......no skill or sport needed.

Thank you for all your work on deer management. The population, by my view has been very low for several years now. I was the only person in a group of 8 to even see a buck and only saw 12 deer total during three full days hunting. Others in my group saw even less. One 30 plus year hunter didn’t see a single deer while in his stand.

There is a minor problem with over population in the towns of Vilas county but the overall deer numbers are low in most other parts of the county. Given that opportunities for young people to shoot deer are declining in the north woods, I would support allowing youth to take all or most of the antler less harvest in this county.

Please allow more shooting of does people will fill their tags and not shoot as many bucks! Too much pressure on just the bucks in this county. Also with all the pressure from predators and the winters your not really saving deer, let them go to use and go in my freezer! Until you can control those factors it really doesn't matter.

I don't see very few deer when I first moved here I would see 30-40 deer and the last seven years it fell of to nothing 5-6 maybe if you want people to come up north you better have deer and you should have a season on wolves they are killing a lot of deer. I am getting to the point where I am thinking of not purchasing a license.

I spend most of the winter calling and killing coyotes ( been doing it for the last 15 year and put a lot of miles ) I can tell you that the amount of wolf tracks that I cut are more and more every year ! In my opinion the only way you should even consider issuing antlerless tags is when they established another wolf season.
This is the 4th or 5th year that I have not fired my rifle at a legal buck. I have concerns of the number of ag tags that are awarded in the area of Croker Rd. & Deep Lake Rd. There is always a concern on the abundance of wolves, add in bear, coyotes, & bobcats, a lot of predators out there, man is the least of them.

Keep it buck only in northern wisconsin. Only allow antlerless tags to youth hunters. The deer population is way way low. I have not seen a deer during gun hunting the last 3 years. Have a season for wolves they are not helping the deer population. The wolf population has grown tremendously over last 9 years. Not good.

Vilas County is 43% public land. The proposed division of antlerless permits does not seem fair. If the 500 antlerless permits were allocated base on the amount of public/private land The split would be 215 for public and 285 for private. I hunt public and feel a little slighted on the 350/150 split of antlerless tags.

While I recognize that CDAC cannot decide baiting and feeding regulations, the prevalence of illegal baiting and feeding continues to negatively the quality of hunting in Vilas County, and can only contribute to the spread of CWD. The availability of CWD testing kiosks in the county has been a very useful program.

Drive around anywhere in the county and there are a lot of deer on the landscape. This was the same last year. Antlerless permits will allow harvest and keep some pressure of yearling bucks - both good things. I would like to see a few more antlerless tags available this year over last years numbers. thx.

I think there should be more doe tags to public hunters. Private land hunters take the stgs but refuse to shoot doe. I hunt to eat, so more tags to public land hunters would give me a better chance to get a doe tag. In the last 10 plus years I’ve seen alot of does and I could count bucks on 1 hand.

There should be no doe tags for public land in Vilas county. Have a place in Vilas county and the deer hunting around Kentuck lake area is disappointing. The county should be split in Two. The counties on the West side of Vilas and on the East side of Vilas are buck only. There are not many deer.

Antlerless permit numbers should more closely reflect the ratio of public to private land in the county. The current system favors privileged landowners and privatizes the deer herd, especially in areas with a mix of public and private lands where deer routinely cross property boundaries.

There probably pockets of deer.The county is to big to have a one size fits all. There doesn’t seem to have a lot of deer on west side of HWY 45 near conover. But plenty of wolves. Also deer plots on private lands are keeping deer from public lands. This is a problem that should be addressed

I hunt the hole season pretty much all day every day when you see only a couple of deer during this time compared to other years it makes me wonder just how good the herd is. I see no sense in issuing a couple hundred antlerless permits not knowing what the winter is going to bring

We have seen back to back severe Winters and poor critical spring recovery putting a major strain on the deer population. I believe that Vilas County should return to a buck only season for all proposed hunts. I believe this is critical for the health and deer numbers going forward.

Did you ever think with the buck harvest down this that there are not that many deer in the unit as you say. Not because of the late start to the gun season. With another serve winter again if you have any antler less permits in the unit we are not going to have many deer.

I would like to know exactly why finding deer with cwd in a high fence trophy ranch is even a consideration when talking about allowing or disallowing feeding or baiting. My opinion they should be treated desperately!!! Specially when you have 0 positive outside the fences.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9685</td>
<td>Shut down deer farms with CWD not the county and surrounding counties to die tags and baiting, etc. Allow baiting for recreational hunter. If you look at crops the deer don’t spread out and feed, they all feed together in the same area, should we outlaw crops?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9686</td>
<td>Wolf predation is a SERIOUS issue. There have been at least 5 kills in VERY noticeable areas of human travel (e.g. driveways, main roads). There’s no telling how many kills are happening outside of the highly trafficked areas where evidences are not seen/heard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9687</td>
<td>the ban on baiting makes no sense since the CWD positive test were on a game farm, how that relates to the deer in the wild is beyond my comprehension. A 1-2 gallon limit is not going to congregate deer herds and can provide for a much more meaningful hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9688</td>
<td>Kill the wolves and it might be worth driving 12 hours to hunt and spending $500+ to come back to Wisconsin. I was the only person in a group of 8 to even see a deer last year. You guys need to INCREASE the deer herd dramatically in Vilas county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9689</td>
<td>My Grandparents owned a resort on Catfish lake in the 70's. Place was packed. I hunted in the 80's and Eagle River was packed with hunters. Now, there were 3 groups of hunters at the resort we stayed at. We all agree that there is no bucks in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9691</td>
<td>I was very concerned about the lack of fawns I saw in the 2019 season. I saw several adult Doe with no fawns with them. It has been quite a while since I noticed the lack of fawns in a given year. Overall deer numbers were ok other than the fawn issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9690</td>
<td>I didn’t see a deer in seven days of hunting in vilas county in 2019. I don’t believe enthusiasm can be kept up if things don’t change. Many hunters have been lost in this area over the years because of lack of deer numbers. Please manage the forest!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9692</td>
<td>Please no antler less at all except Junior Hunters maybe... number of deer seen by the hunters in my area is very low I have seen only two deer in the past 8 years both bucks no antler less at all. West of Starret Lake &amp; Noth of Muskellunge Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9693</td>
<td>The amount of Bucks my hunting party has seen per year these last 8 years have been next to none. Our only Buck harvests have been spike bucks which I feel is a sign that old bucks have been cashed out. We need an Antlerless or earn a buck season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9694</td>
<td>I worry about the young nub bucks and small spike bucks being over harvested and not getting a chance to grow past that stage and being able to breed. I am seeing a lot of does in the Phelps area but no bucks. Also finding wolf kill in the woods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9695</td>
<td>I would like to see an emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement, especially improving winter browse due to the continuing potential of severe WSI numbers. I also feel predator numbers in the northern portion of the county need to addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9696</td>
<td>Bring back baiting for bow hunting The area in Vilas county is so large we need something to help the deer come into our stands. Your number of hunters is going to decrease until you do this. Nobody likes to sit all day and not see a deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9697</td>
<td>I saw fewer deer in 2019 than the previous 3 years. I also saw more wolves the last 2 years. I hunted more last year in Vilas county than I did the last 5 years. I think lack of pressure from hunters is also a contributing factor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9698</td>
<td>Do NOT change the 9 day gun hunt. Get rid of all the other special seasons. Bow-Rifle- is all that's needed. Use black powder during rifle season if they want. Wolf killing more deer in Vilas now, need to lower wolf population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9699</td>
<td>Raise the fine for baiting and feeding deer to an effective amount. Ban baiting and feeding deer statewide. Wolf harvest. Antler restrictions. Note: There is ALOT of people still feeding and baiting deer in Vilas County.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I would like to see protection for yearling bucks. Finding a 2 1/2 year old buck is difficult in the northwoods and I believe that not harvesting these young bucks would give hunters a much better chance at a larger buck.

There needs to be a wolf management plan put back in place. Black bear permits allowed needs to increase as well. The number of predators is WAY higher than it was back in the stronger deer herd years of the 90s.

There are so few deer in Vilas county it has forced me to spend most of my hunting time in Michigan. There are fewer deer now than I've seen since 1953 when I first started hunting in Vilas county. It is a shame.

If a person hunts here when they are growing up and then has to move out of state to find a job. They should still be consider residents and pay the resident price to hunt. I feel more kids would come back and hunt.

Vilas County should be “Buck Only” for 5 years. For both gun and bow. Also encourage letting young spikes and forks go as well. Vilas County could be better than Buffalo County given the right conditions.

There aren’t even enough antlerless tags to get a minimal % to the people that live in this unit. This needs to change. Or provide the option to use a general tag to harvest a doe or buck rather than buck only.

Go back to party permits, especially in the northern part of the state. Taking into consideration all the ways deer are killed or harvested. It’s amazing there are any left in the northern part of the state.

I can honestly say that during a week in September of 2019 I saw no deer in the Plum Lake area. Very few tracks and signs as well. Plenty of new growth for food but no deer. Haven’t seen any wolves either.

Last year I talked to a group of 5 hunters and 4 of the 5 had antlerless tags. I believe that this county should really go back to the old days and allow only 1 anterless tag for any group of 3 or more.

Bring back the old dmu system that takes in forest habitat. Science is our friend. The decline in buck numbers is staggering. Antlerless tags kill to many buck fawns. Shut down the three lakes deer farm.

Why can’t we have a fixed date for opener every year such as nov 15? Eliminate the early late and catch better weather and the rut. I had to quit hunting last year because of the deep snow in Vilas.

Stop extended seasons, youth hunts stopped, hunt regular seasons. No need for parents getting jump start by using children. Ages of first harvest participants amazing. If continued anterless only.

I would just like to say. Where we would normally see deer last year we didn’t see a thing except wolf tracks. And actually saw a wolf on the way back from town about 300 yards where we hunt.

I have seen very few deer in the national forest area. The deer are mostly in areas where there are humans. The predators have kept the deer population very low in the wild areas.

I oppose the current system of obtaining an antlerless permit. I don’t believe everyone has a fair chance. Private/Public Really!!! Do you really think people are being honest???

In Vilas county we don’t see near the deer we used to see in the early 2000’s. We had deer then for a few years until the wolf population took over. We haven’t recovered since.

I would like to see a gun deer season that is tied to a set calendar time frame instead of fluctuating each year based on the Thanksgiving date. For example - Nov. 15 to 30.

Have a 5pt or bigger buck tags for 3 years. (for the northern forests above Hwy 8) That would give the younger bucks a chance up here. Limited doe tags for 3 yrs as well.

The number of deer we have seen continues to drop. I believe it is mostly related to the wolf numbers and bear. I do also believe the winter weather takes its toll.

Don’t kill any does at this time. Also if county is still going to be a no bait county, stop letting landowners have food plots. Spread out the deer to public lands.
We need to harvest more predators (BEAR, WOLF, COYOTE) We do not need all of these PREDATORS. WAY WAY TO MANY OF THEM!!!!!! We have no good reason for Wolfs.

I hunt with a group of thirteen hunters in the Nicolet forest east of Eagle River in Vilas County and each year it seems to be harder and harder to see deer.

Thanks for introducing the wolves - screwed up the entire hunt ever since they were introduced - don’t believe me; talk to the loggers in the area. I have.

IT IS SILLY TO KILL DOES WHEN THE POPULATION IS SO LOW. IT IS LIKE KILLING ALL THE FEMALE FISH IN A LAKE AND THEN WONDERING WHY YOU CAN'T CATCH ANYTHING.

Practice QDM in Vilas so we can see more mature bucks. QDM allows for harvesting Does to make more food available to grow bigger Bucks. Issue more tags

There are a lot of wolves in the Town of Land O lakes which causes the deer numbers to stay low. The wolves really need to be controlled via a harvest.

I am very concerned about the lack of deer on public land in eastern Vilas county. Also very concerned about large number of deer in populated areas.

The predator population is out of control and if there is nothing done about that the deer population and harvest numbers will CONTINUE to plummet

Please take into consideration that the winter will probably end up over 100 WSI we should be looking to increase deer numbers in my opinion

Saw many dead carcus walking through the woods this winter after snowmelt. Seems like increase in 2020 harvest may balance the population

I would like to see all deer harvested in Vilas Co. tested for cwd. All hunters would then have to personally register their deer.

Make it a lot easier for an 82 year old to hunt and harvest one deer for food. Buck or doe, no yearlings. Not much meat on a yearling

Get rid of anterless tags until the population increases and open up wolf hunting without limits. I see more wolves than i do deer now.

way to many predators. Very few fawn recruitment. Hardly any pics of fawns on camera. Hard to replenish deer without fawns surviving.

Saw 2 wolves multiple days, next to no sign of deer. In a party of 10, we saw a single fawn on its own over the 9 day hunting window.

There should Not be juveniles hunting until they are 10 years or older; its not right that people say their 2 year old got a deer!

In eight years of my participating in deer hunting, no one in my party has harvested a deer during rifle season (party of 3-5).

WAY TO MANY bears, wolves and coyotes in Vilas! This is having a far larger effect on deer numbers than we can even imagine!

I enjoy living on private land in the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation, but I am concerned that very few deer exist here.

Not closing deer farms but not allowing baiting is a way of telling the public that DNR isn’t really concerned about CWD.
We need to control the exploding deer heard in Vilas county...it will very shortly be uncontrollable if not addressed now!

Need to enforce feeding the same as baiting. Feeding Should be illegal. Feeding should be considered the same as baiting

I would like to see in person registration. We should also go back to using back tags so we know who is hunting legally.

I believe a fair amount of deer that get harvested never get registered. Because of the lenient on line registration.

Baiting is necessary to pull deer away from home feeders and food plots. I would like to see baiting allowed again.

Deer very scarce lately, last three years. Considering selling my cabin and relocating to a unit with more deer.

Very little deer have been seen during the 10 day hunting season. There are way too many wolves in Vilas County

Archery season should go back to years ago of 1 Buck and 1 antlerless tag per hunter per year. No youth hunt.

I have seen more and more does over the last three years and i belief more doe tags should be distributed.

I have hunter in this county on and off for 60 years the deer numbers are the lowest i have ever seen.

Allow hunters choice, for best chance to harvest (1) animal only. Seem to be a great balance to most!!

There are far too few public land antlerless opportunities despite there being an abundance of does.

We always see a ton of does, but very few bucks. I’d love to harvest a couple does for the venison!

Too many predators, no deer seen entire season-three days. Saw a lot of wolves, and wolf tracks.

The amount of wolf sign keeps increasing, while the deer sign is decreasing in the areas I hunt.

Very low deer numbers last year. Fall sightings and deer season both indicated low populations.

Get rid of the wolf population and bring back the wolf season. Why raise deer to feed wolves.

Heavy snows in northern Vilas county and the late opener, saw 0 deer in 9 days of hunting.

Please take actions regarding native’s harvest being unregulated and flashilhht hunting

Need to get wolves off the endangered species protection and allow controlled harvest.

Vilas County could have more public land doe tags, especially in the St Germain area

Enforce the no feeding rules better. Too many deer congregate in populated areas.

We need to control the wolf population to keep deer population at a higher level.

The Wolf Population is out of control in the northeastern corner of Vilas county !

1: predator management! Seemore coyotes and wolves every year. 2: no youth hunt.

Sad when you see and hear more wolves than deer in vilas county when deer hunting

Too many wolves in our area. Afraid to take walks alone with my dog In The woods

I think something needs to be done about the Wolf population in Vilas county.

Restructure crosbow season ,limit usage to age and disabilities as before

Keep up no baiting and feeding. Reduce vehicle access to forest areas.

To many Preditors Bears Coyotes and lots of Wolves increase controls

2019 was the first time in 9 years that we didn't get a single deer.

Way to many predators, no deer= no hunters= no interest/ tourism
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9773</td>
<td>Additional doe tags should be included in your license purchase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9774</td>
<td>only 150 tags for all of the public land in Vilas? wow. again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9775</td>
<td>We need to make it easier for hunters to mentor young hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9776</td>
<td>Adopting a 1 gallon bait limit in aiding the harvest of deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9777</td>
<td>Reduce bear and wolf population. Zero antler-less harvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9778</td>
<td>no doe permits for 2020, ban baiting, reduce wolf numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9779</td>
<td>Eliminate all youth Hunts destroyed the family tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9780</td>
<td>too many predators mostly wolf but bobcat and bear also</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781</td>
<td>I am seeing way more does than I have in previous years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9782</td>
<td>Need more doe tags and need to get rid of the wolf's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9783</td>
<td>Increase the herd, no doe permits, no feeding deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9784</td>
<td>I would like to see baiting back in Vilas county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9785</td>
<td>Very nice place to hunt but deer are slim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10983</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

205 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 143
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 34
   - I hunt in this unit: 175
   - General interest in this unit: 33

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 149
   - Bow: 101
   - Crossbow: 77
   - Muzzleloader: 57

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 17.16
   - Maximum: 60

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 73
   - Mostly Private Land: 34
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 16
   - Mostly Public Land: 8
   - Exclusively Public Land: 44
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 16
   - Not too crowded: 40
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 17
   - Somewhat crowded: 15
   - Very crowded: 12
   - Not applicable: 2

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 28
   - Fewer: 64
   - Same: 75
   - More: 23
   - Many More: 8
   - Unsure: 7

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Walworth, Southern Farmland
**Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations**

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  

**Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

- **If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...**
  - Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 91 Support, 96 Oppose, 18 Unsure

- **If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...**
  - EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 135 Support, 62 Oppose, 8 Unsure

- **If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...**
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 22 Support, 168 Oppose, 15 Unsure

- **If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...**
  - ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?  
    - VALID 22 Support, 50 Oppose, 18 Unsure
    - NOT VALID 22 Support, 50 Oppose, 18 Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Scale: 1 = Not-at-all;  2 = Slightly;  3 = Moderately;  4 = Very</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deer numbers are suffering from over harvest. Your harvest quota numbers are too high and it's setting this state up terrible hunting. I've already started hunting the western states because my own home state has terrible opportunities. The length of bow season is way too long and starts at a peak time to get them the best opportunities. I do agree with letting bow season start prior to gun based on the ability of each tool but the length of bow season needs to be addressed as well as the regulations associated with it. I fully support the requirement for bow hunters to wear orange. If its necessary for safety reasons during gun season, it should be for bow season as well. I've run into my fair share of bow hunters on public land during squirrel season and without them wearing orange, I feel it compromises their safety. Anything less than that is unacceptable. I don't hunt muzzleloader season but I do believe that they should be given opportunity before general gun season as well, ideally some time mid-October. It will increase interest and popularity in muzzleloaders as well as give them a fair opportunity before the large harvest during the general gun season hits. The idea of "Earn A Buck" should be put in a folder and run through the shredder several times. Even the thought of giving out a doe tag with every license is laughable. With the numbers I've seen personally, and by word of mouth through a large number of hunters I'm familiar with, the amount of deer seen during the season is getting to be not worth going out in Wisconsin in the first place. As stated prior, I've started hunting western states with great success as a joint decision with friends and coworkers that have gotten fed up with hunting in our own state. Non Residents should be subject to much higher license costs and should be restricted from hunting antlerless deer all together. As a popular vote among my hunting friends, family, and coworkers, we will quickly be skipping deer hunting in Wisconsin all together if the population numbers, public land access, and regulations don't get straightened out and go back to benefiting the hunters and conservationists rather than the special interest groups our DNR are trying to please. After all, it is the hunters and conservationists that keep this industry lucrative. Consult Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and Idaho on their regulations as well as their tag/application processes. Wisconsin needs to be fixed before it's too late.

I think the deer season is fine the way they are. I hunt public land in Walworth and always have. I've been hunting the same area for most of 15 years. I have noticed the first 9 years of my hunting career I would only see deer once a year once a year and if I blew it that was it. I use to only gun hunt. I remember seeing more orange than a pumpkin patch. To the point were I didn't feel safe to hunt on public. I have had a couple bullets wizz past my head. But the last 6 years I got in to bow season and I noticed I started seeing more and more deer. It only took me 15 years to shoot my first buck. Through out my the 15 year I only have seen maby 8 bucks in person and maby 15 on camera. But I hear they want to split the bow season and segregate crossbow and bow. I struggled with bow because I didn't have much time to practice but once crossbow was Legalized I fell in love. Cross bow to me is the same thing as bow hunting and some people consider it to be an advancing with I would disagree. You can't shoot any further or much faster that your Average bow. I think that it would be unfair to turn bow hunters against each other and hope this don't happen. Please don't split the bow seasons.

Deer numbers are low except for small areas where deer are not accessible, examples are near lake homes, close to small towns, and some wooded areas privately owned by non hunters. Gun season on public lands for 2019 had large increases of hunters over the past several years. I would say they were 3 times more than average. As a landowner I have seen a large decline in deer presence over the last 4 years. When turkey hunting on public land over the last 4 years I have yet to see a deer during that week of hunting. There are car kills, but traffic has increased 4 fold over the past 10 years. My wife and I drove frequently towards evening in January February and March in the kettle moraine area and never see deer. The majority of deer are always on private lands. And some fields had 10 to 20 deer on them. But these areas are untouched by hunters due to no hunting allowed.
Walworth County has held some of the lowest deer population numbers ever since earn a buck and bonus deer tag were implemented back in the early 2000s. I understand farmers do not want the deer around as well as motor vehicle insurance companies. But Wisconsin has had a long standing tradition of healthy deer hunting, which in my opinion has been destroyed in Walworth county by over hunting, bonus doe tags, bonus season hunts, and in the past foolish earn a buck requirements. This needs to stop, and is not acceptable or fair to the Wisconsin hunters. Please consider the data and lower population of deer in Walworth county and cut back on all these bonus tags, bonus seasons, extended seasons etc. if there was a serious problem of over population of deer I would agree to such things, but data shows just the opposite. Thank you for your time.

Non-hunters utilizing public lands during the gun-deer season is a big problem. I have often come upon the non-hunting public walking their unleashed dogs, jogging and strolling through a public hunting area. They are never wearing blaze orange and some to be completely unaware of the hunting activity going on and their presence with dogs running free spoils my opportunity to enjoy a southern Wisconsin deer hunt. If the non-hunting public is allowed to utilize public lands during gun-deer season they should be required to keep control of their animals, not allowing them to run loose. For their safety, and the safety of their animals, all should be required to wear blaze orange and face the same penalties hunters face if not wearing appropriate blaze orange.

PLEASE do not consider limiting hunting opportunities by restricting crossbow season length. Recent articles in the Wisconsin Outdoor News suggest members of the NRB are recommending restricting the crossbow season to October 1 to October 31. These efforts seem self-serving and intended for specific special interest groups. I hunt with all weapons but prefer the crossbow even during the gun and muzzle loader season. I am eligible for a disabled permit but do not intend to apply/seek one. The cross bow has become a popular weapon for youth lacking upper body strength needed to use a traditional bow. Limiting their opportunity to hunt by restricting season length will discourage youth to hunt and is counter-productive to our efforts to recruit youth.

I have concerns on cutting underbrush and select harvesting of trees. in the summer of 2019, the area I hunt in Walworth County, which is in the Southern Kettle Moraine Forest, had multiple acres of forest land undergrowth bushwhacked for what appears to be select harvesting of Pine trees. Multiple Pine trees have been tagged with orange spray paint. This work continued thru the archery season which affected my hunt. After my turkey hunt now in 2020, it appears the contractor will be returning to harvest the marked trees. This is occurring all around the property at the same tie, which has affected my groups hunt. It is a shame this apparent harvest could not take place at different intervals where it would not affect the hunt.

Please consider making one antlerless harvest authorization good for the for whole county, public/private shouldn't matter. The authorization should also be good for any county bordering the one you applied for. People hunt private land that borders public land the deer travel between both, the tag should also. A piece of public land might cover multiple counties, sometimes I hunt right on the border of Waukesha and Walworth county on private land that is surrounded by public, in order to cover myself legally I would have to buy 3 extra antlerless tags even though I only want to shoot 1 deer. These rules need to be adjusted as many travel between counties and types of land. Thank you

I have hunted this DMU for 29 years now and, have seen the populations of antlerless deer rise and fall in that time period but, not to the extremes of the years in which "Earn a Buck" was prevalent. It took 3 years before we saw any antlerless deer in the surrounding area and another 3 years before we had the start of any type of family groups of antlerless deer. Although there may be pockets of higher numbers in this DMU on private lands it still does not in my opinion warrant having the number of bonus tags recommended by CDAC and or DNR. I feel that we should only allow 1 antlerless tag per customer per authorized weapon tag for this DMU.
Go back to crossbows for seniors and handicap. Stop all gun seasons except the 9 day. The youth need to learn the traditions of deer hunting. Giving them a doe tag is enough. Getting hunters back in the woods during the 9 day should be more effective at deer harvest. With recent very low hunter numbers during the 9 day. Deer movement is minimal. All the different seasons have limited success on controlling numbers. All it has done is hurt the other hunters who have to wear orange during most of the fall (bow hunters). No youth hunt, antlerless season, holiday hunt, muzzleloader hunt. Muzzleloaders are not primitive weapons anymore.

I hunt the lake Lulu area, all the hunters walk in on the north end, and deer run to the south for the farmers to shoot. Please put parking in different places around the lake to stop this issue. I have a DNR disability permit it is very hard for me to get to the center, off county road J or E. there is no parking areas off Nature Road on the southern end, Or let us park along the road I've been buying a deer licence since 1968 getting real sick and tired of Farmers benefiting from my time in the woods. Crossbows will kill a deer at 100 yrd, there season needs to be limited.

I live, farm, and occasionally hunt in eastern Walworth County and have done so for over 30 years. My observations are that there are more deer in our area now than ever before. We have substantial tree and crop damage on our farm every year. It seems like there are not adequate numbers of hunters as there used to be. There are also a number of landowners that won't allow hunting on their land. I support any actions that would lessen the number of deer in our area. It is not unusual for us to see groups of 6 to 10 deer eating in a group. I fear that CWD is being easily transmitted.

We live in the country surrounded by long term farmers. Who all say that deer numbers in walworth county are incredibly lower then 20 years ago and we agree. Too many sanctuaries that allow no hunting that do show good numbers such as Geneva National, Lake Como, around Lake Geneva, etc. But out in the country, etc numbers are down, tons of coyotes, and every hunter/landowner we speak with agrees. Stop the bonus tags, stop the early and late antlerless hunts. Do not extend archery season please. Let's get the herd numbers up across the whole state and promote predator control.

Go back to the old ways bring back the back tags, green licences, get rid of online check ins, don't pass this stupid 19 day gun season. You guys are going to loose alot of bow hunters and not gain many gun hunters. All your doing is making it more of a headache for everyone I personally will not be buying a deer licence if this crap continues and I can garentee there are many in the same boat as me. Oh and this whole not listening to people with rude comments just proves that you guys really don't care about our opions.

I live, hunt and work in Williams Bay in Walworth county. The deer population is out of control within the village limits. Even with the 3 deer I harvested this year and my neighbor getting one there are a dozen or more that rome my land each day. Just driving from one side of town to the other (3 miles) We counted over 50 separate deer. Within the town most land owners don't have large enough properties to hunt with the current Ordinances. I don't know if this is allowed but a larger harvest tag may be a good thing in village limits

In my opinion the number of deer in walworth county is quite good. This was my first year actually hunting for deer here, but was generally happy with the amount of deer and deer sign observed. I'm general I think the state issues too many antlerless tags and offers too many special seasons. I did hunt one day of the holiday hunt, but really it was the weather was unseasonably warm and I haven't used my rifle for several years and thought I would dust it off.

The antlerless season in our area is a waste of time in my opinion. I don’t know of anyone who actually utilizes the antlerless hunts. The only thing it does is keeps bow hunters out of the woods who haven’t gotten a buck yet. This has caused a lot of frustration for late season hunters like myself and would like to see it removed. If it is not removed I would recommend letting bow hunters wear orange and still be able to harvest a buck during this time.
THE AMOUNT OF BONUS ANTERLESS TAG ISSUED IN THE COUNTY LAST YEAR WAS PERFECT! YOU GENTLEMEN ARE DOING A FINE JOB IN OUR COUNTY!!!! KEEP EVERYTHING THE SAME AS FAR AS THAT THE ONLY THING I WOULD SAY IS NO EXTENSION TO THE GUN SEASON AND NO CHANGE AS FAR AS THE CROSSBOW SEASON WE ACTUALLY HAVE A WAY FOR YOUNGER KIDS TO GET OUT AND HUNT AND I HAVE SEEN A DECENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF YOUTH HUNTERS IN MY PART OF THE COUNTY DONT CHANGE WHATS WORKING.

I agree with most of the proposal but feel that 500 bonus authorizations for public land is too high. The public land deer populations are already very limited yet public land continues to be one of the best opportunities for hunters to get afield. It should be managed as the resource with great potential that it is instead of allowed to be taken advantage of through continued over-harvesting.

In My opinion, the crossbow hunters should have their own season. The trophy quality is what keeps me in the woods, even if I don't get a deer. According to stats half the deer are now taken with crossbows during archery season. Or they shouldn't be allowed to use scopes. There is an ad for a crossbow showing it shooting nearly as accurate as a rifle at 100 yds.

I don't think a holiday hunt is necessary here. The deer numbers are low already. I do like the extended bow season tho. I dont like closing buck hunting if they have the holiday hunt. I saw a really nice buck during last years holiday hunt and couldn't shoot it. If the holiday hunt with gun included bucks, then I wouldn't mind having that season.

Just one comment. I know there has been an issue or big conversation in past years on bow hunting and crossbow hunting. We as hunters need to stop bickering back and forth and come together as one to strengthen the hunting community as a whole. We must band together. Our numbers and voices are fading. Stay all together.

I feel the growing coyote population is a greater impact on the points mentioned then deer and is also impacting the deer population. I feel a formal coyote hunting mentor ship program would be beneficial to help with increasing the number of hunters aware of coyote hunting and their impact on the deer population.

Very disappointed at the number of deer in the southeastern part of the state. Lake LuLu area needs more parking on the southern end off Nature road. Being a disabled hunter with a permit, it's to long of a walk to get to the center were the deer are off hwy J or E or nature road. This issue can be easily fixed.

Just felt like I observed less deer like none before. Never had a chance to look at a deer. Maybe 1200 is high or maybe season should shift maybe? and i know this is about deer. But why private or public. Eliminate this. Deer harvested in Walworth is a deer in Walworth. Please remove this before anything else.

I feel that the deer numbers in Walworth has been managed very well. Some years I see a large number of deer and some years I see less but I always see some. I like an equal amount of bucks to does harvested because it keeps things in balance and well managed. I say keep up the good work.

irresponsible if we are spending funds on majority items listed above. Need to concentrate on purchasing more public access to create opportunity. Also, go back to standard seasons no more holiday hunts. Extending these seasons stresses the herds

Would love to have the extended archery season without having the holiday hunt. As is most of December Has an orange requirement between muzzleloader season and antlerless hunts so let’s get back to a more traditional structured season.

No holiday hunt or doe seasons. No extended seasons! We dont need it open until end of January. If someone cant harvest a deer by Christmas then that's their fault. This county has more deer killed by vehicles than hunters

In general I feel there are too many deer. So I like ideas which provide more opportunity for hunting. But I do not want to lose opportunity to shoot a large buck. So I do not like any earn a buck format.

Suggest that the CDAC has the extended season again this year. No reason not to considering that we are not meeting antlerless goals, and the number of deer harvested in 2019 was less than 30.
Just really wish we would go back to wearing back tags for our safety. Whether good or bad to be able to jot down a tag name if needed we can for our safety & safety of others.

It seems like coyotes numbers are up. Packs are huge around where I live. Coyotes have been getting closer to the cattle more than ever, because their numbers are so high.

'Simplify deer season with one buck tag and one doe tag statewide for public and private. -Keep the lead bullets! -Stop changing stuff! We just want to hunt.

If Holiday hunt is held, limit firearm and crossbow to doe only. Standard archery equipment is enough of a challenge and should include buck harvest.

Biggest issue this year was corn fields left up during hunt. Then farmers cutting them down opening weekend. Messed up the whole week for gun season.

Way too many in my neighborhood. They have destroyed all landscaping. Very expensive. Please remove them from your neighborhood.

For me, just a balance approach and management would be nice, and not radical knee jerk decisions for maintaining deer herds.

Bring back the back tags, no way to identify problem hunters. Reinstate deer registration, not all deer are being phoned in.

As a land owner and a farmer our sightings of deer year round or throughout the year are a lot less then your numbers.

Crossbow hunting during deer running massacres the Bucks and leave little chance for gun Hunters to pursue any

I sure hope you leave bowhunting season the same..do not interfere with the rut time with anymore gun hunting

Can't wait to go deer hunting with a gun in November. A buck or a doe on public land will be fantastic.

Your survey is self governing.... I hate having to choose Public or private for my antlerless tag...

I hunted at least 90 times and only saw 2 does in 4.5 mos. of hunting. I saw more coyotes than does.

Think they should open gun season 1 week earlier and return to 1 deer either sex.

So far so good. A limit of one deer per license of either sex wold be good.

Need more public land to hunt.there is not enough land for public hunting.

Thank you for providing additional hunting opportunities!

GET RID OF THE HOLIDAY HUNT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Go back to a five day hunt either sex!!

Keep the Bow/Crossbow Season the same

Have more antlerless tags

Things are fine
Washburn, Northern Forest

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

451 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 159
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 127
   - General interest in this unit: 82

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 394
   - Bow: 193
   - Crossbow: 159
   - Muzzleloader: 118

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.79
   - Maximum: 61

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 137
   - Mostly Private Land: 68
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 75
   - Mostly Public Land: 51
   - Exclusively Public Land: 88
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 12
   - Not too crowded: 57
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 62
   - Somewhat crowded: 68
   - Very crowded: 77
   - Not applicable: 6

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 112
   - Fewer: 131
   - Same: 153
   - More: 43
   - Many More: 7
   - Unsure: 5

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020

Washburn, Northern Forest
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 35 385 31

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
- If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
  - ...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>NOT VALID</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020 Washburn, Northern Forest
I have hunted this area for over 35 years and have deer hunted for 45 years, and have seen the highs and lows in deer numbers. There has been a dramatic fall off in the number of deer seen over the last 5 years. Much of the deer activity has occurred after day light hours based on tracks in the snow that were not there the afternoon before. This is also verified by trail timers. There are also less deer being spotted alongside the roads in at the twilight periods. Many small properties are being sold in the immediate area, area's that had prior hunting pressure now have little to none. Deer have entered those areas and are not leaving during daylight hours. Based on the amount of hunters noted in the area most of the pressure occurs during the opening weekend of the gun season. There is a also a large number of out of state hunters in the area. This at times has limited access to certain areas. I am transitioning into that older hunter and would like to begin to use a cross bow. There are a number of people that think this is a huge advantage over compound bows. I heard the same argument when compound bows increased in popularity over traditional recurve or long bows. There is no real advantage to a cross bow besides the firing method. The ranges are often shorter than the high speed compounds now available. The use of cross bows would add several years to both ends of a hunters career. My 14 year old daughter now wants to try bow hunting if she can use my cross bow. Hopefully she likes that and later transitions to a compound. There is also the question of baiting or feeding. This action has occurred and directly affected the hunting experience. People would argue no different than a harvested crop field. the differences are very simple, finite vs infinite, the bait pile runs dry, refill it. The crop field gets harvested, wait until next year. Mobile vs fixed. Try moving a crop field. Time and effort. Too many people looking for a short cut to success. Don't believe that, how many deer camps are still around? How many deer drives are still being put on? How many less licenses are being sold? There is also too much emphasis put on trophy deer only being harvested. It used to be you were happy to see a buck much less harvest a buck during a given year. Now people have "hit lists" and are not happy unless they take a big buck. I deer hunt for the camaraderie and memories, the chance to fill a freezer with great meals. If I do it with does or a smaller buck, it should make no difference. Thanks for letting me share my thoughts.

Deer numbers have been down for years (they are getting a bit better the last 3-4 years, but not much) and predator numbers are higher than ever before. This is not an opinion, it's a fact that is discussed among all of the hunters around this area and northern Wisconsin. Bear tags are treated like gold, wolf numbers continue to rise and yet the DNR gives out antlerless tags like they are candy. Get some facts from hunters in the northern part of the state and set up a plan to get the deer numbers back up and the predator numbers down. Children and young people do not want to go out to the woods and sit for hours and see 'nothing' in today's age....... -Want to get more kids interested and into hunting??? Make it so they see deer and it's exciting. I grew up in the 90's and the deer herd was incredible. It was a blast to go out in the woods and see multiple deer almost every time out hunting. This was even on county land also. Now, that same county land and other county land in the area hold far less deer. Our family also has a considerable amount of private land with only slightly better results (nothing like it was in the past). While we do have a few deer around, the numbers don't even compare and the experience is not even close to the same for the next generation coming up, which includes my child. Keep the antlerless tags going for the youth, cut down on them for the adults for a year or so, increase the bear tags, fight to bring back wolf hunting and get the predator numbers down in northern Wisconsin. It's not that hard of a plan, I don't understand why it's not getting done, but I do know we're losing the young hunters in the process and I'm afraid once you lose them, they aren't coming back.
2019 deer hunt by the numbers, I have read from different sources that say there are between 1.4 million and 2.2 million deer in the state of Wisconsin. None of them were in the woods I was hunting in, I live in south central Wisconsin, from the time I leave my house and drive north for a (4) to (5) day hunt and back home I travel about 850 miles, from the time I buy my deer tag, oil change in my truck, gas, motel, food, and any other thing that goes along with deer hunting I spend about $850 to $900. This last deer season on opening weekend I heard 10 shots (6) on Sat, and (4) on Sunday, I seen (0) deer. After my hunt was over on Sunday I stopped at the local bar to check the buck board only (1) buck was registered. And it was the same stories from other hunters nobody was seeing any deer and nobody was hearing any shooting, I got back to my motel and talked to (4) hunters from the Milwaukee area. Same story nobody seen any deer and heard very few shots, the more I though about it seems as it was not going to get any better so I packed up and went home on Monday morning. As of right now I don't know if I'm comming back to Washburn county to hunt or if I'm even going to buy a deer tag for 2020, I know that I'm not going to see (15) deer a day, but it would be nice to see a deer once in a while. I have hunted Washburn county for (13) years and things never seem to get any better, a few years ago I went (3) years in a row and never seen a deer, its not only me that don't see any deer. Just read other comments, and its not just Washburn county it is also other northern forest counties; I would like to see the CDAC fix the low deer numbers, and stop wanting to shoot all of these does. The CDAC says it wants to maintain the deer heard, looks like there is very little to maintain. Do the right thing. THANK YOU.

So we rifle hunt on the Namekagen Barrens west of Minong, and I would honestly say that the predation rate that you have figured in this region is incredibly low. In 2017 and earlier rifle seasons we saw more wolf and bear sign than deer sightings. We saw a average of 10 deer all season. In 2018 the wolves must have moved to a different region, and the deer population was an absolute boom, and we didn't see much sign of predators. We saw 53 deer opening weekend and 47 the second weekend. It was amazing! Then, 2019 rifle season it was back to normal. Wolf tracks and scat everywhere, and a total number of deer sightings of 7 deer the entire season. The predation rate is WAY higher than assumed. Next, I bow hunt on both public and private land near Birchwood. Probably a 70% public and 30% private ratio. I did see a fair (appropriate) amount of deer during bow season, but not as many as the past 2 seasons. I ended up shooting a buck on November 9th, but then on November 13th, it was like someone flipped a switch, and the deer were non-existent. We really didn't see many deer at all until after bow season ended. Towards the middle of January. After that, (end of January), they returned like normal. I will say that the winter months of 2017-18, and 2018-19 we were seeing a herd of 25-35 deer visiting our house every day. This past winter that heard was down to 12. The neighbors that I have talked to, didn't have much success hunting this past year, so I can't imagine where those other 13-23 deer went. We do hear wolves and coyotes howling, but I don't know if that is the cause or what? Thank you for bearing with my long "comments"! Good luck with your recommendations!
I have done white tail research myself and believe there is another confound to number of deer seen/shot during rifle season. I have multiple cameras out on multiple properties and noticed that the deer are becoming more nocturnal prior to gun season. I only hunted for a few hours one day during archery season so hunting pressure on my properties was minimal and should not have been a factor, however the number of bowhunters and hours has increased considerably around the county do to crossbow hunters. The additional pressure I hypothesize has created deer behaviors like I used to see post gun season when almost all camera pictures are at night until very cold weather shows up forcing them to move during daylight. I saw two deer during opening weekend but when I pulled the chips from cameras by my stands I had as many as 8 different bucks and as many as 12 different doe/fawns from 7PM to 5 AM. Again this was on multiple properties and I take great effort to make minimal disturbance getting in and out of my stands. Many people I spoke to had similar experiences. I would like to see crossbow seasons be addressed as it is not a primitive weapon like a bow. They are fine for those who have handicap issues or over 65 like in past but for the rest it should be a limited season like muzzle loader. If the main goal is just herd control then this is a mute point but if there is concern with keeping a quality gun hunting season, I believe this needs to be addressed. Thank you, I know this is thankless work because I did it myself in an urban setting.

I've been hunting public and private the past 24 years and mainly private the past four years and deer hunting for the past 54 years. I've seen a steady decline in the deer herd the past ten years especially since the disastrous winter of 2013/2014. The deer have not rebounded much in my opinion. With all the predators (wolves, coyotes, bobcats, etc) and all the antlerless permits available, in my words it is very disgusting. The 2014 gun season I saw one deer and hunted every day. The next year I saw a few more bow hunting and gun hunting. It got somewhat better the next couple of years, but not great by any imagination. Last year was the final straw for me. I hunted very hard during the bow season and saw 4 deer total from Oct.22 up until the Friday before gun season and gun season I saw one deer. I heard nine shots all of gun season and the land I hunt borders public. Opening day there seemed to be a small number of hunters and Sunday very few and the rest of the season the forest seemed deserted of hunters. I realize I'm only one person, but I spend a tremendous amount of time in the forest and realize there are bad years and good years of hunting. The trend I'm seeing is not acceptable from a hunter's point of view. Also the effect on the local economy has been disastrous to say the least. I choose to think if this trend keeps up, deer hunting will be a forgotten tradition in Washburn County. All said and done I truly believe cutting the doe permits significantly will help get hunters back and the deer to a recovery status. Thank you for your time.

I have never responded to any DNR forms?? It is hard I should imagine to try to figure deer management on any scale. We as property owners know our deer up close and personal and most who hunt also do food plots. You see year after year how the deer are affected by changes in the environment, weather and population changes. As deer managers we have the ability to see the over abundance of does at times and see many first time plot builders making doe factories instead of good management decisions. Another factor that makes your job harder is the lack of hunting pressure. Kids don’t hunt like we did, Minnesota people are not as noticeable mainly because of the resentment of them has led to more posting of land. Locals do not drive or have deer camps as in the days of old. Add to that many people have grown up in a more prosperous era and venison has been replaced by beef. I think the economy is going to wreak havoc with some of your projections. Times will get tight and there will be more people looking to supplement with game. Classic example, One week end of Minnesota people coming up to Minong, cleaned out the grocery store. With relatively cheap licenses you may see more Minnesota hunters and locals looking to take advantage of doe tags without the ability to purchase. Now add to that your budget cuts and lack of enforcement ability and you have a real challenge. I, like most quality hunters will do our part to stay out of the way and let you do your job. I suspect this years hunting seasons may pose some stressful moments. Good Luck..
I spend a lot of time in the woods of northern Washburn County. This year was one of the worst falls in recent memory for seeing deer. This is in line with harvest data that shows it was one of the 5 worst years in the last 25 years. Confirmed with results from half a dozen trail cams in use throughout the fall. Our party of 5 hunters saw 3 deer during the gun deer season. Northern Washburn County should be managed like Douglas County with a goal to increase the deer population. Fewer hunters in the woods every year due to low satisfaction with deer numbers. We lost 3 hunters this past season. The private antlerless quota number is too high and doesn't sell out anyway. Hunters are going to tire of paying for antlerless tags they don't have an ability to use. The positive captive CWD test triggering the ban for Washburn County is counter productive to encouraging hunters to be in the woods and helping manage the herd. The enforcement of the bait ban through the use of aerial surveillance was annoying and a waste of resources. More research into the effects of CWD on people and field testing are needed. CWD will likely continue its spread throughout the state and a bait ban will do little to slow the spread but it makes us feel like something is being done. If CWD or mad cow get into the cow population our state will have significant issues. Summary Increase the herd Legislate the end of the bait ban. Eliminate game farms. CWD research to include field testing for CWD and it’s impacts on humans and livestock. Thank you.

WHY ARE Bucks NOT TRACKED ON A PUBLIC-PRIVATE BASIS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES? IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE THOSE STATS WHEN FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. 3,000 ANTLERLESS AUTHORIZATIONS FOR WASHBURN CO PUBLIC LANDS IS RIDICULOUS. ALL BUT ONE TAG FOR PUBLIC LAND WAS SOLD IN 2019 AND COMES VERY CLOSE TO SELLING OUT EACH YEAR. THE RECOMMENDED DECREASE IN PRIVATE LAND TAGS WAS 500. ANYONE CAN FIGURE OUT THE AIM HERE IS TO INCREASE PUBLIC LAND HARVEST. THE SUCCESS RATES FOR ANTLERLESS HARVEST WAS APPROXIMATELY 24% PRIVATE AND 21% PUBLIC IN 2019 BASED OFF THE PREVIOUS FIGURES. PUBLIC LANDS HAVE LOWER DEER DENSITY OVERALL. I AM SOLELY BASING THIS OFF MY EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST 16 YEARS OF HUNTING MANY DIFFERENT TRACTS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS IN THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTY. SEEING 0-2 DEER PER DAY SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A GOOD HUNT TO ANYONE. BETWEEN HUNTER PRESSURE AND PREDATION, PUBLIC LANDS ARE FAR BELOW EXPECTATIONS AND CARRYING CAPACITY. IF YOU TRULY WANT TO MAKE DEER HUNTERS HAPPY, OR AT LEAST LET US KNOW YOU ARE LISTENING, PLEASE RECOMMEND WASHBURN COUNTY BECOME A SPLIT DMU. I'M TIRED OF HEARING THE USUAL CRAP OF IT NOT BEING POSSIBLE GIVEN THE FRAMEWORK OR LAW. WELL, FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE IT WORK FOR THE FUTURE IF THESE DEER COUNCILS ARE GOING TO STICK AROUND. HUNTERS DON'T PARTICIPATE IN THESE THINGS UNLESS THEY KNOW OPINIONS ARE BEING HEARD AND WE DON'T SIMPLY ACCEPT ALL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BIOLOGIST. I REALIZE THIS IS A THANKLESS JOB FOR YOU ALL TO DO. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

I would like to propose a "hunters choice" carcass tag. Minnesota has been using this method for some years and it is nice to allow either a buck or doe be take with the main tag, and bonus antlerless tags are available for purchase. There seem to be enough deer in the area to allow for this practice. Secondly I would propose getting rid of the private and public antlerless tags. My family owns a small portion of land, depending on the day, hunting pressure and winds, we decide whether we hunt on our land or the public land right across the street. The cost for a non resident (but land owner/tax payer) is too high already to even consider buying both a public and private tag in addition to the normal license fee. Finally I would like to propose an antler point restriction program such as my home unit in MN. This has lead to much larger/mature deer in these areas, but more importantly it forces the hunter to study the animal before taking a shot. Last season a hunter was shot in Washburn County by another hunter that shot at movement. There were also a hand full of other shootings across the state including during a deer drive. These are unacceptable consequences and I believe an antler point restriction would help by making hunters slow down and truly identify their target. Thank you for your consideration.
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2019 deer kill was down a lot not only in Washburn County but all over the state, a lot of people are saying it is because of the late season. I understand that the winter storm had a lot to do with it. DNR says in other years when we have a late season the harvest is also down, what I don’t understand is that hunters still walk out to their stand no matter if it is early or late season, these deer don’t just vanish before gun season then come back after gun season is over, my feelings are that I don’t think there are the numbers of deer out in the woods that everybody says there is. I have hunted Washburn and Sawyer County for a number of years and I have never had what you would call a great year, don’t get me wrong I love to be in the woods to relax and rest, but it would be nice to see a fee deer now and then. There are times I have sat in different spots for days on end and never see a deer. I would like to ask the CDAC to increase the deer numbers for Washburn County. Thank you.

I’ve visited and deer hunted Washburn County for over 50 years. I enjoyed it a lot, great country!!! I hunt hard, sunup to sundown. I scout, I explore, I practice harvest guidelines above and beyond the required. I hunt on public land. What year was it that the DNR sold unlimited bonus tags at 3, or 4 dollars? Quite a while ago! That was the year the deer hunting ended in Washburn County. The woods were littered with gut piles from deer— even fawns. I had a favorite scenic stretch between two side roads. Started with a beaver dam, then rolling hills, then mixed swamp and hardwoods. My family would spread out and spend days along our favorite deer trails. Now I’ll walk the mile between roads, and be very lucky to see a dozen lone deer tracks throughout…. it’s sad. Very sad. It hasn’t come back at all. I walk it a couple times a year to recall fondly the family hunts, but I won’t invite my nephews to come over, as they would be bored with no deer sign….. in a “dead” county.

I’ve hunted this unit for a long time, and spend more days/hours hunting than anyone I know in my immediate area. Based on trail camera data, my scouting, hunting, and talking with other hunters, I can confidently say the doe:buck ratio in my immediate area is very bad. The ratio seems to be between 8:1 and 12:1, which is not good for the heard and MATURE bucks are exceptionally rare to see (on cameras, in fields, or hunting). Professional studies show us that antler point restrictions do not work on healthy heards, but this is the exact situation where implementing these restrictions for fixed time period (5-10 years) can really help bring the doe:buck ratios back into a health balance and allow some bucks to finally survive to maturity. Also, I would REALLY like to see the muzzle-loader season cover more than 1 weekend, as weekends are the only time average-joe’s like me get to hunt. My preference would be everything after gun-deer up through the end of December. Also, would be really cool if it became a combined muzzleloader/handgun season. Expanding this season could be a tool to help the biologists fine-tune their harvest goals.

This may not be the appropriate channel to voice this, but why not. As a lifetime Wisconsin resident who owns property in Washburn and Polk, I am very frustrated with the amount of non-residents during firearms season. I can’t even sit on my own land without being disturbed daily. I would really like to see a season structure that benefited RESIDENTS at some point. If we were to go to a 2 week season for firearm regardless of the start date, RESIDENTS should get the first week before we allow any non-residents. If we stay with the traditional 9-day hunt, RESIDENTS should get the first 2 days minimum. Currently there is absolutely no perk to be a resident of the state of Wisconsin. I absolutely live for hunting season, but over the last 20 years it has become a joke. I can’t even get my kids to be involved with it anymore due to the amount of people in our area. It is truly sad to see a sport I LOVE being destroyed by Wisconsin allowing everyone to hunt without any preference to an actual resident. I am not the only one who feels this way, so I thought I would speak my peace. Thanks.
I have hunted Washburn county for 26 years my parents property will transfer to me upon their passing. The land is beautiful but no longer contains deer in a huntable number. My 14 year old son is losing or has lost his interest in hunting. He has seen one deer in 3 seasons hunting with his Dad. I will sell the land and find a better experience. I’m so dissatisfied with. The introduction of wolves in the area and bear numbers increasing plus crop damage permits matched with a couple of hard winters has ruined my sons experience hunting. We have gone from seeing 20 plus deer on opening weekend for the gun season to rarely ever seeing a deer. We sit from sunrise to sunset. Congratulations you no longer have crop damage or collision with cars and with your management practices you will soon and already have no reason to hunt. “Dad why are we sitting out here?” “We haven’t seen anything in 3 years.” I know little buddy I’m sorry.

If a quota is going to be given, why can’t a separation from Northern and Southern numbers. I believe the quota is dictated by southern farm numbers and I hunt in the northern forest area close to Douglas County where deer populations just are not as plentiful. We have 11 hunters usually and between us we saw less than 2 dozen deer in 5 days of hunting and we are spread miles apart. Two years in a row we have not even seen a shootable buck. As far as the young buck population, how about tracking how many young bucks are killed as antlerless kills. This is the biggest problem with so many antlerless tags, hunters do not know the difference between young bucks/does and adult does. To be honest, we buy antlerless tags for the sole purpose of not shooting antlerless deer unless one of our hunters is a youth hunter. We will wait to return south to use tags in that area. JUST NOT ENOUGH DEER IN NORTHERN PART OF WASHBASIN COUNTY, PERIOD.

My only comment, and it seems like it is not even a topic for discussion any more, is the baiting ban in Washburn county. It is obvious by analyzing the data that Washburn county does not have any issues with CWD. Also, it is silly to think that deer do not have saliva transmission with each other, other than eating at concentrated food piles. Is there any forum where this issues can be discussed? One of the biggest advantages of putting out small bait piles is not necessarily to draw deer in kill at that moment, but to give a hunter an idea of what deer might be in his hunting area by way of a trail cam. I have done all the surveys and watched all the videos that the DNR has put out and there is nothing regarding the baiting ban. It’s just frustrating as a hunter in the northern section of Washburn county where there aren’t any fields that I can’t put out a little corn with a camera to see what’s out there. Thank you.

I seen nothing in here about extending rifle season, limiting crossbow to October which has been a very controversial subject in the past few months. I have heard nothing but negative feed back on these proposals and I am also highly against these. Our seasons are fine the way they are they have worked for all these years and the addition of crossbows being allowed has put more hunters in the woods during bow season. If somebody feels it isn’t fair that bow hunters always get to hunt the rut then they need to get a bow and put in the work like the rest of us. I hunt all seasons bow, gun and muzzleloader, Its not about the harvest its about enjoying the great outdoors. Extending rifle season and opening it earlier would in the long run be detrimental to our heard and our economy as less out of staters would come here to hunt as the chance of a trophy buck would drastically decrease.

I personally think that there are far too many antlerless tags available! It seems that the DNR’s main goal is to sell as many tags as possible. No single hunter should be able to buy more than 1 antlerless tag. Non resident antlerless tags should be restricted. Many that don’t live here don’t really care about our deer herd, they just want to fill cheap tags! What a joke this deer hunt has turned to. A lot of things the DNR now legally allows, are to me, not considered fair chase. They’ve changed rules to sell more tags. I’ve hunted the same piece of property for close to 50 years and see deer numbers declining. I have gone from seeing several bucks during the rifle season in the past, to not seeing a buck in 2019, the first time this has happened since the mid 1990’s. What a change? I don’t expect deer quotas to change since it’s all about selling tags, so sad!
With crossbows becoming in abundance during the archery season I have noticed way more hunting pressure on both public and private lands. Most noticeably by non residents. I saw a question regarding increasing license fees on the spring hearing survey so I hope that helps. I run a lot of trail cameras on our private property and have notice that our deer numbers are still fairly low. We had standing corn in the immediate area and not a lot of deer. Winter browsing has been minimal compared to 10 years ago. Deer populations on public lands is low and buck age structure above 1.5 years is almost non existent. It would be nice to rebuild a varied buck age structure again. Not necessarily trophy antlers, but varied. Doe weights are also smaller which tell me they are younger. The habitat seems to be very good for deer, bear and Grouse.

From what ive seen during my time in Washburn county, from trail cameras and visual observations of herds; there has been no significant deficit to population. My main issue is the idea of leaving "button " bucks in the same category as antlerless. If people had the discipline to let these young bucks grow to maturity, it would benefit both local, and out of state hunters. This in turn would help county and state revenue, and lead to more desirable deer. But, as far as population, we have good seasons as hunters and bad ones. I would be interested in seeing the input between early season bow hunters and first day rifle. Me personally, I tend to see a lot more deer before guns start to go off. Just because people dont see the deer, that doesnt mean they arent there. Some people are just poor stewards and dont really monitor their herds.

We own a little over 200 acres of timbered land in Springbrook Township, Washburn Co. We adjoin county-owned land along our eastern and southern boundaries. Last year we had a significant acorn crop on our property resulting in deer concentrating here during most of the post-season. The result is extensive over-browsing. Regeneration of tree species preferred by deer has been severely retarded. We saw some recovery when populations were down and probably closer to carrying capacity. Now that the population is rising again, samplings and herbs have been hard hit. My recommendations would be to maintain the deer population near the recent low. Our hunters and most others like to see numerous deer when out but they do not relate the annual differences with habitat quality.

I have land just south of Minong and have very, very low deer numbers. three out of four hunters never saw a deer this past year. Because of the low deer numbers there are no other hunters in the area. Going thru the woods very little under brush was eaten by deer this winter again because of the low numbers. The woodland area of the county needs a low doe deer harvest for a couple of years or more. Another note is about the low number of hunters - We want more hunters but are looking at raising the price of license to non-residents. My son and his 6 kids will be looking at no longer hunting in WI when the kids are older because of the cost. Purpose deer bow and gun license non-resident $200. This would increase revenue and hunters.

Private food plots within forested areas and illegal baiting is too common and the deer herd has adapted to these unnatural habits so that it has changed the natural habits of the herd to these situations. Also, the change in the general population away from the hunting sports has created large tracts of land that have become preserves for the game where they migrate to avoid human interaction. I was successful in my harvest last year but a lot of walking and perseverance is the reason why. This did not involve "stump setting" or sitting in an elevated tree house. It is time the DNR started to promote sportsmanship and "Fair Chase" in this sport. If not hunting and ethics as I was taught growing up will be lost completely.

Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer is of course an indicative scale regarding the general number of deer that should be harvested, but I believe that approach needs to look at a much longer timeline than a (3) year plan. It isn't just the number of deer but the quality of the individual(s) and the quality of the herd(s). Antlerless only seasons allow for bucks to mature while maintaining the deer population numbers. Quality bucks and the chance for younger bucks to add to genetic diversity should be a major focal point in determining numbers. Furthermore, priority should be given in the availability of tags to residence of a county, neighboring counties, non-neighboring counties, and then out of state in that order.
I’ve been hunting this unit for many years. Because of increased numbers of predators I’ve seen less deer. Not allowing baiting last year meant we saw less than previous years. Hunter numbers are down. Deer numbers are down. People are not passing down the tradition of deer hunting anymore. I’ve been hunting deer since I was 12 with my father and am now passing it on to my son. Soon because of the lack of seeing deer and the expense of deer hunting in itself many more will leave the sport and challenges of deer hunting. Banning baiting does absolutely nothing towards eradicating CWD. If you want to eliminate the disease then stop all game farms and private raising of deer in the state. They brought it here in the first place.

It’s easy to blame weather, etc for the reduction in the number of deer taken but the majority of hunters that I know from the area continue to see fewer deer. It’s difficult to keep people involved with hunting especially kids when the deer numbers aren’t there. Ten years ago we always saw a fair number of deer and everyone hunting enjoyed seeing deer, especially the kids. Stop issuing doe tags except to first time hunters for a few years and let the herd increase in size if you want to keep hunters. I know more and more have given upon hunting in Wisconsin due to the way it’s being managed. We can argue all points concerning crop, forest, etc damage by increasing the herd but amazingly it worked in the past.

The DNR needs to understand that the whitetail deer numbers in Wisconsin’s public forest land are horrible! The bear and more so the wolves have decimated the deer herd! Winters can be hard, and even if they luck out one year, they still battle survival from the wolves/coyotes daily! Stop spinning excuses before there are no hunters left who care to enjoy the public lands for deer hunting! I sat for 8 days, and saw 4 ttl deer! It’s not the weather, its the prey on the deer population! The numbers are so low, its hard to justify buying a license anymore and 2 of my kids don’t even hunt anymore because its hard to sell the sport with cold temps to see no deer! wake up please, I’m begging you!!

For the last 5 years what used to be a considerable amount of shooting has decreased to very little. Usually you could see bucks hanging out of the back of trucks by noon on the opener, now it’s rare to see a couple all season. I also am an avid bear hunter and judging from the amount of deer I see over the summer and fall months training and harvest season (right around 70 days in the woods) I feel the deer population has regained slightly but is still to low. I would like to see buck only harvest for at least three more years. Possibly some type of either or the first two days or whole season. I feel the sale of bonus tags should be discontinued till the population rebounds. Thank you

We don’t see any deer in public forest areas that have been clear cut (after the 1st year or so). These areas become dead zones for many, many years. I’m hoping CDAC and/or the forestry division would consider adjusting how they clear cut areas. My recommendation would be to leave uncut forest sections adjacent to clear cut areas (a strip pattern), or leave uncut forest sections along natural structures (lakes, streams, swamps, wetlands) or both. From my perspective, it would help the deer population and they (uncut areas) serve as natural walk ways for hunters, so they can be hunted. I would also consider employment of DMAP for public land. I’m assuming that would make sense.

Having hunted deer for approximately 35 years in NW WI, I’d like to see the number of antlerless tags decreased to increase the overall population between 10-20%. I constantly read about initiatives to increase the number of youth hunters, but how enjoyable is it for a young hunter to sit in the woods all days and see 0-3 deer? Simply seeing deer is incredibly rewarding and enjoyable, and helps hold the attention and interest of young hunters. If there is any truth that the revenue gained by the DNR from antlerless tag sales is vital to decision making, then please just increase the cost of a basic deer license to cover it. Don’t sell more antlerless tags to generate revenue.
Doe tags for public lands still need to shrink! Public lands are over crowded during the 9 day gun season and can become dangerous with people shooting at everything. Should go back a few years and give bow hunters and crossbow hunters doe tags for free and take them away from gun hunters. As properties shrink and force people onto public we need to push our youth into crossbows and bow hunting to increase their opportunity. There are several deer on public properties but people don’t drive deer like they use to. The only way to increase the kill is to eliminate gun deer tags and promote archery hunting. Gun hunting is a dying sport!

My Dad, brother and I hunt about 3 weeks solid in Washburn. We hunt hard and scout harder. The decline in deer numbers the past 10 years is troubling. The sign isn’t there regardless of a late or early gun opener. We scout countless miles of public land and we all struggle to find huntable deer sign. We shoot plenty of deer but it shouldn’t be this difficult. The deer aren’t there. We all have decades of experience in this area. It should be buck only. The wolves and bears are keeping the herd from rebuilding even in mild winters. Hunter numbers in the north are declining and will continue to do so if the numbers don’t improve.

As an avid hunter, the deer population in Northern Washburn county have significantly decreased over the past 3 years. My food plot photos prove it. Surrounding avid hunters agree. Most, including myself, have not harvested a deer in 2 years. There is too much county and state owned land in Northern Washburn county. A program should be started to sell land to private owners, who cannot not develop the property, and will support a healthy deer herd and additional wildlife. Tracks of 60‐100 acres to break up vast amounts of papermill land will substantially aid in successful hunts and future deer management efforts.

The 2019 deer rifle season did not go as expected for deer hunters and a lot of complaining went on. Anybody that bow hunted last year saw quite a few different bucks and a lot of deer because of the late rifle season. Anybody that didn’t bow hunt is assuming there is no deer or lack of bucks which is false. The majority of the bucks were in recovery mode and not moving during the rifle season, my trail cameras on my Farm recorded plenty of deer, mature bucks, small bucks all up on their feet moving after deer season was over and the second rut had already started.

I still think we are trying to manage a deer herd in two different types of habitat in Wasburn county. This makes it difficult for the people that live in the heavily forested area's believe that we have a deer herd that doesn’t need growth in overall numbers. I agree that in the agricultural area's the herd could probably survive a little downsizing. I would like to see a comparison of the type of habitat the antlerless tags are filled in. I believe there are still some people filling antlerless private land antlerless tags on public land.

I think we need to be careful with the amount of public land antlerless tags. It seems that there are plenty of deer at this time and we had a relatively good winter, but I feel that a jump to 3k is alot. Many factors go into hunter success and weather seemed to be a large factor in why last season's numbers went down. I think we could hit the targets with less public land tags. Otherwise I felt that there were plenty of deer on the public land I hunted last year and with harvest numbers and winter, I am very encouraged for this year too.

I recently moved and began doing more deer hunting in Monroe County, Wi. I also hunt only public land in Monroe County and have observed many more deer down there compared to Washburn County. I find that interesting and assume there is a higher deer population in Monroe County. Interesting what drives a larger deer population in Monroe County compared to Washburn County. More predators in Washburn must have a large impact on the deer population. Overall, happy with the work the DNR does and I truly hope the spread of CWD can be slowed.

Thank you so much for the transparency that the DNR and the CDACs have displayed in the past couple years to involve hunters in the entire hunting process. I had never seen numbers as detailed as I was recently able to see and it gave me a better idea of how the CDAC works to make hunting more enjoyable, as well as put any concerns I have to rest. Thank you for all your time and effort to helping me continue to enjoy all the wilderness Wi has to offer. I wish more outdoor organizations were this involved and transparent.
I think we need to go back to where a bow tag is good for a buck or doe and no bonus tags. For rifle hunting we go back to sending in for a doe tag or when you buy your license your tag is good for a buck or doe and no bonus tags. I do think kids under 17 who hunt the youth hunt should be given an extra tag for a doe to keep kids interested in hunting. Also for the muzeloading season sell a separate tag good for a buck or doe. We also need to stop the does hunts and leave the current seasons the way they are.

Antlerless deer should be harvested at a lower level for at least the next two years to rebuild the herd. We have much more predation these days than we did back in the nineties which tends to be down played. I'm sure you will not have to go far to find folks in agreement on that. Let's work on rebuilding the herd (and reducing predator numbers so we can get back to offering people a reasonable chance to see and harvest a deer instead of them selling off their Properties and Hunting Camps in Washburn County.

With the wolf population on the rise there just doesn't seem to be the number of deer sightings there used to be! Not even close! With the wolf population continuing to rise this will only get worse so in order to counter act that I feel the need to harvest less deer in order to have more around! Not that enjoyable to sit and hunt and not see much. I disagree with the “maintain” goal the cdac has recommended and would like to see it grow. Very little vehicle searches and hardly any crop damage...

for the past 30 years i have hunting the Washburn co forest near ole lake. Last year i saw a total of 2 deer after hunting 7 of 9 days. It was one of the worst deer seasons i have ever had. Between a lack of deer numbers, wolves in that section and a real lack of hunters in the woods to go along with the bad weather all contributed to the terrible deer hunting season. I am starting to look for my own land in another county because i don’t think things will improve in Washburn co.

Deer management units should go back to being established by habitat not political boundaries. In Washburn County habitat south of Highway 70 is dominated by farm land and broken forest, and is mostly private land. Deer numbers are way to high. While habitat North of Highway 70 becomes mainly forest with a substantial area of public lands. The same is true in Burnett county and dozens of others around the state. Stop the political BS and get back to science based management.

Rather than an antlerless only season bring back earn a buck. I support the "maintain" the population goal and would like to see that extended for the next 3 year term, next year. Glad to see the public land antlerless quote proposed to increase. I would harvest more antlerless deer on private and/or public land and help utilize more of the antlerless tags if i had somewhere locally in Washburn County to donate the meat. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Archery hunting is my passion and I spend a lot of time in the woods. I'm selective and don't shoot just to kill a deer. I saw very few does last fall and deer nearly vanished before Rifle season. I believe the population estimates are too high. My number one concern is feeding and baiting should not be allowed for obvious reasons such as spread of CWD. It is very common to see vehicle deer kills near feeding locations. Baiting and feeding needs to be outlawed.

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The CDAC is doing a great job considering many factors - both known and unknown - for this county. I hunt both public and private since my private land adjoins public. I think too many does have been taken the past couple seasons simply because on the public land I hunt I saw a sharp decline in numbers. However, that’s also a small portion of the overall land. And I also saw antlerless deer taken last season and know that makes an impact on a smaller property.

I understand there is a lot that goes into the estimation of deer population. The one that gets me is the vehicle deer kill. I honestly don’t believe that figure should carry much weight into population estimates these days. There is way more to look at than a simple vehicle deer kill. People are not as attentive when they drive and most drive faster than posted speed limits. Not to mention the increase in speed limits.

I think in this DMU, the northern forest area, and southern ag area should be split. There aren’t as many deer in the northern zone, as there is in the southern ag area. Not to mention, the southern area doesn’t have the bear, and wolves to compete with. Also in the northern area, there is a lot more public land, so we get a lot of hunters from other area hunting the public area first, then going back to other zones.

One thing I noticed this year was hunters in my area are still harvesting every deer they see. They have not changed attitudes towards what they are harvesting. Brown is down. I feel that if the DNR gives out more antlerless tags then hunters will continue to take more deer then we will be back to where we were in this until with no deer. I feel things are just starting to get the population back to normal.

Based on an increase in fawn sightings last year, I feel the population of bear has come down but is still high. I also feel the wolf population has gone up and will always be too high. Based on the past winter, I’m excited about an increase in deer population this year. Is there a way to divide the counties up at least by 2? The southern part of Washburn County has far more deer than the northern part.

If you want further history go to the deer camps and review as I know they have a ton of information that they would love to share. Also the number of predator’s is out of control as a group of 5 hunters we seen at least 7 wolves and have video and pictures of some of them as they were bigger then a yellow lab so not a coyote - something needs to be done here as people are taking this into their own hands.

You need to reduce antlerless tags to 0, the deer numbers around Minong Wi. are very low, we hunted east of Minong on private and public property and the numbers were down more than half a year ago, west of Minong the numbers were about 0, 10 of us hunted hard for about 6 days and one hunter shot one doe that’s it. Numbers west of Minong 2018 were pretty good, 2019 they were way off, very low.

I think Washburn county should maintain or slightly increase the deer herd. I hunt north of Hwy 70 and have been fortunate to harvest some antlered and antlerless deer the past few years on public and private land. There are deer out there you just have to put in the effort, however I would like to see a few more deer on the landscape so I could be more selective in what I harvest.

Having 820 private acres managed for ALL wildlife- concentrations of deer vary by available food source - plenty of deer around - but we select harvest only dry (fawnless) does - the goal is a healthy herd - we harvest what we need for meat - not just to control population- however more deer could be taken if there is a need for food - have more thoughts- but that’s about it for now.

Deer population in the Southern portion of Washburn County seems to have a larger deer population than that in the northern part of the county. I think there is often a larger need for a herd decrease in the southern portion of the county with the increased amount of farm land. Even though last season had poor results I think there has been a good herd management balance overall.
Keep things the way they have been for the last few years. 9 day gun is plenty once you add in all the doe seasons/holiday, youth...etc. continue to allow us that are managing our own property to keep doing so, allow us to purchase over the counter doe tags as we have the last few years. If it aint broke dont fix it.....and doing some of the proposed its that is far from fixing.

Overall I feel Washburn ctsys deer herd is in good health based on observation. When in the area I do hunt as hard as I can, often deep in the woods through swamp or difficult terrain. I see deer sign just not as much as I would like or in years past. I can’t say how important it is to maintain timber cutting/active forest management. We have seen deer utilize this in its cycle.

I hope you won't move opening day ahead to two weeks before Thanksgiving. That, and adding a week to the season removes another tradition from the hunt along with the tie to the Holiday. And, how about less chance of tracking snow. Both hunters and deer are scarce in the area I hunt and I don't see how a longer season will change this. Thank you

Many farmers want to lower the deer numbers on private lands, specifically their lands. They are very self centered about this and are only looking at their own monetary interests. This should not be allowed as they are already getting thousands of dollars from federal programs that more than make up for any crop losses they sustain from deer feeding on their crops.

Do not agree with antlerless tags being divided between Private and Public. Private property sits next to public and doe is shot on private and jumps the fence to public...do not have tag for public...reverse scenario-and do not have private. Road kill numbers are way off. These are not being reported. Why should there be a premium for using crossbow?

State needs to raise non-resident license, there's budget issues with the state and I believe when you sell a license for x/ dollars to kill a deer the additional tags should cost the same. I also believe that the state is not hard enough on deer farms with CWD. Your distance from CWD areas don’t seem to support the distance deer travel.

There are too many wolves in this county. My party has hunted this same woods since the 1940's, there had been one wolf sighting between 4 to 10 hunters from the 40's to 2017. In 2018 we saw 2 wolves in 2019 we saw 5. A member of our party saw more wolves then deer in 2019. It might be time to consider a wolf hunt in Wasburn County.

I've hardly seen any deer the past several years. I am consider quitting hunting. Why buy a tag and a bonus tag and not see anything? The age of the youth hunt is too young. They should always have to pass a hunting course regardless of age. I would bet in half of the cases, the adult is shooting the deer and the kid is tagging it.

Too many anterless deer permits reduce the number of bucks that could be born in future harvest years. Wolves are a growing problem as well. Bears are a growing predator also have taken several small new born fawns in prior years. We suggest Buck Only Harvest for two years then return to your quotas that you stated in Section 3.

what happened to splitting the northern half of the county antlerless permits from the southern half of the county where due to farm land there is concern about crop damage. I feel that we are killing to many does in the northern half of Washburn county because you don't have any control over where the does are being killed.

Would like to see a 2 week gun season that can provide more time with my grandchildren. They can’t hunt all week and a couple extra days here and there would really help. I would think this would be great idea to get more youth involved in hunting. COMMON SENSE, WHY DO BOW HUNTERS HAVE 3 MONTHS BUT GUN HUNTERS GET ONE WEEK?

If we want to have our youth continue to participate in our hunting traditions we need to have them see more deer. It’s hard to get the grandkids to be excited about hunting deer when they are lucky to see more than 5 deer over a nine day season. We need to have more deer and allow our youth an opportunity to harvest one
With fewer hunters harvesting fewer deer in 2019, also impacted by the rut being over and gun season heavy snow, I think the quota could be bumped up, especially in light of a mild to moderate winter. Also, I have seen numerous deer when out and about and have had friends tell me they are seeing more deer this spring.

For the last two years of deer hunting for me & my party, we have been seeing a lot less deer on our private land, that is why I would like to see the deer population grow. That way we might be able to harvest more than 1 deer a year. (Our group of hunters consists of 5 people) Thank you for all the work that you do.

Having hunted this unit for 29 years, I feel the last 5 have been the worst in all those years. I feel the deer population is much lower than it has ever been. I base this on the amount of people I know that hunt and recreate in the area. Every one of them agree on this subject in almost all cases.

I hunt the northern part of the county. I have for 40 years. I used to see 20-30 deer per season. I now see only 3-6 deer per rifle season. Last year I saw 2. Very discouraging. Terrible actually. Northern and southern Washburn county are very different. NO bonus tags in northern part.Please!

Deer hunting is my biggest passion but I see so few deer anymore that it is almost not worth going out. I may just give up on Wisconsin hunting and start booking out of state hunts where I will be able to see more deer. I hunt from dawn to dusk and have way too many days where I see no deer!

Would like to see a statewide ban on baiting. Also eliminate some of the seasons for gun hunting. Have a season for a youth gun hunt and muzzleloader season. Forget all these additional seasons hunting does and holiday hunts. Too many seasons for different types of gun hunts.

Saw no deer in the 4 days I hunted. Will likely hunt less or not at all until this turns around. Understand the late season theory but doesn't fit with declining harvest totals for the last several decades. Goal should be to slowly increase the Washburn County dmu herd

I believe there has been an over harvest over the past three years due to the high number of bonus tags available, as well as illegal kills throughout the year. The majority of the yearlings never make it to the following year, and body size has shrunk considerably.

There is no present need for harvesting does. Our local deer population has been over hunter for to many years. If there are no does ,there is no reproduction. There should be no antler less harvest in the Northern Forest units, except for the youth hunt.

I WISH THE STATE OF WISCONSIN WOULD MAKE ALL FEEDING AND BAITING OF DEER ILLEGAL IN THE STATE!! DURING THE 2019 SEASON WE FOUND TREE STANDS WITH BAIT ALL AROUND THEM!! WE HAVE HUNTED THIS AREA FOR 20 YEARS AND ARE SEEING MORE HUNTERS AND ILLEGAL BAITING.

I have witnessed coyote chasing adult does many times in Washburn Co. Evergreen Township.It makes me so angry to see the coyote predation in Wisconsin. No ones fault, but it still angers me. Needless to say, I am a coyote hunter 12 months of the year.

I hunt with only traditional archery equipment. I am thankful that I am allowed to hunt with my bow during gun season. I don't see any reason that this opportunity shouldn't continue even though it seams some people may oppose the activity.

Do not support a longer gun season or any changes to the crossbow regulations. A slightly shorter overall season is fine. I don't think anything is broke. The weathers during the 2019 fun season was the primary difference last season.

I think the public lands should be NO antlerless deer for at least 2 years. We need to get the deer herd numbers back up. I hunted all the deer seasons and saw very few deer. Please stop the antlerless tags in the public lands !!!

Based on one of the last slides you put a deer estimate in. I believe that number is too high. The number of bucks are down. I spend a lot of time in the woods and I feel like I am a good judge of this statistic
One of the big problems where I hunt is the wolves. Every morning while hunting I could hear wolves howling just a few miles away. They either killed a significant amount of deer in the area or chased them away. Seem to be using 2020 suggested numbers of antlerless extra tags as a way to raise revenue and for herd control. I saw no deer during the 4 days I was able to hunt. Worst deer season ever. Increase herd.

Managing our deer herd is all about killing the danged bears, says I. I want to see a BIG GAME license that allows hunters to take one bear, one deer, one wolf. $100, and cull the forest of the fawn killers.

I would like to see harvest authorization be valid for both public and private again. I feel that the current harvest authorizations overly limit hunting opportunity and reduce predictable deer harvest.

I have purchased doe permits in this unit each year they have been available with the intent of not harvesting any. My hope is that by doing this there will be at least one doe left to reproduce.

There are wayyyyy less deer than 10 years ago and it makes hunting and traveling to this unit much less fun. Get rid of the wolves and hunt more bear, the natural predators are the problem here.

More antler less tags available for public land. There's always 6000 private land tags and like 2000 for public and the public always run out yet the private land always has more than half left?

Too many wolves. Too much private land baiting. Need to get a handle on predation. Saw more wolves and wolf tracks than ever before. Believe that baiting makes the deer migrate to private lands.

The DNR needs to work more on eliminating predators such as wolves! It was stupid to reintroduce and then protect them. The deer herd in our area has decreased over 50% since they appeared!

No baiting of any kind private or public. Double the out of state cost for tags. Covid 19 will probably restrict many things come this fall. So perhaps a second plan should be considered.

I seen fewer deer last year than the previous two years. I'm happy to see a slightly lower antlerless quota limit on public lands. The deer that I did see last year were all young deer.

Wolves and bears are a big problem in this area more wolf tags and bear tags are needed to keep these animals down in numbers. I seen 20 bears and 10 wolves in the 2019 bow season.

You need to cut the number of out of state, play some moratorium on them for a year or two. All the public land is hunted by hunters from out of state. Also OPEN A WOLF SEASON.

I did not see any deer while hunting the 2019 season, however, I saw many fresh wolf track. Our group saw a total of 5 wolves on two separate dates running by their deer stand.

Extension of the gun deer season would do more harm than good. It would push it into the rut some years which would be harmful to the buck population. Please don't extend it.

Way to many bear, coyotes, wolves, bobcat. Don’t see the deer like we used to. Will be hunting other states until Wisconsin rebounds. Tired of wasting time not seeing anything.

Deer numbers seem down, possibly giving out too many antlerless tags. Predators seem to also be a problem also, seeing more bears than ever and now seeing some wolves.

Buck harvest is an important consideration in the metric and has been affected by the late season. Shouldn't we consider a 2 week season starting a week earlier?

I've seen and interacted with too many predators, the Wolf population has to be reigned in and the coyote regulations left liberal. Also increase bear kill permits.
Increasing the rifle season by 9 days was not an option I can vote down. Where was that question? And the proposal to stop deer hunting before the gun season?

I used 10-15 sometimes more on opening weekend. Last 3 years I count on 1 hand how many deer I have seen. I don’t have problems seeing bear, wolves or coyotes.

I feel if we continue this trend with providing more bonus anterless tags, we will have significantly less deer population for future years and future hunters.

Split this county to a south and north zones, there are FAR less deer in the north. Seems like no one is listeing. we need no doe tags in the north. Thank you

This area can support a higher density of deer. Between winters and high numbers of predators the antlerless population should be protected a little more.

Felt number of bucks was lower too. In general, deer population seems down and we are outside quite a bit. Feel too many bonus tags would deplete farther.

stop messing with the unit to satisfy a few people. If people want to hunt they will.some years are better than others stop trying to manage mother nature

I not sure many hunters are regersting their deer now that you can do it on-line. Think the deer resistered are a lot less that what is killed.

Something needs to be done with the ever increasing wolf population, people in Madison have no idea what their impact on wildlife is.

I WOULD LOVE TO SEE ANTLER RESTRICTIONS DEVELOPED FOR WISCONSIN AS A GENERAL RULE. MEANING A MINIMUM OF 3 POINTS ON 1 SIDE TO BE A LEGAL BUCK.

I'm sure you have heard it all before, but I will reiterate:not enough deer and too many predators. You have to start listening to hunters.

thanks for recommending more public land tags next season. I'd like to see Washburn Cnty issue a free antlerless tag with each license sold.

thanks for recommending more public land tags next season. I'd like to see Washburn Cnty issue a free antlerless tag with each license sold.

Late season in 2019 resulted in much lower deer movement during the gun season it seemed. We had seen high numbers of deer earlier in 2019.

Hunting public land for the majority of the 9 day season deers sightings from the previous year were a fraction of the year before. 25 to 1

We hire professionals to study the various issues.Listen to public imput and the science from these folks and make decisions.

I think that the unit should be split in two. Because the northern part is mostly public and doesn’t have much farm land

Get rid of the public private split. This has only added confusion and has not served any useful purpose!

We see lots of does and fawns but very few bucks larger than 6 points. Would love to see more "shooter" bucks!

I believe that registration numbers are down because people are not registering deer. Once you make it home...

Consider a point based system for buck harvest (not including Jr. license). At least 4 points on one side

I would hope that in the near future we would return to backtags and physical in person deer regestration.

4 day doe season, no more. youth hunts, no more.get the predators in check. a season on the wolves.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Number</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9968</td>
<td>Would like antlerless tags issued to Conservation Patron holders whom live in Washburn county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9969</td>
<td>The cutoff line for baiting should be south of highway 77 not the entire Washburn county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9970</td>
<td>I think Wisconsin should adopt minimum antler restrictions to provide for larger bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9971</td>
<td>I would personally like to see all seasons remain the same - Archery - Gun - Muzzle loader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9972</td>
<td>I heard there was thought of lengthing the rifle hunting period. I disagree with this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9973</td>
<td>Make Washburn County a northern zone and a southern zone. Please have someone listen!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9974</td>
<td>I think the numbers were down because of the late season, not low deer numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9975</td>
<td>Doe tags on public are way too high. Public land needs herds built up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9976</td>
<td>Between the wolves and bears the deer population is very low.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9977</td>
<td>You need to divide this unit into a north and southern unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9978</td>
<td>Move the season up earlier so it takes place during the rut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9979</td>
<td>Leave the rifle season 9 days during the thanksgiving week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9980</td>
<td>I am very concerned with predator impact on the deer herd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9981</td>
<td>Take care of the wolf population. They are the problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9982</td>
<td>Keep up the good work. 2019 deer season was a good one!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9983</td>
<td>Keep the 9 day gun season as it is with no doe permits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9984</td>
<td>Need a Buck only season to build the herd back up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9985</td>
<td>Please think about a point restriction on horns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9986</td>
<td>Thank you for your expertise &amp; diligent work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9987</td>
<td>Need to lift baiting restrictions. Period!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9988</td>
<td>Split the unit Hwy 48 south and Hwy 48 north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9989</td>
<td>Very little deer movement in day light hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9990</td>
<td>Do not want to see an extended gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9991</td>
<td>More gun season, less bow &amp; crossbow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9992</td>
<td>We saw fewer deer in 2019 vs. 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9993</td>
<td>Extend gun season on the front end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9994</td>
<td>Way to go!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9995</td>
<td>Keep the deer season as is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9996</td>
<td>I don’t see enough bucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9997</td>
<td>Solid recommendations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 208
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 49
   - I hunt in this unit: 275
   - General interest in this unit: 58

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 234
   - Bow: 165
   - Crossbow: 123
   - Muzzleloader: 93

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 20.19
   - Maximum: 55

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 135
   - Mostly Private Land: 51
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 31
   - Mostly Public Land: 16
   - Exclusively Public Land: 40
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 2

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 38
   - Not too crowded: 45
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 19
   - Somewhat crowded: 23
   - Very crowded: 7
   - Not applicable: 6

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 51
   - Fewer: 86
   - Same: 113
   - More: 28
   - Many More: 12
   - Unsure: 14

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>156</td>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public :</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT : 148 Support 127 Oppose 29 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 219 Support 66 Oppose 18 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 26 Support 258 Oppose 20 Unsure

VALID NOT VALID Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>2.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.55</td>
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</table>
I do believe the holiday and doe only hunt are more harmful than they are good. At the time of these hunts somebucks have lost there antlers already and therefore have potential to get shot. Also as the study’s have found thatI have read from the dnr it is about 46% of the deer shot during these hunts are buck fawns or bucks that have lost there antlers. And has turned late season bow hunting into a lost hunt. We have the gun hunt that goes intomuzzleloader season. That leads right into statewide doe hunt. So the long and short of it all there is 23 day gunhunting season. That is very excessive. So now you are in to the second week of December Or third beforelateseason starts. Then in those few areas(which is more and more each year) there is an holiday hunt in whichanother 9 day gun hunt. So in all guys have 32 days of gun hunting it the area. That seems at least to me. Thatthat is very excessive. I have not been seeing as many deer for years now and an absolutely more and morehunters. So in short 32 days of gun hunting in one season i feel is way to much. I do like the extension of bowhunting all the way through January but to the point of earlier so buck have shed. But thank you for theopportunity to voice an opinion and I know that it is very hard to set seasons and not get blow back from people.Thank you for you time.

What ever you do, do not end the January season. It is one of the best times to bowhunt and take a nice buck. Itis weather related, of course, but do not close it,, Not much pressure anyway, and bucks drop antlers well late inthis area, for the most part. The guys I am with, are hard core. At 70 I am hard core. I live and breathe deerhunting year round. This will never happen, but for the Holiday Hunt, why not add a APR. During that time, we take out does, but have had some opportunities on some dandy bucks. I would allow the buck harvest, with alegal tag, 4pts on one side or better, for that period. I do not believe that EAB is needed in this county, eventhough I think that is an effective tool, for my place in Vernon County. Your priority down here is more kisoks, todrop off, for CWD testing. I use the one in Pike Lake. But you should have more. It certainly can not be the cost.Heck any high school shop class will build them for you.... then you take the interns from college programs andhave them work it. Its a win win for everyone. Thanks to everyone for working on the committee. But remember.....I believe in Wildlife Science, not Social Science, not Political Science, but Wildlife Science.

The deer quotas are extremely OFF. I have grown up in the Kettle Moraine and have hunted with family andfriends in a small group for the last 20 years. We all primarily hunt public land, sitting out and make small drives.The forest is swamped with hunters, and there is very few deer. In past years we saw a lot of deer, and had overallsuccessful harvests. We have die hard hunters in the group, and it’s common that we are seeing a significantdecrease in the deer population. You don’t see many out in this northern part of the county, and you don’t hear ofmany people having success. The numbers and results seem very skewed, and there are too many tags given outoverall. The deer population is not what it appears, and I am not sure why? City and metro areas, and someprivate pieces, seem to have larger deer populations because they are safe but on public land that is not the case.There is also a concern in our hunting group, that some people may not be registering their deer as there really isnot any proper monitoring of this like before. This is a great concern for many of us in the northern half of thecounty, as each year we see more tags and more seasons developing.
I would not say the public hunting land in Washington County is over crowded, I think there are too many deer drives on public land. It seems every year we end up giving up and going home early after the drivers show up. I don’t think the groups of drivers even realize how many groups of them come through. You spend the off season scouting out different areas to hunt and even on opening day the drivers come, some quietly walking, some making tons of noise. Some see you and give you space. Some walk right past you, some polite but most rude with a gang like mentality. I have been GUN and BOW hunting for forty three years and every year I say it’s going to be my last for gun season. I am in my fifties and hunt from the ground during gun and bow season and I do NOT feel safe during gun season any longer. It would be nice if the DNR could limit driving for at least part of the gun season, if not this will probably be my last one. I will continue to bow hunt and hope they don’t shorten that season to give more time to the gun hunters.

Deer herd near private subdivisions and private land have exploded. Where I hunt, on certain days, I’d see 40-50 deer a night. I also have seen nearly 75% of all does in 2019 have fawns and not just one but 2-3 at a time. 2019 was the first year in 25 years that I have seen this in Washington County and I hunted all the way until the end in January. The deer population is healthy, the winter was mild, food was available, and we need to manage this area appropriately. The DNR needs to invent better ideas on how to allow Private Land owners to allow hunters to manage the population. Better incentives may do this even if its only bow/cross bow season. I understand landowners skepticism about gun. I’d really like to see more options to hunt private / public in one of the best counties in WI. I personally do not own land and have limited access to my most favorite passion being cross bow hunting. PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT TAKING CROSSBOW RIGHTS AWAY. IT MAKES SOME OF US GET OUT THERE!

In my 24 years of hunting publicly in this unit I have seen many different contributors to the reduction of deer sightings. The most recent years have been due to 2 primary reasons in my opinion. 1. Trails are open during the hunting seasons and I see a lot of hikers who are not only not wearing orange, but they are walking dogs who bark when they see someone else in the woods hunting. 2. I see 10-12 deer a day on the way to and from my hunting spot, but 0 in the woods. There are a lot of properties that hold deer well around the kettle moraine. The deer can vacate to these properties without being sighted. I have seen the most sign I’ve ever seen in the woods but it appears to be nocturnal. Day in and out of sitting in the woods with nothing to see makes for a dull season. I’m not sure of the correct answer to the problem, but the deer numbers are here but not in the locations that the public are allowed to hunt.

I feel the DNR has done a poor job of supporting hunters in the recent past. I live in Washington County, but also have access to private land in Dodge county. I have public land that I scout in Dodge, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties. I also have friends with properties up north that I would occasionally do. Due to the changes I would not have to buy permits for private and public land in multiple counties. Due to the DNR desire for more money and less hunter satisfaction I can no longer hunt where I want. I have to limit the areas I focus on hunting due to the cost. Scouting and hunting is what I look forward to the most and I feel like it is being taken away from me. I am disappointed with the recent changes made and have not been able to get anyone with logical answers when I called in the past. Please do not continue to strip hunters rights or force them to pay more for what they love.

I feel the CDAC decision to 'MAINTAIN' the current population in Washington county is the correct move, FOR NOW. I expect license sales to once again decrease. I would also expect to see a slight decline in the kill. Primary reason is the CWD issue. Most hunters don’t want to eat diseased deer. The second reason is the population of people who actually 'hunt', that is walk the woods, is aging and declining in numbers. Many 'newer' hunters prefer to hang in trees like monkeys, over bait, and hope someone else moves the deer. 1. No action has been done to date to address CWD. It will continue to spread and decimate our herd and degrade our hunting opportunities. 2. Take action to end baiting statewide NOW! Thanks for allowing us too vent. gk
Not sure I am clear on the goals in Washington County, ie kills by cars are high, AG is high then goal is to harvest more deer, I would increase the public land tags from 400 to at least the same as private land, these are the guys that will get it done. at the same time... archery and crossbow should be treated as one in the same thru out the season and should start Mid Sept as typical and go thru Jan 31 with the only exception being... during gun hunt dates whatever they end up as, orange is required for all, and I am good with a longer gun hunt I read about staring a week end early. the main point all weapons can be used during this time and all tags ( archery/firearm) can be used during this time we want more people to participate in hunting not less

With private land making up 95% of Washington County, it's very difficult for non land-owners to find places to hunt. I hunted exclusively on public land the last two years, and it is extremely frustrating. Too many people and too few deer. I probably encountered several dozen people during gun deer season this year, spent many hours in the woods, and did not see a single deer. As a life-long hunter, and someone who hopes to pass the tradition onto my kids in the future, this is very difficult. I wish I could say I had an easy solution - I don't - but it still makes it very frustrating. I think it makes it tough to grow the sport overall, as many new hunters may likely have to utilize public land and will have very low chances of success.

It is proven that more deer are harvested by firearm then the 2 archery forms combined. Since we're so concerned to lower the population with a Holiday hunt, let's do a separate muzzle loader hunt. Sell a separate Muzzle loader license (same price as gun license) and have a 9 day season starting the last Saturday of October. Make it same as gun season with quota anterless and buck tags both. If unsuccessful, it remains weapon specific but tags could be filled during the regular season. Allow some gun hunters in the woods during the peak of the rut when deer are moving while generating extra revenue for the State of Wisconsin. Why should the firearm hunters harvest 60-70% of the bucks while archery hunters harvest 90% of the year's trophies.

I've been hunting whitetail deer for 22 years now and I've never missed a deer season. The last 5 years I've noticed a huge decline in deer around the Kettle Moraine. Especially the Kettle Moraine State forest. The number of hunters has increased tremendously and with that being said there are fair fewer deer. Places we hunted in the past haven't showed much if any deer sign in them. I personally think the DNR has been over harvesting does for the last 10 years and especially the last 5 years. It’s not uncommon to sit out and not even see a deer while tree stand hunting. Compared to 15 years ago when I would see up to 20 in one evening sit. I sure hope they can get a grip on the Wisconsin deer herd soon before the sport is ruined.

I knew right away I wasn't going to agree with the committees recommendation as soon as I seen the excuse of "It was a late hunt". Stop buying into the DNR excuses and realize the herd isn't as high as what you think. You can stop giving out 3 tags per purchase because hunters aren't dumb. They wont/cant shoot whats not there. This is coming from someone who mostly hunts public and private in the so called "over populated Metro Zone". Giving out more and more wont increase anything if the deer arent there. Hunters dont stop hunting because of time restraints, its because they arent seeing the deer to continue to spend the time out hunting. Last but not least 60 deer per square mile............This is a joke, im done!

Do not get rid of the January hunt. great time to get a nice buck. Deer drop antlers a lot later down here. During the Holiday Hunt, put a APR on, 4 points on one side or better. We pass some nice bucks during the time. Your preaching all the time, about CWD, well the carriers are older bucks, so let us take them, if tag is available. Build and distribute more kiosk for testing. Heck local shop classes can build them for about nothing. A little pr, I could get most of the material donated. College students could work them, for experience in their field or credit....... This county is pretty squared away. However, I believe in Wildlife Science, not Political or Social Science, thanks for all your efforts.
Thanks to all the members of the CDAC for your time and effort. I think the preliminary recommendation is a good one. I believe we are at or close to the maximum antlerless harvest that hunters in Washington County are either able or willing to accomplish. It is also likely we will follow the statewide trend of having fewer hunters. That may result in a lower kill despite a growing deer herd. We may have to accept that or enact measures that would be very unpopular like earn a buck, if it were available, or an antlerless only season across the board. Either one might be effective short term, but long term either one might be counterproductive if hunters get frustrated and quit hunting.

When I completed the April spring hearing survey I was pretty upset that when it came to the deer season structure questions that there was no question that asked if we should keep the season structure as is. Every question was about changing it in some form. It did not ask if we wanted to have the back tag brought back which in my opinion would greatly help in identifying trespassers. It also did not ask if we should bring back in person registration which in my opinion would help get a better herd count because I think a lot of people are not registering there harvest. Thank you for giving me a chance to voice my opinion and the opinion of many of my hunting friends.

I think all forms of deer hunting should be closed on January 2 or the first Monday of the new year. If you did not harvest a deer by this time then you simply did not spend enough time hunting during the ample seasons available. It is very disturbing to me to see a deer being gutted in mid to late January with recognizable fawns in the whom. This also includes the use of agricultural tags which I have witnessed being filled in April. I would also like to see the use of crossbows have a later start to the hunting season, somewhere around the 3rd week of October. Back tags should also be brought back into place to help identify non-ethical hunters.

I think there needs to be a reduction in crossbow season. And it needs to go back to restrictions toward those that are able bodied to use a compound bow. From my experiences on public land which I have many. I am becoming more frightened by some of the people that are hunting these lands. I am glad I don't have to hunt public for gun season as I probably wouldn't from some of the people I have met and safety concerns of those who hunt. I feel that crossbows and guns are too easy to not practice with and just go out being a risk to all those around them. There should maybe be an accuracy review or skills evaluation every 5-10 years.

Increased auto accidents involving deer would suggest an increase in population. A lack of nuisance claims suggests a mild winter leaving plenty to eat in safe cover. Again, suggestion another increase in population. However, on my cameras I did not see an increase in the area I hunt. If anything a saw more buck but less doe. That would be a reason for more auto accidents as the buck need to travel more to locate the doe. It would be a useful tool to have gender differentiated on the auto collisions for that reason. My opinion on my area would be to shot for the same numbers as last year to see how the buck to doe ratio plays out.

What I have seen is a decrease in the number of Mature does from years past. many deer I see are small compared to decades ago. you don't see many 150 lbs does anymore. They are all well under 100 lbs. A lot of bucks are smaller too, body wise. I have seen many on blogs complain about these crossbow hunters, but to me it's the same complaints the recurve hunters had when the compound bows came out. I believe the crossbows have been a long time coming to help those that can't pull back a compound bow anymore and support there use. I still use a compound bow, but gets harder every year.
Please stop making this shit so hard to follow, every year its change is so hard to understand and keep legal. Small tiny change at a time when needed. It has become so complicated your losing hunters. I recommend education of interest in our children and the future of wisconsin hunting. Spend more money on interest of youth and promote more to rid predators such as WOLF, & COYOYE . My best advise after hunting 43 years hard core. Many of my co hunters my age threw in the towel, mainly because of all the politics in wi. Hunting. Thank you for trying to better our resources.

In 2019 I would see anywhere from 6-9 deer over the course of 5-6 hours in the field a day. I speculate due to crops being switched at nearby fields from soybeans in 2018 to corn 2019 less bucks and smaller deer. In 2018 i harvested 3 adult doe and saw many more and one buck. Last year i only took one larger doe and that deer was smaller than any from the previous year. In our area we had a mild winter plus not as many deer taken i think in previous years good deer management would be to get the numbers down especially of the adult doe population.

I have been hunting Southeastern WI for over 20years. Hunting and Fishing are my absolute favorite things to do in life. I believe that the deer population in this part of the state is good overall, but not evenly distributed by any means, which makes establishing harvest quotas very difficult. Public land and lakes need much stricter management than private, and we need to go back to actually registering deer. There are untold amounts of deer being taken on public but registered under private tags, and even more deer not being registered at all.

The whole gun deer hunting season strategy is getting to be all chopped up. Too many specialized hunts with rules that are hard to understand and follow. Why don't we just have a longer gun deer season overall to meet our objectives to manage the deer herd? It seems as if this has become as bureaucratic as the Federal government. I am all for managing the deer population, but doing so with those who are the most avid and dedicated hunters. Get rid of all of these crappy specialized hunts and give us a longer regular deer gun season!

Gun season is cheating. It doesn't need to be any longer. Hunting isn't about killing, it's about the experience and the HUNT. There’s no need to extend or offer more time for people to go be so far away from the deer that they couldn't have a clue they exist and then drop dead. If you want to harvest more deer, offer Bow/crossbow hunters more tags, the ones that go out for days and weeks and sit in the elements to provide for their families. Those are the ones that deserve the additional meat and reward from the sport.

I personally like the holiday hunt a lot because I have more time to hunt during the holidays and then I have a chance at one then when there isnt as much pressure. I only have a crossbow and if it wasn't for a crossbow season I wouldn't bow hunt. I sure hope you plan on leaving the crossbow season as is. If you take it away your going to lose a lot of new people coming in to bow hunt. I would say leave season like last year but if your going to make a change extended the gun season a little bit.

NO antlerless only for wash county. Private land License purchasers should receive one buck and three antlerless authorizations with each license eg 1 buck 3 antlerless for archery and 1 buck and 3 antlerless for gun. I heard things about an early/extended gun season. Please DO NOT implement this. I agree with an extended archery season just as we had in 2019 though. I have seen an increase in predators in multiple properties around the county. Thank you for all your hard work Wisconsin DNR!

Opportunity to see enough deer in Washington County has become difficult from over harvest of does I think 1 doe tag per hunter is plenty. You can use it for your gun or bow tag. Must register where harvest was taken for a good deer count. Then if a person wants another tag for doe , it has to be in a different County . Only so many tags should be issued for extra tag and people should be put in a draw and tag could be used in any county but the unit you chose for your free tag for now or gun.
10027 too many tags issued give em a brake a little to re cover some people want to shoot em all mentality don t have to go along with them. lets protect our wild friends lets not over harvest plenty of food for them in Washington co. just look up north see what over harvesting gets you. takes years for deer to recover. lot of people don t see a deer while hunting talked to many disappointed people. LETS NOT ISSUE CRAZY NUMBER OF TAGS AND HOLIDAY HUNTS

10028 From what I see since our property borders state was no one contributed in last years holiday hunt. Gun hunters are different than bow hunters which is why the interest level keeps them gun hunters. Since we couldn’t shoot bucks during this period with our bows we chose not to hunt like many bow hunters. Your studies account for all the dead wounded deer from crossbows since implementation. Personally I’m sick of finding 3 to 4 a year.

10029 I believe baiting should be allowed in 2020 for Washington County. I personally don't utilize bait but several of my senior friends rely on it for safe, ethical shots. They don't have access to the large tracts of land like I do. They need to hunt small areas typically on 5 acres. There is no way to create food plots, funnels etc. in these urban areas. This is where the deer population is getting out of hand in Washington County.

10030 In my opinion deer harvest was down in 2019 because of the fall rains, not because the season was late in the year. Many corn fields were still standing giving the deer a great hiding spot. The hunting season has always varied in accordance with Thanksgiving. I was hopeful for the 2019 season assuming the corn would have been harvested and possibly snow on the ground but we had neither which made the hunt that much more difficult.

10031 Crossbow season needs to be changed. I favor a limited season unless there is a disability or senior citizen. There are folks who hunt the land I do who use them and majorly overharvest. It is like firing a gun. I oppose the holiday hunt. The regular gun season provides ample opportunity to harvest an antler less deer along with the december antlerless hunt. No need for yet another antlerless hunt over christmas.

10032 I hunt the Metro Washington County area, in the past called the Metro Herd Control Zone. In my humble opinion, there is NO HERD. After the first couple of weeks of the 2019 season, there WERE NO DEER. In general, I oppose shooting "antlerless" deer and specifically oppose giving out BONUS TAGS! The additional hunt for "antlerless" deer a week or so after the regular gun hunt is a STUPID IDEA.

10033 I feel the placement of the deer season needs to be fluid in order to place as much of the season in or near the "rut" as possible. Much of the private land used in this section has less deer activity when the rut is over as opposed to the rest of the year. Hunters are handicapped when the season is primarily after the rut do to limited deer movement.

10034 We need to maintain a healthy deer herd. Most deer bucks or does are harvested at at early age. Best Buck quality and quantity is on privately owned land. Public land should be the most restrictive and best hunting land preserved. Private land ownership is ruining a public owned deer herd not only Wisconsin but across the country.

10035 Many private land owners will give permission to hunt their land to shoot bucks, but not does. There are many hunters like me that knock on doors, these land owners have a big impact on doe harvest on private lands. You can issue all the permits available but if the people giving access to land say bucks only, what can you do?

10036 go back to earn a buck. That will get better results than giving out far more permits than hunters are able to use. I also like the extended season but the chances of getting a kill are extremely low because the deer do not come out in daylight because they are on guard from of all the pressure from the regular season

10037 There is little that we to worry about at the moment for Washington in terms of wolves. But something NEEDS to get done and more need to be removed from Wisconsin. because until then the Northern population of deer will never return to the quality that it used be. I hope that this is not overlooked again and again.

10038 Please stop the holiday antler less only hunt in the Southern Farm Land zone for 2020. Myself and many other hunters that still had a valid archery buck tag will not doe only seasons. If your goal is Doe herd reduction please consider bringing back an earn a buck program. The Holiday hunt is a terrible idea.
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<th>Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020</th>
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10039 I feel that the state wide gun deer hunt should be extended. I would like to see a gun hunt that covers the last three full weekends of November. For example this year that would be from 14 Nov-29 Nov. This would give those of us with less flexible work schedules more time to get out into the woods.

10040 Please go back to mandatory in person reporting. I see SO MUCH more illegal poaching/ non reporting of harvested deer. The in person reporting holds people more accountable and gets you a more accurate estimate of deer harvests. This isn’t just a Washington County issue, this is state-wise.

10041 There are too many deer. I tried to get rid of buckthorn and grow oak on 60 acres (1000s of trees and $) and it’s impossible. We harvest 7 deer off the property/year and it doesn’t help. We should not maintain, we should decrease. More tags, longer seasons, Bring back Earn-a-Buck!

10042 Stop issuing so many doe tags. You should issue 1 buck tag for now and 1 for gun and 1 doe tag usable at any point. Also shorten the crossbow Season or go back to the old crossbow rules. Young healthy individuals do not need to be using crossbows. It isn’t sporting at all.

10043 Please do not change the length of the 9 day hun season. Also if anything, DO NOT shut down hunting the week before gun deer season is here. That sometimes is the best week of rut and taking that away from families and outdoorsmen would definitely not make them happy.

10044 I’ll start by saying that I mostly bow hunt. I feel there are too many special gun hunts that chew up a majority of late season archery time where blaze orange must be worn. If all of the special gun hunts continue, please continue the extended archery season.

10045 Is there any reason the archery season can't be extended without also having the holiday hunt? I oppose the holiday hunt, but would like to see the archery season extended. I don't see why these things depend on each other and are not mutually exclusive.

10046 Strongly oppose the holiday hunt, puts a burden on landowners adjacent to public lands who want to enjoy the holidays on their land doing other things without worrying about wearing blaze orange or hunters shooting in their direction.

10047 Way to many doe tags in this unit have driven the numbers of deer down so far that I rarely see a deer. Difficult to get kids interested in hunting when they don’t see any deer. Thinking what’s the point in hunting very discouraging

10048 The way Wi determines deer herds size is not very accurate in my opinion... These extra hunts also mess up archery season big time! Would love to have youth hunt super early in September instead of so close to the rut.

10049 if you are going to BAN BAITING the also impose the size of FOOD PLOTS ON PRIVATE LAND!!!! MAKE DEER HUNTING EQUAL FOR EVERYBODY. NOT JUST FOR THOSE WHO ARE RICH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

10050 Although it wasn’t asked in this questionnaire, I would like to add that I would be opposed to only allowing crossbows for part of the archery season. I feel like that would be a step backwards for Wisconsin.

10051 I see evidence of wolf predation and they need to go, with evidence of their ranges expanding this nuisance animal has too negative effect on deer populations and should be classified as a varmint.

10052 SEPARATE THE BOW AND CROSSBOW QUESTIONS AND SEASONS. THEY ARE SEPARATE GROUPS OF HUNTERS. CROSSBOWS SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ALLOWED. OLD RULES WERE JUST FINE. NOW YOU HAVE A HUGE ISSUE ON YOUR HANDS.

10053 I would like to see an overall reduction of deer numbers in the unit, primarily does at this point until population is under control, and a longer opportunity in which to hunt with a firearm.

10054 I believe the DNR is doing a very good job with our deer population. In the future, would you consider setting the gun season on a specific date, and not move around based on Thanksgiving?

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020 Washington, Southern Farmland
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<th>Comment</th>
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<tr>
<td>10055</td>
<td>I don’t think your numbers are accurate. I don’t believe as many people register their deer as you think. Go back to a back tags and registering your deer at local spots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10056</td>
<td>Leave things the way they are. Stop trying to kill every deer in the state all because some weekend worrier didn’t shoot a deer within an hour of hunting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10058</td>
<td>Do not have the Holiday Hunt as a contingency to having the crossbow and archery season extended. Extend the Archery season and don’t have a holiday hunt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10057</td>
<td>Every year that goes by seems to have less deer on public land. (Theresa marsh) Private land has pockets of high and low depending land owners management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10059</td>
<td>Get rid of the holiday and antlerless only hunts, leave the 9 day gun deer hunt alone and let crossbow hunters hunt the entire archery season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10060</td>
<td>You are correct in stating that private landowners (like myself) will never shoot enough does. It is counter to land owner’s privilege.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10061</td>
<td>Would be great to see three things: -Earn a buck program -Wisconsin becoming a one buck state -Increasing cost of non-resident tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10062</td>
<td>Let bow hunting run it’s normal season, allowing bow hunting during the 9 day gun season. Do not extend the gun season.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10063</td>
<td>I would like to see no crossbow hunting unless your of a certain age or medical reasons like the past. Thank you</td>
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<tr>
<td>10064</td>
<td>I will never hunt an antlerless only season but will always take a 2+ year old doe if I can during normal season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10065</td>
<td>WE NEED A SENIOR DEER HUNTING LICENSE OR IM DONE HUNTING. THATS A LOSS OF 8 HUNTERS. WHO CARES RIGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10066</td>
<td>Get rid of crossbow hunting for all. It should only be allowed for disabled and elderly, as before.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10067</td>
<td>I do not like any of the extra hunts, i.e. Holiday hunts, youth hunts and an antlerless deer hunts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10068</td>
<td>Please allow supplied antlerless tags to be used in multiple counties within the same zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10069</td>
<td>I wish we had more youth hunting time .i love hunting with my kids . they are the future .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10070</td>
<td>I am not in favor of extending gun season as newly proposed for the 2020/2021 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10071</td>
<td>I hunted the Theresa Marsh area. I was out 15 to 20 times and did not see any deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10072</td>
<td>I would recommend opening state parks and ice age trails for early bow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10073</td>
<td>I would like to see a full crossbow season. Do not limit the season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10074</td>
<td>There are just waaaaaay too many people out all at once for gun season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10075</td>
<td>Leave the season the way it is, do something about the coyote population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10076</td>
<td>Strongly oppose a 19 day gun season. Keep the 9 day tradition going!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10077</td>
<td>Crossbows should not be allowed from Oct 31st until gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10078</td>
<td>Please do not extend or lengthen deer gun season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10079</td>
<td>For safety, ban group drives in public lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10080</td>
<td>I generally agree with the recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10081</td>
<td>Nice job preparing this feedback/survey site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10082</td>
<td>Keep the Wolves out of the southern area !!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10083</td>
<td>Too many bear and wolf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Report Generated:** *Friday, May 01, 2020*  
**Washington, Southern Farmland**
Allow baiting again
Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 231
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 66
   - I hunt in this unit: 280
   - General interest in this unit: 70

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 206
   - Bow: 195
   - Crossbow: 121
   - Muzzleloader: 70

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 17.77
   - Maximum: 55

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 132
   - Mostly Private Land: 35
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 33
   - Mostly Public Land: 26
   - Exclusively Public Land: 50
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 4

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 31
   - Not too crowded: 50
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 18
   - Somewhat crowded: 26
   - Very crowded: 14
   - Not applicable: 5

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 57
   - Fewer: 86
   - Same: 104
   - More: 36
   - Many More: 19
   - Unsure: 10

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?  
   Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 148 Support 141 Oppose 23 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 228 VALID 68 NOT VALID 16 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 33 VALID 264 NOT VALID 15 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC's recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I very much enjoyed the extended archery season (January 31st closure) as I saw a number of deer during this timeframe. In fact I saw more antlered deer in January than any other time including during the rut. Although I was not successful in harvesting a deer, it was a quality hunt. In regards to the holiday hunt, I support this season as well but believe it needs to be revised. I see no need to keep it an antlerless hunt only. I know that it is in law, NR10.01(3)(ex)b. WI Admin Code, but I believe the CDAC committees should propose to the DNR/NRB/Legislature to delete this code from law and let the individual county CDAC committees decide whether it should be antlerless or either sex. The reasons for the change are obvious and highlighted below. - There is much talk about extending the firearm deer season to allow gun hunters more opportunities to harvest deer and antlered deer. By allowing antlered deer during the holiday hunt you are giving them that chance without changing the tradition of the November nine-day hunt. - There are no economical consequences and in fact may increase the number of license dollars as people who cannot hunt the traditional hunt may buy a gun deer license and hunt as they are home or visiting from out of state during the holiday season. - It would increase the hunter-days/hunter-hours. If I am unsuccessful at harvesting an antlered deer during the 9-day hunt, I would surely hunt during the holiday hunt. Inversely, I do not want or cannot hunt antlerless deer because I am bagged out I will not hunt. - Biologically it makes the most sense. If we want the deer herd reduced, any deer regardless of sex, is one less on the landscape. Additionally in CWD units, it makes the most sense to harvest antlered deer as they are statistically more likely to carry the disease. Again I believe it should be up to the CDAC committee and the public to determine whether the holiday hunt should be antlerless or either sex. THANK YOU to the committee members.

So your so concerned about regrowth of the oaks and other (native) trees why don't you implement a damn law saying developers cannot remove certain native trees that won't obstruct development!!! I watched them cut and remove 17 mature oaks with at least a dozen if not more younger oaks that were offshoots of this grove!! Put in their place was 3 flipping pines and a 30'x20' billboard! Someone got their brains up their ass! The public land which I hunted for 40 years has been taken over by your hikers and nature lovers that didn't put a cent in to the property!!! We used to have crops planted on public which sustained wildlife! Provided by farms! Now we have walking paths and groomed trails with brainless hikers wearing brown during hunting season! And you cry about CWD and population!! Well kinda hard to hunt when you have 30 homes that sprung up on property that was excellent wildlife habitat until they came in clear cut every tree! Dozed every fence row and filled the wet lands! Now these city dwellers have corn piles year round to watch the deer and then complain about their flowers being eaten!!! You want to control deer population start by governing development and non hunters!! The greed of money has taken over!! The DNR should of stayed separated from the greedy state of wisc!! How many bonus tags can we sell! Fill in the wet lands cut down the oaks for more tax money and lesser commitment to the hunters funding this whole joke! I can't hunt over bait!!! Well enforce the feeding of deer!! Kinda hard to hunt when you have a 100 pounds of corn 50 feet away on the neighbors property with a dozen deer shoved face to face, (and you talk CWD!) lol!
I think you should consider contacting some of the VACANT Private land owners about providing opportunities to "Qualified" hunters to remove deer from those parcels. Specifically, in Delafield/Waukesha/Pewaukee areas along the expressway and some of the surrounding areas, there are a lot of acres of vacant private land where I see LOTS of deer. In fact, the other night traveling between Home Depot and my house (Town of Genesee) my wife and I counted 35+ deer out and about. Given the fact that this is about a 4 mile distance, that's just under 9 deer per mile. AND that's just the ones we saw while driving. I can't imagine how many actual deer are out there. I think if you approached some of those private land owners, with a proper "Qualifying and Insured" process, you might get their participation, thus allowing you to manage herds of deer that you don't currently have access to. I think a lot of those landowners don't allow people to hunt on their properties because they see it as another hassle to manage. Help them manage that process and I think you might get some participation.

I would like to see the number of tags for use on private land deer harvests increase, especially as I am bow hunting in an area in which the city has been utilizing sharpshooters to control the heard for years. Private land owners want the ability to help control the deer population on our own lands. In turn helping elevate the need to spend tax dollars on such efforts. Restricted numbers of tags for bonus doe tags is unacceptable while the city shoots deer near year round then the tax payer and who has already purchased licenses has to complete during "our" season. Bucks opportunities are being taken away out of "season" with the city's sharp shooter programs. I personally could use the tags am much of the meat I harvest is given away to friends and family and I ration use of the rest until bow season opens again. Private land owners in the cities should be sold 4 tags minimum at time of purchase (buck included) and have the ability to purchase more for late season once those tags are all filled.

I am a bow hunter and also a felon with these new laws they want to imput just are not ok with me I can hunt with a gun so where does that leave all the hunters in my position of all ages and back grounds. I support everything I can with our local lands and dnr i think of its not broke don't fix it. I've hunted my entire life and have never had issues with to many people on one peace of land and if a guy did walk my my stand while I was hunting I have always been ok with that public land is exactly that public. I fully disagree with the new regulations it would rob me of my chances to harvest deer if I'm limited to a time limit I can't everyday I have 2 kid and a wife and a business to run i only get to go out 10‐15 times through out the entire season so if I lose that my chances of filling my 2 tags a year goes down by a ton. Its just not right.!!

Non‐hunters utilizing public lands during the gun‐deer season is a big problem. I have often come upon the non‐hunting public walking their unleashed dogs, jogging and strolling through a public hunting area. They are never wearing blaze orange and some to be completely unaware of the hunting activity going on and their presence with dogs running free spoils my opportunity to enjoy a southern Wisconsin deer hunt. If the non‐hunting public is allowed to utilize public lands during gun‐deer season they should be required to keep control of their animals, not allowing them to run loose. For their safety, and the safety of their animals, all should be required to wear blaze orange and face the same penalties hunters face if not wearing appropriate blaze orange.
Bow hunted over 30 times this county 2019, used (9) different locations miles apart, in sunny, cloudy, rainy, windy and snowy conditions from late September to Late January, 2020. I saw a couple deer during all of those hunts. Many different topographical conditions, in acorn forests, near corn standing, near corn harvested, grassland, and forests with no mast crop. As a deer hunter for over 50 years, I think it is foolish for the DNR to continue to raise the potential quota without learning how to get an accurate deer population count. I’ve attended the CDAC meetings in downtown Waukesha a few times since inception, but realized there isn’t much a small group can do to change what is definitely a much larger statewide issue of deer population count inaccuracy.

Hi, and first let me say thank you for all your hard work. From what I see they want to change the metro sub unit in Waukesha county. Let me say that I live and hunt not far from the border of the current map and there are a lot of deer in this area. I would hope that you leave this area as part of the metro sub unit. I live on a farm and even though I don't farm it (someone else does) there is a ton of crop damage from deer. Changing this would eliminate my chances of harvesting more then one deer. We are meat hunters and I try and get one deer for me and give the meat from a second deer to my daughter. I'm not just a buck hunter but someone that is more then willing to harvest antlerless deer for eating. Thank you again for all your work.

When we have low deer kill numbers based on season dates this never takes into account the amount of crops still standing (corn-beans) I would like to know if there was some type of documentation showing the correlation of standing crops to deer kill. We also never consider the amount of resources there are available to us now vs 20 years ago regarding the heath of the deer that we are harvesting (not the population) so if person "A" believes the deer are bigger and healthier now vs back in the early 2000's and he/she will pass on smaller harvests when they could have shot a deer but decided against it. how will this affect future calculations, especially considering the lack of public land in waukesha cty.

While this addresses Waukesha County southern farmland, there is no input allowed for homeowners in Brookfield, where we live. Our yards are devastated by deer. They browse right up to the house, and it is common to have a herd of 7 come through daily. We can't maintain our yards. I buy plants that they supposedly won't eat...gone. Our alderman states that the area borders a park, so an accurate count isn't possible. The herd lives across the street from our home. NOT HARD TO FIND OR COUNT. It is so frustrating that hunters get to address this, but we homeowners have little voice. We are also in a hot zone for Lyme disease. Where is the DNR for our input? Homeowners need a balance in the deer population, too.

In my opinion we have to many special hunting seasons for deer, I think we should have bow season with crossbow or long bow as usual and also nine day gun season. I personally think we put to much pressure on deer population with all these different hunts. I understand getting youth involved is so important but the age limit for youths hunt should be higher. Seems to me after hunting for over 50 years DNR has done pretty good job of it all except one thing, letting the wolf population explode that was defisating to deer population, sometimes you have to sit in woods to see what going on not behide desk with graphs and tables. d.n.r.

I have been hunting this ground for 20 years. We went from a great amount of deer that fed the family’s of the members of our group to barely getting by. Yes we have deer but not the numbers we should have. I can remember seeing cars and trucks lined up down every road. Not anymore. We need to stop killing off the does. We do not need to extend the season. We do not need holiday hunts. I’m an avid gun and bow hunter. Keep the 9 day gun season. Ever since I was 6 years old I’ve been deer hunting with my father around the same area. 32 years old now and I have noticed a huge decrease in hunters and deer. Kinda saddens me because it’s not the fun Wisconsin 9 day holiday it use to be.
The gun season in Nov. starts basically after the rut. We see bucks before the start of the rut but generally not when the gun season starts. Owning much private land and paying taxes it would be nice to get a buck. Everyone I talk to agree that the gun season should start two weeks earlier so we may see more bucks. I know of some young hunters that are quitting because they never see any deer. I think this should be the biggest concern! We have much trouble with coyotes trying to kill our dogs and chasing and killing fawns and other deer. This issue should be seriously addressed and put a bounty on coyotes. I am 75 and everyone I talk to agree with me about these issues. THANKS

I hunt northern Wi. mostly Price and Iron Co. But live here in Waukesha county. I used to hunt many weekends all over the middle of the state south. Was nice to visit, hunt and have a chance or should I say harvest a doe. Maybe taking a nice buck. DO NOT LIKE THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE DOE TAGS. No longer hunt much except up north.Want deer shot in southern part of state get rid of public or private doe tags. Want new hunters, same objective. More opportunities. Don't know why it even Started. Texas deer czar. Texas is all private. We are blessed with more deer in this state then others. This state is just getting to complicated.

Don't recommend any Gun season beyond the 9 day gun season. The cwd years with extended gun season severely decimated herds. I used to see deer constantly on public land. Then, after the extended season, I would see less than 5 deer in an entire season. Made me not even want to hunt public anymore, which is something I had always enjoyed. Herd is starting to improve but need years to get to where it used to be. Please keep gun season down to minimum amount of days and allow our herd to increase. Also believe in one buck per season limit. Makes people really choose what they want to harvest.

If CWD is increasing the Waukesha County why are we trying to maintain the deer population level? Is it helpful to look at decreasing the population level as a tool to prevent the spread of CWD? How does it work to maintain the population when the harvest quota for antlerless deer is not meet? I also strongly encourage any option to increase youth hunting opportunities. Allow youth to participate in the October youth hunt until they are 16. There is no better way to get a kid excited about hunting than having them sit out on a nice fall day in October.

I believe that if the DNR were to get rid of all of the special antler less hunts throughout the season there would be more deer for gun season. I know there has been talk of making archery/crossbow season shorter also which I am strongly against. If the state were to keep the same season length for Archery, Muzzle and Gun, I think it would work. I also don't see much difference between Muzzle and Gun so why don't you combine both of those seasons and make the gun season 18 days with either weapon. Just my two cents.......

I believe the holiday hunt over xmas break should allow for the hunting of antlered, buck deer. I have off of work during that time and would love the chance to hunt bucks. I LOVE the extended deer season through Jan in my zone. I shot the biggest buck of my life on Jan 25th, 2020 this year (I'm 49 yrs old). Seems as though the results are coming very close to the targets, although I understand what I believe to be your concern of a mild winter with increasing your target over last year. Keep up the good work.

I hunt in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine in the Scuppernong Trail area. Recently they logged out many pine trees in that area. The problem I have is that now more sunlight reaches the forest floor and there is now a bumper crop of Sand Burr plants growing in these logged areas. When these burrs get on your clothes, it takes hours to remove them by hand. Is there any way to eliminate or greatly reduce these plants? I can't hunt in areas I used to hunt and harvest deer because of these annoying Sand Burrs.

Crossbow hunting should not be allowed after Oct. 31. Crossbow hunters are ruining bow hunting and traditional gun season. Cross bow hunting during the rut should not be allowed. the crossbows are passed from one family member to the next. No skill involved with the use of a scope. Cross bow season should be shortened. DNR is taking away the opportunity to shoot a trophy in Wisconsin by allowing crossbow hunters same season as bow hunting. Should not be able to use a crossbow between Oct 31 and opening gun.
10106 From the video, it seems you need to have more doe killed as compared to bucks. But we know that the Earn a Buck Program is not liked. How about giving a hunter an incentive to kill both a buck and a doe. Either lower my fee if I shoot one of each, or give me free CWD test, or a free park pass or charge me an extra $50 next year if I failed to shoot one of each this year. That would allow me to decide when I want to shoot the doe and I don't have to pass up a nice buck early if I haven't shot a doe yet.

10107 Impact of Deer spreading invasive plants eg. Garlic Mustard plant and relation to herd sizes in developed areas. Have there been concerns voiced about anti-hunters harassing hunters in public land during the 2019 season? Was there an increase or decrease over the previous years? Spoke with hunters in 2019 season and some had multiple run-ins with people on public handing harassing active hunters to deter deer from the area or disrupt the hunt itself.

10108 Really should limit the doe tags and cancel the holiday hunt. Don't make since to rut October, November does are breed then killed a month later. Also would like to see a restriction on the bucks. To many young bucks being hunted and not enough big bucks out here on public land. A antler restriction would be nice. 6% of waukesha is public is crazy. Kettle moraine be over crowded a d the deer drivers dont help. Very hard to hunt that area!!

10109 I reached out to Jason Roberts about the massive group of deer behind my house, sometimes 50 or more. They destroy our yard and leave so much crap. Our kids have a hard time playing outside without getting full of it. I would be happy to help with any herd control on my property if you ever wanted it. I have some safe elevated spots more then 100 yards away from neighbors.

10110 In the last 40 years there has been an extreme decline in deer seen during the year and especially during the hunting season on Public Hunting areas. I have hunted the Southern Kettle Moraine Forest for 40 years and its discouraging and frustrating when many hours and days are spent in the woods. I speak for quite a few hunters who hunt this area. Its sad. Many of us are reconsidering the purchase of a hunting license.

10111 Would like to see earn a buck brought back for crossbow and bow, would like to see certain areas to bait especially when you have private land too many deer are in small tracked areas around subdivisions population is getting too high. No one can have a garden family members I have no one have three deer hit their vehicles one was a total open up State Parks for bow hunting and crossbow hunting earn a buck thank you.

10112 Like to see the nuisance tags issued again for the Town of Delafield. Like to be able to hold the tag until they run out and actually have a waiting list. Happy to turn it back in to someone waiting if I have not filled it. Not convenient to visit town hall to renew during business hours if haven’t filled in 2 weeks. Not a long time period during bow season. Will do it if necessary, but love the program.

10113 My recommendation would be to pair with neighboring counties and allow the hunter to pick multiple counties to use the free doe tags that come with a farmland zone tag. I.e. I do most of my hunting in Washington county but also hunt in Waukesha and Dodge counties. I would like to be able to designate 1 doe tag for each county instead of having to purchase from the bonus tag pool for the other counties.

10114 I have been deer hunting for 45 years now. With the new registration system calling it in I don't think works well. In my conversations with some other gun deer hunters, they seem to be killers and not hunters. They do not register there deer and they just go back out and shoot more. I liked having to register deer in person which gave the DNR a good herd kill count.

10115 Keeping deer numbers up helps to keep younger hunters interested and involved. Low numbers like that up north are what turns new hunters away. Keep that in mind when setting your goals. Some of us like to bow hunt only and a holiday hunt takes the time we can use to harvest a buck away. It seems every free weekend or time I get coincides with a special hunt time. Thanks for the time.
We only hunted youth season because we only have access to public land. It was lousy. Add the CWD risk on top of impossible to get access to private land to have a good hunt (I have kids, can not afford trophy lease rates). Result after 5 years of trying is that we quit deer hunting. That’s right, CWD+lack of access = 3 less hunters. We’ll find some other way to have fun.

Deer drives are killing the deer herds in southern kettle moraine unit, its not hunting it a massacre of these deer, you don’t even give them a chance when you have two to three drives a day going through an area. For how big this area is, the population of deer is way under we have more hunters then deer in this area. I would like to see more regulations on deer drives.

I hunt public land only in Waukesha County and I live very close to the public land I hunt. I am satisfied with the amount of deer I see and feel there is good potential for harvesting a large buck. Whatever the CDAC/DNR is doing, appears to be working. I do not believe we need to increase the number of antlerless tags, nor do I agree with antlerless only hunts.

The problem in Waukesha county on hunting and deer population is there is not a lot of places to hunt, no hunting in town of Brookfield, Lisbon ,Sussex Pewaukee, little in Menomonee falls, none in lannon etc. you have to look at that also. Yes there is a lot of deer in the county but they are in suburbs that you cant hunt please take a look at that please.

I think all bonus tags should be free! We as hunters are helping out the DNR and state by harvesting all these deer! I also think we should increase the boundaries for the crossbow and archery season. More and more land is being developed in this area. I myself have lost hundreds of acres in the past 5 years of great private land to development.

There seems to be a slight resurgence in the herd, and it has made hunting exciting again as there is a fairly good opportunity to see deer while afield. Doe numbers seem to be up a little bit, which gives a better chance to harvest a mature buck during the rut and has made the last year or so more enjoyable to be in the woods.

There should be a place to donate deer without having a cwd test in the Waukesha area. We have to many does on the property we hunt and would love to remove more does but do not need the additional meat and are turned away from deer donation markets in Washington county. Does not make sense as Washington county has cwd also.

I can’t stand that you are basing a “Holiday Hunt” only with an extension to Jan 31. Why don’t you do a earn a buck tag if you want to maintain doe populations while still giving the average hunter the chance to take a buck during these holiday hunt times. If you want me out in the woods then you better let me take a buck.

Would love to see a buck only for two years. Don’t see as many doe as I used to. As far as doe to fawn I’ve only seen two in the last 4 years, then see them dead on side of road. I keep my cameras out year round. Have more bucks to doe ratio at least in our area. All neighbors see the same. killing way to many doe. Thanks.

The deer herd has been half of what it was years before and needs to be restored to larger numbers. If farmers are concerned about crop damage have deer tags tied to crop damage money so they need to open hunting on their land to non family members. So the more deer taken from their crop land the more money they get.

Deer population in Waukesha co. subdivisions is out of control. In our area we can count anywhere from 12 to 19 deer at dusk & dawn. Of course there is a small creek of water running thru the area, large lots with a lot of trees & other bushes. Our observation has been half of the doe’s have twins.

I would like to see the traditional gun hunt - last week in November and bow hunting season from the beginning September to 1st week in January. Not into the whipping out the deer heard. More into wildlife watching and trophy hunting. Killing of all / most of the deer is not necessary.
I would like option to easily hunt in multiple counties. I live on border between Walworth and Waukesha and would like to hunt in both counties without buying another permit. I would also like to hunt in northern or western Wisconsin without having to buy more permits.

The deer have become more nocturnal due to hunting pressure in this unit. With the deer in the marshland public hunting areas staying in the marshes during the day and only coming out after hunting hours. This makes taking a deer on these public lands very unlikely.

If anything we should go back to earn a buck for a few years. I wouldn't mind seeing a minimum point hunt either (example: 3 points on one side). I think the Holiday Hunt is not needed. Leave the late season for the bowhunters to get out and try to harvest a buck.

The holiday hunt discourages me from going out during this time because where I hunt is archery only. I usually have tags for both gun and archery at this time. If I still have a buck tag available I would like to use it if there was an opportunity.

I know of some cases where people are complaining about many deer in subdivisions near by. I see a lot of feeding and baiting. Have a neighbor who is baiting and shooting off his deck. Feed the wildlife and they will come. Thanks.

A lot of these proposed rule changes are ridiculous and destroy bow hunting in the state. Please keep gun season the way it is. Bow hunting is far more challenging and rewarding, please do not diminish deer hunting by allowing an extended gun season.

In regards to the holiday hunt. The additional stress is ruining the public land hunting opportunities in the areas I hunt. Gun deer drives for antlerless deer in December, on a herd that’s been hunted hard for 4 months is over the top.

You should keep all hunting regulations same as last year Cross bow season should be the same As archery I am for getting rid of muzzle loader and extending gun hunting In the place of muzzle loader so it would be 18 days.

I've noticed an increase in farmers and private land owners renting or charging hunters to hunt there land, with I think they control things that are not natural. They want repeat hunters, year after year.

Might need to consider the earn a buck to increase antlerless harvest, too many sit waiting for a big buck and let does walk. Deer are becoming a varmint in too many communities, not a big game animal.

Thank you for making this presentation available online. I found it very informative and interesting. I would like to suggest making a metro unit county wide for clarity of boundaries if possible.

Need several opportunity to harvest any deer. Very hit\miss as to seeing deer during hunting hours. More opportunity to hunt gives me a better success chance. I have limited hunting opportunities.

For the past two years, Sightings of deer in this unit (private land) has been sparse. In talking with other hunters in this unit, same concern. Hunt all day, see nothing.

Way too many coyotes around. Coyote population is definitely affecting deer survival rates, especially with yearlings. I'm seeing less fawns around every passing year.

Metro tags should be given in any metro unit that hires sharpshooters. The use of bait by these sharpshooters should be prohibited.

Rezone the edge to put Badersscher Preserve in the extended season zone. It would be nice to have through JAN to hunt this area.

Now you as the DNR are just confusing everyone way to much on what we can hunt where we can hunt and what we can hunt with!!!
If you want to keep the total deer population in check for the metro Waukesha zone, I suggest that you allow baiting.

Last season the deer count was very low and so far this year picture evidence is showing even less. We need the does.

Keep cross bow season same as bow season. There is not enough deer on public lands. Too many small bucks are shot.

Public lands are way over hunted. Especially for doe. Metro is worthless because we have no place to hunt!!!!

Deer numbers in the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit have dropped dramatically. I rarely see deer anymore.

I would like to see one doe harvest authorization per hunter in this DMU for the next three years.

Holiday hunt buck or doe as we have been told populations are the same for last hunt of season.

I support the continued use of crossbows for any hunter, not just older or disabled hunters.

Need more programs to encourage private land owners to allow hunters on their properties.

I am not in favor of extending gun season as newly proposed for the 2020/2021 year.

I am in favor of keeping the 9 day gun deer season intact. No changes.

Observing 30 to 50 deer in the evening on our farm in SW waukesha co.

Stop the discussion about crossbow usage and leave the season alone.

If you do Antlerless only hunt for this unit, I simply won’t hunt

Stop catering to gun hunters and do not limit crossbow use.

Get rid of having to choose between public and private tags

Would like to see numbers similar the the mid 90’s.

Baiting should be allowed on private land

Open up more County land for hunting.

Restrict bow season to 3 weeks total.

Nothing is being done with poaching

Approve the holiday hunt!

Leave the season alone.

NO MORE Holiday Hunt
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Waupaca, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

1038 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 415
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 183
   - I hunt in this unit: 983
   - General interest in this unit: 130

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 932
   - Bow: 566
   - Crossbow: 472
   - Muzzleloader: 407

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 25.2
   - Maximum: 71

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 784
   - Mostly Private Land: 115
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 36
   - Mostly Public Land: 13
   - Exclusively Public Land: 26
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 9

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 43
   - Not too crowded: 58
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 33
   - Somewhat crowded: 25
   - Very crowded: 17
   - Not applicable: 14

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 281
   - Fewer: 342
   - Same: 300
   - More: 59
   - Many More: 32
   - Unsure: 24

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC's 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>97</td>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 414 537 87
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 517 445 76
If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 144 852 42
If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?  Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cross bows are becoming like a gun season, all season long. These weapons are able to fire accurately or two 100 yards now, they have a stock a trigger a scope of safety and a preloaded bolt. Far more like a gun than a bow! You no longer have to worry about that nervous doe seeing you draw, at the buck following her. In most cases with a regular bow you never get a shot! Now with a crossbow all you have to do is raise your arms and pull the trigger. If we can't get rid of crossbows, you need to go to one buck tag only! Use whatever weapon you prefer to hunt with during the appropriate season but when you take that buck, you should be done except if you want to harvest some antlerless deer. With crossbows in rifles now allowed in Waupaca County I’m lucky if I can get a three-year-old into the next season. Years ago on my property I would have at least one five-year-old every year that hasn’t been the case in at least 5 to 6 years now. I also think you should do away with the group hunting. There is so much pressure put on these deer now, is it really any wonder why they are so nocturnal and everybody says they don’t see any deer. People are in the woods far more now than they ever used to be with trail cameras, foodplot and hunting. The number one thing that shot a deer activity down is human pressure secondly weather. If people want to see deer again, the youth hunt should be eliminated in October, should have five days without any hunting prior to gun season and the Friday before gun season should go back to no gun shooting at all. The deer may actually move again after a week without pressure. My Cell Camera’s, Constantly show does looking up into trees as they move along, in my area in Waupaca County, after the first week above season for deer are blowing constantly and are so jumpy they look like they’re going to drop over with heart attacks. When I go to Iowa to hunt, it is so different so much less pressure I can stand up and down with those around me and they never looked up. Wisconsin need to stop thinking with it’s pocketbook and start thinking about the quality of the hunt for a change again. Everybody was complaining about the low deer kill this year, And thinking it was because of the late season. Every five years we have a late season the big difference is the amount of pressure crossbows and too much gun season already. It couldn’t of been much more ideal for weather and opening weekend except for a few areas of the state. It’s time people wake up, the deer are out there start thinking about why deer don’t move, Instead of dreaming up excuses all the time. Back in the 90s when deer harvest were records every year there was more feeding and baiting going on Then there has been for the last 10 years combined. Last year on the last weekend of gun season I saw 67 deer, only five of them were antlered bucks. Between my friends and I we shot nine does during the T-zone and the holiday hunt, my neighbors to the north shop nine as well. I still had counted over 70 deer walking in my woods during January 2018. This year they were slightly fewer but still way too many. They don’t start moving around again for most people until season is over because of all the pressure. The reason I see so many of the second weekend is because I don’t hunt the first seven days on my Waupaca County property.
Deer numbers just north of Ogdensburg has decreased dramatically since earn a buck raising concern for quality hunting. Wolf sightings both personal and via trail cams are common. Late summer scouting of ~7 mile radius as well as hunting more hours each year reveal much less deer density from year to year. Apparently the entire county isn't experiencing the same since the recommendation is to reduce the herd and continue to issue antlerless permits. IMO, we need to reduce or eliminate antlerless permits for a few years. There has also been a proposal to extend gun seasons. Is the primary reason to harvest more deer? Money? Politics? Personal desires? When deer herds were extreme, 30-40 deer sightings were common on opening morning in gun season, year to year (I agree that was too many). The video states that the time period in November last year wasn't optimal, further from the rut and less deer movement. This is false, following the rut, bucks need to replenish what they have exhausted and food intake is necessary for the upcoming winter. Additionally, gun season has been the same time-frame for the 35 years I've been hunting and earn-a-buck was really detrimental on the herd including all the holiday hunts and antlerless tags issued since. Adding crossbows into the archery season hasn't helped. Personal observations have shown that many people in our area are only gun hunting a couple days, disappointed with the lack of deer sightings. How is extending the gun season, attempting to reduce more deer, going to make future years better? In recent years I've bow hunted during gun season. The amount of shooting in our area is extremely down. Last year my wife and dad gun hunted and I bow hunted. We hunted 5 days (at least 6 hrs / day) in different areas and saw 3 deer total. My family owns recreation land and spend a lot of money not only on hunting and fishing, but supporting the economy, gas, grocery, golf, cabin/land improvement. We love the place but are extremely concerned with the decisions that have been implemented regarding deer hunting. Another concern is crossbows. What is the justification for allowing crossbows in archery season? What was wrong with previous regulations for disabled or age requirements allowing the opportunity to use a crossbow. A crossbow is nothing like a bow, has a trigger like a gun, sights like a gun, has a bolt, not arrow, and from what I've seen, changes peoples ethics thinking they can shoot 80 yards. Archery should be challenging and seeing how close you can get, not making it easier. Unfortunately the heritage and traditional beliefs are being pushed aside for personal pleasure and possibly greed. I primarily bring this up since crossbow legislation will also be voted on this year which affects all DMU's. On a positive note, I'm optimistic that County Advisory Board input will improve wildlife management over time. Previously, unit deer density varied greatly as it still may be the case even by going to a much smaller demographic area of just the county, but it should improve deer counts and the necessary harvest in future years. Thank you
It is stated on deer harvest numbers for the year, but do these numbers include ag tags? How many deer are being harvested in Waupaca county from these tags? I support that farmers need to have ag tags to support their crops because this is their income to make a living. However, the number of tags that are put out can be a little absurd. When hunters have numerous farmers around them with ag tags it puts in a considerable dent in the population. Yes, this is the goal but there has been a little over kill in my opinion. My family owns land and we lease land. There has been a year where the land we lease they had an insane amount of ag tags and we weren’t seeing a single deer on there till mid October. At that point it is only fawns. No bucks were seen until November. This was on over 100+ acres of the leased land where maybe only a 40 had ag tags, the exact details I’m not 100% sure on. It also affects our private land. The years that ag tags have been supplied you loose the mature bucks that we all dream of harvesting because of the pressure before hunting season. What probably would have been the most unique and coolest buck I ever would have seen so far got spooked off because of ag tags. Again I think we should have ag tags, but maybe the number of tags given out should be reconsidered. This is something I haven’t looked into, but can anyone see who has ag tags? Should land owners be notified if neighboring or nearby properties are using ag tags? The amount of deer that we have been seeing has drastically reduced over the years. If the goal of reducing the population is to create a healthier herd and for Waupaca county to be able to produce larger and more mature bucks, is an antler restriction out of the question? Allow first time hunters of any age and youth hunters to shoot a buck of any size because we all want them to get hooked in hunting and continue on the tradition that we all love. The holiday hunt has ruined late season bow hunting. The years where we have muzzleloader, late antlerless, and holiday hunt gives bow hunters no time in the woods. With the 9 day gun season and muzzleloader season gives a person more than enough time to harvest a deer to put meat in their freezer. After all these seasons the bucks are sitting tight and gives them no time to give an archery hunter of filling their late season tag. Extending the archery season gives hunters a little more time, but you also have some bucks that already are dropping their antlers earlier during this time frame. Again this is my opinion but talking to fellow hunters who have a passion for bow hunting, I haven’t heard a single person that has enjoyed seeing the holiday hunt. My tradition of sitting in the stand on a cold and hopefully white Christmas morning and going home to spend Christmas morning with the family has been taken away most years now because of this hunt. I want to thank you guys though for putting in the time for gathering info for all of us to see what is happening in the county we hunt in.
I have hunted outside of Scandinavia Wisconsin for roughly 20 years. The private property I hunt is surrounded by many fellow sportsmen and women with many smaller parcels of private ownership broken in to 5-40 acres pieces. With the density of hunters in my immediate area and the current decrease objectives in place for Waupaca County I have seen an extreme decline in deer numbers over the last 5 years. If you take a ride 10 miles down the road deer population may be much higher. In particular this may be the case where large parcels (500+ acres) are owned by single individuals. I have attempted to get permission to hunt 4 separate areas from 6 different land owners where I have seen much higher concentrations of deer compared to my own area. I have been denied 6 times. I wish county boundaries were not used to set antlerless harvest goals. This is decimating the herd in my immediate area while not addressing the larger goal (decrease) at hand. With today’s modern and advancing technology couldn’t a different antlerless harvest tag availability strategy be implemented? Say one that would account for hunter density per square mile? When applying for private land permits require addresses of properties to be used. Then issue doe permits according to hunter participation in these smaller areas? This would not only improve hunting opportunity/satisfaction for situations like mine, but allow the DNR to better hone in a areas where hunting pressure is low and in turn where deer density is high. After talking with my neighbors I know they would not be upset with getting less if not any doe tags from year to year to re stabilize our decimated herd. Likewise in areas with less hunting pressure maybe a land owner who would be issued many does tags (6-10? who knows) would be more likely to invite family/friends to come hunt or give permission to people like me because they would feel less threatened about not having any deer in the future as numbers get adjusted according to past harvest numbers/data in these more specific zones. I understand this possess a technology hurdle, but look at all the advances the DNR has made in the last decade! Online registration, online input, surveys, license sales, etc. Embrace technology and use it to better manage this vital natural resource please. What is the population NUMBER target for Waupaca County? What are the population NUMBERS for all the counties in the state? Please start posting current population targets (actual numbers) along with current population estimates. This would allow hunters to better understand the DNR’s objectives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very well done study and presentation. The Waupaca County/ Central Farmland area is quite a bit different from the Northern units where I hunted in past decades prior to buying the 12.5 acres down the road from my house here. " Up North " I always enjoyed the beauty, but the poaching, both by the poachers and the attitudes of acceptance that seem to come with it by even some of the non hunting population is certainly not as bad down here, especially if that poacher is also a trespasser! Also, the predators and winters are not much of a threat in this neck of the woods. As far as vehicle collisions go, people around here are very wary of wildlife and do there best to watch for hazzard,after all, enough domestic farm animals escape as well and some can be bigger than a deer and black, at night, and panic! I would like to see a longer " two week" gun season like in Michigan, and a longer archery season for those folks in lieu of all of the sporadic " Holiday " hunts or " bonus" tags. I'm a disabled veteran and have hunted off and on since 1988 on the land I now own as well as Bayfield and Iron and Price counties, the reason being that my military sustained injuries at times flare up and keep me laid up some years, unfortunately usually during hunting season, and some years (2019) I don't even get a chance to hunt. Other years, if up to it I have gone out on opening day and gotten a deer,OR TWO, within the first couple of hours ( I'm a good hunter). Other years I wasn't up to it until days into the season, and later in the day, but yes, got at least an antlerless deer. What I'd sure like is more DAYS, not more tags. Others who work feel the same way. I'm retired now, but back when I was a correctional officer ( hunted in Sauk County then, got a couple deer) I didn't always have off of work. Only a few hours to hunt. I talk to many who WOULD hunt, but can't get that week off, so they don't hunt. TWO WEEKS would let more hunters harvest one or two deer instead of the ELITE and RETIRED harvesting two or MORE, and it would PRESERVE our hunting HERITAGE for more! Sorry to ramble, (payback for the long but EXCELLENT video) Thank YOU, for YOUR service!
The Waupaca County/ Central Farmlands area doesn't suffer quite nearly from the problems of the Northern units in Iron and Bayfield County (where I previously did more hunting before purchasing 12.5 acres of hunting land about a mile from my house) of the poaching and tolerance and attitudes surrounding it that I witnessed up there, as well as the increasing wolf population that my Son and I witnessed, many tracks and on two occasions the actual wolves. Poachers, especially if trespassing are far more likely to be looked down upon in this neck of the woods, the coyotes and occasional bear are a far cry from an up north type threat, and the winters are comparable to the predator situation difference. On the flip side, where more urban area people might be upset about vehicular incidents with deer, around here we are always aware of not only them but all wildlife AND domestic farm animals that occasionally get loose, some of which are much larger than a deer and can be black and in full panic. In lieu of all of the complicated "special/ bonus " hunts would a two week gun season work with extended bow seasons in areas that need additional population harvest done work? I admittedly ask this partly because as a disabled veteran I have taken some years off (2019) due to injury flare ups, rehab, that often afflict me with the onset of colder weather. I'm a good hunter and have often gotten deer during the early hours of opening day, if first getting out later in the season late in the day I've still gotten at least an antlerless deer, so a longer season could help us retired disabled hunters as well as those who work and can't get off for opening weekend or even that week. People's work schedule is one reason for the drop off in hunter numbers among the younger people that I talk to. Complicated equation for you to work out, but based on your EXCELLENT VIDEO it seems as though you are definitely on top of things! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

I know there are thousands of deer in Waupaca county, public land gets pounded and some hunters have been"hunting here for 25 years "! I drive 80 miles round trip to work and back, there are areas loaded with deer and other areas where you hardly see any even tho it's still good deer habitat. I totally understand that people spend a lot of money on their land ie. i.e. purchasing, mortgage, food plots etc. But between "quality trophy hunters and those who believe the deer are theirs" there's always gonna be more deer in this county than what the land can handle because a lot of land owners in this county don't believe in harvesting antlerless deer. All the antlerless permits in the world will not solve the over population of deer in Waupaca county if the majority of hunters here refrain from harvesting antlerless deer. It's too bad, but the trophy mentality has pitted neighbor against neighbor not only here in Waupaca county but across our state. Deer hunting used to be simple and fun and folks were happy putting some venison in the freezer every year. The solution for harvesting more antlerless deer seems very remote until attitudes change, but that seems highly unlikely in this day and age of so many hunters looking for recognition for harvesting a trophy therefore being very reluctant to harvest antlerless deer or allow anyone on their property to harvest antlerless deer. It's funny how I hear other hunters discuss Quality Deer Management, but say they don't allow anyone to shoot antlerless deer. Quality Deer Management is kinda like religion, instead of following the guidelines set up for Quality deer Management, people like to try and interpret and make up some of their own guidelines. Waupaca county is a great place to live, work and recreate. Good luck with the CDAC recommendations for the upcoming deer season. Thank you for allowing public Input on this matter.
In my opinion we need to go back to what has worked for deer hunting over the ages. Recently the rules are changed every year so that it is confusing and also does not give enough time for a modified rule to be accepted. We also don’t give the rule change enough time to see if the goal that was set was achieved. I am for implementing back tags and in person registration again. Did we benefit from eliminating these practices? These changes have made it easier for violators to violate. It has also taken away from excitement and social gathering at the registration stations. It use to be a build up of excitement for the gun deer season. Now there are so many seasons the gun season does not have the anticipation it once had. Heck last year we bow hunted up to the day before the gun season. Why? We need to understand that hunting is not as important to society today as it was 40 years ago. No matter what changes are made you will have difficulty recruiting new hunters. We need to understand and face this fact. It seems we are looking for a silver bullet answer that will make the interest in hunting what it once was again. Crossbows have changed the hunt that more deer are shot with the crossbow so these hunters are not taking a deer with the gun. The additions of crossbows has only shifted the kill to a different weapon. All the changes in weapons and seasons have taken away from the interest in WI gun deer season. My recommendation is why change the goals and law requirements every year. We had a successful format that worked in the past. If it is critical to kill more dear bring back the earn a buck program. I have been hunting in WI for 50 years.

Stop all the new rules with crossbow restrictions. Here we go with there are to many deer and now we are being told crossbows may not be allowed in November. STOP already. Give us the means and let us take care of the deer. Almost ALL the young hunters I hear about are out using crossbows with their parents. It allows them to get out in the woods without the need to practice, practice, and more practice. Young kids today are losing interest in the outdoors and older hunters are dropping fast. Stop listening to the compound hunters trying to keep crossbows out of the woods during the month of November. To many rules will drive away hunters especially the new young hunters. I love to trout fish but with all the rules, colored streams regulations, reduced bag limits you barely see any trout fisherman. STOP already. Deer hunting numbers will only decline if you continue to add more regulations. The harder you make it the less interest you will have. If a hunter wants to use a muzzleloader, traditional bow, compound bow, shotgun, rifle, or cross bow let them... don’t eliminate the muzzleloader season, extend the gun season, or eliminate crossbows during November. Have you driven around after opening of gun season you barely see any orange out there. Keep messing with the seasons and weapon choices and you will see even less. You hardly hear a shot after opening weekend extending the gun season would accomplish very little. Please stop.

Please consider my recommendation for the waupaca county anterless hunts. Last couple of summers and hunting season. I was shocked with number of deer I saw. While I was out on hunt blind placement search. I pulled up to a possible site. I viewed well over of a herd of 80 plus deer congregated on this farm field. It's not uncommon to see several large herds of deer at a time on different farm fields. We have over 500 acres to hunt a large portion of which is farmland. I also being a friend to the owner of the property and having knowledge of his operation. We’ve had many talks of crop loss due to deer infestation. He feels his average crop loss is around 12% some years it’s been over 15%. We feel that more tags and longer seasons would greatly improve the reduction or keep the deer population under control. After talking to other farmers in the area they also agree with my assessment. Even if we only maintain the current herd levels this doesn’t cure the crop damage problem. We feel that some loss is inevitable but with the size of the herd levels that we’ve noticed. It will only get worse. Under the current crop prices many farmers can not sustain these kind of losses year in and year out. So we are asking for your help in reducing crop loss by either extending or increasing the number of anterless tags issued but we feel an extended hunting season is necessary control this problem.
I hunt on/near Hartman Creek State Park when I hunt in Waupaca County. I have hunted deer in the same geographical area for 30 years. In Fall 2019 I spent 11 days in the field for purposes of gun hunting (two days prior for final scouting and I hunted all 9 days during the regular, nine day gun season) and over 45 days in the field for small game and bow hunting. I have NEVER seen fewer deer than this last season/fall and heard fewer shots during the nine day season. The last couple years (2016-2018) I have seen hunters harvesting 3-5 does per hunter in this area which is decimating the herd. I would be strongly in favor of having an application for a single "hunter's choice" tag (one deer, buck or doe) per season per hunter. Like the seasons used to be when I was a youth. I also hike on the Ice Age Trail, at Hartman Creek, and around the Emmons Creek Fishery Area (plus more but they are in Portage County) and found the same lack of sign and lack of visual sightings for deer throughout most of last year. At one point in February 2019 I hiked the perimeter of the Emmons Creek Fishery Area (yes, I know it’s mainly in Portage County) and quartered it when there was fresh snow. I encountered only 4 sets of deer tracks. Quite the stark contrast from even 10 years ago. Please strongly consider reducing the antlerless harvest. I believe the current rates are decimating the herd.

A lot of the changes being considered have to do with increasing hunting interest. I am an avid hunter for the past 26 years, but in the last several years I have considered quitting hunting to to the lack of deer populations in my area. I used to see 50+ deer almost everytime I hunted; now I’m lucky to see two. It’s very difficult to get people interested in hunting when there is very little to see, much less shoot at. Due to this massive decrease in population, I feel there should be no antlerless only season of any kind. From my experience in speaking with other hunters in the area is that there are “pockets” of larger deer herds, but the majority of hunters are seeing much fewer deer. I’m not sure if the 19 days gun season is still a consideration...but I believe it is a horrible notion; especially if it involves getting rid of muzzleloader season. For work, I do a lot of driving during the dawn and dusk hours, and have noticed in the last five years there are significantly fewer deer crossing the roads. Nobody wants to see vehicle/deer accidents, but is a probability for vehicles to hit any animal on roads if we are expected to still have an animal population at all. As far as crop damage, isn’t it already a rule that farmers can get crop damage tags. People are continually encroaching on the natural environment; but we still need a thriving population of all creatures!

Wisconsin needs a bow and gun season with bucks. Especially when people could really be struggling to eat with the prolonged coronavirus crises, this could be extremely important. It also would give folks a break from the uncertainty of covid 19 and something to look forward too as there isn’t a lot to look forward to right now. I saw significantly less deer in 2019 and I hunted very hard. I saw only a few bucks and many many days without seeing even 1 buck. No one in my hunting party got a buck with gun or bow in 2019. Please don’t ruin the economy of Waupaca county with an antlerless season. You would be taking the one thing away that I truly look forward too...especially right now. I fully support a holiday hunt as well as an extended bow season. I can say with 100% certainty that myself, my family, friends and neighbors will not buy a tag for bow or gun season if you implement an antler less season. Thanks and please rely on the current pandemic and allowing us to enjoy nature and hunting when there is so much uncertainty about literally everything else. This is an unprecedented time and people need something to look forward to...hunting is that something we need. We need it for food, mental wellness, an escape from coronavirus...having an antler less season would be devastating to all of us who enjoy the outdoors.
Overall I have been pleased with the management of the herd in Waupaca county. With that said, I am still a proponent of an antlerless only season for a few reasons. 1) The deer population is too high to be sustained by natural products alone. Should any of the larger farms experience fallout from the COVID-19 economic response a localized collapse of the population could occur. 2) Recruitment of deer, as per the biologist's report, is maintaining well over the last several years. The goal for the county is to decrease the herd. This can only be done through an increased harvest, disease, starvation, predation, or deadly accident (i.e. car collision, fall through ice, broken leg, etc). The only controlled method we have is to increase antlerless harvest, anything else would be disastrous considering the percentage of private to public owned lands that we can actively manage. 3) Though it has not been a big issue in Waupaca county there is research showing the increased harvest of trophy deer results in a decrease percentage of trophy sized animals each generation. Basically, by harvesting the best, we allow the animals with poor genetics (runts, sickly, small stature, etc) to breed and produce the next generation. From an economic stand point, wouldn't it make sense to encourage a surge of trophy animals for future hunting opportunity?

Regarding impacts to plant species, the forest has been impacted tremendously on our hunting population due to invasive species. I'm not sure the vegetation mix could ever be the same as 1900 even if all deer are gone. The data regarding deer kill is compelling, noting that more deer are harvested now as compared to the 1970s and 1980s. However, I don't understand it. It doesn't pass my gut test. Maybe hunters are more efficient due to food plots and baiting. However, the number of deer in the 1970s in Waupaca was much, much greater in the 1970s by an order of magnitude. In the same hay fields in 2019 I would see 3 - 4 deer. In the same field in the 1970s I would see over 100! I personally believe the value of more deer is greater is more important than all the other factors (ag damage, auto accidents, etc.). On the property I hunt, the number of deer is less each year for the last dozen deer. That is an absolute fact. This fact may be associated with only the parcel that I hunt, but if you tell me more deer exist on our property, you are a liar. I don't think the 1970s level of deer is healthy, but if 1970s on a scale of 1 - 10 was a 10, and 2019 was a 1, I would like to see a 3 or a 4 and we're a long way from there.

I have lived in the area for thirty plus years. While I realize the herd numbers were unhealthy in the late eighties and early nineties, I believe the numbers to be far lower than what is sustainable. I also realize that as deer habitat is destroyed, they adapt to the new surroundings and can become a nuisance. I'm certain that there are ways of dealing with these issues as needed by locale. I believe the greatest detriment to our deer herd, as well as all animal life, is over predation. This comes in the form of increasing numbers of bears, coyotes/wolves, and also the over harvesting of the resource. I remember as a young hunter seeing very few deer and having one "Party Tag" for every four people. I'm certain if we manage the herd well, it can find a healthy balance between too many and not enough. It is usually human greed that causes the most trouble. We need not look any further than some of the atrocious "deer farms" across the nation whose animals live in squalor and have caused many of the diseases and outbreaks in recent years. I'm all for private business, but doing a better job of regulating some of these throughout the country may be a good place to start.

I have hunted on private land in Waupaca County my whole life. For some time it was considered our particular area was some of the best in Waupaca County. I used to see 12-16 deer per sit, every sit! In the last 3 years combined I haven’t seen 15 deer in the whole bow and gun season combined. In 2020 I had saw 6 deer bow season and 9 deer during gun season. I usually average 2 sits per week bow season and 6-7 sits gun season. The land owners around us are experiencing the same and some of them have actually given up hunting as the numbers are the lowest anyone has ever seen. I would like to see a year where there aren’t any free antlerless tags. You get one tag per season and it’s the hunters choice to take an antlered or antlerless deer. I know this will never happen due to politics and money and insurance companies but it’s what needs to be done to support the sport and pastime of hunting so we can engage the youth in this sport. It’s not always about the harvest but more about the people you hunt with and the memories made but when you see the same amount of deer in one season as you used to see in one sit then we have a problem. Thanks for your time.
I feel deer management is a very difficult task for large areas of land. There are places where doe populations are too high and there are areas where deer populations are too low all in the same unit. So how are you supposed to generalize manage a management zone correctly? We have seen a tremendous change in our deer herd in the past 3 years and I attribute most of it to wolves that have moved into the area. I am finding dead deer mangled in our woods for the past 3 years. We used to have a very healthy deer herd and now we hardly see a deer. I also know that giving out these extra doe tags does not help matters when the herd is wiped out. I used to take a doe for meat every year and have now not shot a doe in 3 years running. I refuse to shoot any doe until this situation is resolved. In fact no one in our group of 5 hunters has shot a doe recently. Almost all our neighbors are not shooting doe as the hunting has gone downhill very quickly. I don't know what the answers are for managing big sections of land. Micro managing is the only solution. You do not have enough people to do this so I don't see anything getting better anytime soon. Thank you.

My comments are based on talking to neighbors who are fellow land owners, hunters who have permission to hunt these same private private lands, and just friends and coworkers who hunt other private properties all over the county. No one I've talked likes anything to do with extending the gun season a 2nd week, the antlerless holiday hunt, creating a separate xbow season excluding Nov, extending the archery/xbow seasons though Jan. Thanks to the mismanagement of the DNR's mandatory EAB practices of years past the majority of hunters I know have developed their own personal management of their local deer herds. It's not going matter much how many tags you hand out or how many antlerless seasons you have, hunters of private lands will manage appropriately for their area. Implementing a antlerless only season will only make some land owners sit out the season causing large parcels of land for deer to hide where the hunters that are participating wont be able harvest. I hope the DNR considers all the possible ramifications of any future antlerless only or EAB season.

I believe that the goal of deer management is to provide a quality hunt, control the population and stop the spread of disease. This can be accomplished by thinning the herd. To do that you need hunters hunting and to do that they need to feel that they have a chance to harvest a deer. I feel that it is the wrong move to completely ban baiting. Hunters who bait are more successful and can balance work, family and hunting better. I think the answer can be found somewhere in the middle. Allow small amounts of bait in and around CWD effected areas. I also feel that the fall youth hunt disrupts the rest of the season, it should be ended. It could be added to the holiday hunt. In counties with high deer populations I recommend extending the muzzle loader season from 2 weeks to the end of the year. Allow Bow and muzzle loader hunters to use small amounts of bait. Consider requiring Bow hunters to shoot a doe to earn a buck tag. However if they do shoot a buck before shooting a doe than they must shoot a doe before they can get a buck tag for the next season.

I hunt in northern Waupaca county. I have hunted this land during archery and firearm season since 2003. We have had success in the past but seems that we see far less deer than we used to in previous years. Actually this year during firearm season I never saw a single deer while hunting. That has not happened before. This is very concerning to me as I have children who are getting into hunting and last year was very frustrating for them. My son will hunt this year, but not sure about my daughter. I know people that hunt in the central part of the county and would agree that they need to thin out the herd, but feel it would be unfair for the people that do not see that much deer to ask them to do a doe only or earn a buck season. I don’t know what the right answer is for this and how you could tell some people to shoot more deer and others not too, but putting everyone in the same category I feel is a mistake. I’m really trying to keep my kids interested in hunting. Not seeing deer is making it difficult. Thanks for taking the time to read.
My thoughts, If the goal is to reduce the deer population and to do so in a way that doesn't impact the hunters' perceived success of the season because of regulations. Meaning we want to reduce population while keeping the hunters happy (not an easy feat). In DMUs where there needs to be a larger reduction in population. I propose (on private land) letting the land owner decide the type of weapon used to harvest deer. Open the season Sept - Dec (or a little later) and allow the hunters to use whatever weapon the landowner approves (bow or gun). To prevent hunters on adjacent lands from being shot accidentally a rule that hunters must wear some sort of orange while on the ground or in a ground blind. Once in a stand where the floor is over 8’ off the ground you may wear camo while bow hunting. If hunting with a gun you must wear the standard 50% orange on the upper body. The standard 9 day gun season would stand as such. This idea would allow landowners to harvest deer to meet desired population with a low impact style of hunting.

We do not need wolves to influence the deer heard ... shame on you. We do not need so many deer [does] being harvested for tourists to re-enter our state. We do not need so many hunters killing huge volumes of does. We should never listen to the insurance companies telling the DNR to kill more deer. this is their home and we travel through their home. Accidents happen and the insurance compines just have to pay out....sorry it is why we buy insurance. You the DNR must not bend over to the money the insurance companies give out to you... our DNR. We want lots of deer to see and some to harvest....you are our DNR not your own DNR. WE WANT DEER...LOTS OF DEER! Accidents happen and deer lives and sometimes peoples are lost in those accidents. Ouch! We tourist dollars back in the north once again! We need tourists dollars back in the bars due to deer registrations! We need tourists dollars back into the restaurants because tourists came here to hunt the LARGE Deer we used to have! Get back to the old ways that worked! it brought in hunting tourists!

I think the main concern should be the health of our ecosystems, all flora and fauna, including but not limited to just deer. A healthy environment will insure hunting opportunities not only for the current generation of outdoor enthusiasts but also for many generations to come. We should be using the best science available to try and achieve this goal. The educational video in this survey did an excellent job showing current and past trends. Getting this information out to the general public should be a high priority! Infomercials or radio ads might be an option. Obviously this all costs money, with declining license sales I strongly feel an additional/alternate funding source is a high priority. Lastly and most difficult is hunter satisfaction, everyone has their own idea on what makes a quality hunt. More options such as online input and questionnaires/surveys may give a better insight to this problem. I think a lot of people may have very good ideas, but they aren’t comfortable presenting them in front of a group of people. Thank you!

I do agree with the decision that for many reasons, the deer herd needs to decrease in Waupaca county. Not only do we have a high deer population, but based on my observations and many others that I have talked with in the area, there are too many does. In the original WIDNR survey that was sent out a couple weeks ago, I thought it was excellent to see that there was maybe some talk of bringing back Earn-A-Buck. It’s a great management tool for the biologists and in areas like Waupaca, should be utilized if the biologists also see fit. Anecdotally, I know that when EAB was instituted in our area in Waupaca county, the deer hunting was better. The sex ratio of the herd seemed to be more balanced, there were more bucks (maturely aged bucks), rutting activity was much more observable which is something I look forward to more than anything every year, and there were still plenty of deer. So even though I oppose an antler-less only 2020 deer season, I would be strongly in favor of a reinstitution of earn a buck.
In my lifetime I have seen a lot. My early years saw plenty of deer to many does, that was the years of the party permits. We trophy hunted for the biggest doe then! Then came one of the better ideas HUNTERS CHOICE !!!! Which is what we have today. The hunters and the DNR GREATLY reduced the deer herd, by choice. then came EARN A BUCK a forced option. It forced unethical practices by many. Things that skewed all the numbers! Now days its something different EVERY YEAR! its big money, jealousy and special interests. Its urban sprawl, insurance companies, wolves, crop damage or winter kill (mother nature) not so manageable. Management is leading the people where you want them to go. not a fan of the CDAC FOR MANY REASONS . The WDNR needs to lead with stern guidelines. We don’t need a 19 day gun hunt it already is! don’t need changing dates. As hunter you adapt, whinning doesn’t help. The WDNR needs to guide the people. Everyone now days has a better or different idea, trouble is its usually for their benefit.

We had 5 hunters hunting on 110 acres that we have hunted for the last 30 years. It is private land and I would say a normal day for seeing deer during the season would be an average of 10 per person. This last year for a 9 day season the most seen per person for the season was 22 by one person 13 by me and 0 deer seen by the other 3 people. If your objective is to totally eliminate the deer herd in Waupaca County continue on because you are doing a great job. The way you are managing the deer herd should probably have one of us seeing a deer in the next 5 years. You have totally butchered the deer herds in Waupaca County and if I mismanaged my job as bad as you have I would have been fired years ago. You people are a disgrace to the deer hunting and deer management groups of Wisconsin. What did you do in your last life manage dinosaurs. Your committee is a joke.

With the buck kill down in 2019 due to the late gun season (not actual buck population), the SAK population estimate has the total population estimate lower, that coupled with the low mortality from a relatively easy winter should lead us to believe that the population IS actually higher than reported estimates. Cutting both the antlerless tags per hunter and the bonus tags available is not a move in the right direction, however these have minimal impact on actual harvest of antlerless deer. Recommending the holiday hunt for antlerless will provide additional opportunities to harvest antlerless deer, especially if gun season weather is not favorable, leading to decreased harvest. Listening in to the preliminary meeting, it sure seems that the Waupaca County CDAC is in a "maintain population" mind-set based on several comments, despite having a reduce goal, and excessive deer browse reported in the county. I support the holiday hunt, and hope it becomes the final recommendation.

CDAC’s are a neat idea but Waupaca County differs greatly in deer numbers depending on where you are the county. The eastern and southern parts of the county have plenty of deer but in the northwestern part of the county numbers are down considerably. We have not harvested more than a deer a year in the past 5 years on our property (240ac) as well as intensive management to try to get deer numbers back up and it has not worked. all neighbors in the area are witnessing the same thing. killing more deer or expanding season dates will not help the hunter satisfaction in all areas. More deer will be what helps that, and with more deer comes the opportunity to kill bigger bucks due to the fact that more deer from each age class survive. if there were to be any changes to make I would consider looking into a 1-buck-a-year strategy or getting rid of party hunting. just my 2 cents from someone who works for a state game agency and has a wildlife biology degree. Best of luck.

I feel that it is difficult for the DCACs to get a good "hold" on the number of deer going by the harvest for the past two years. I can hunt in both Outagamie and Waupaca Counties, and the last two years the land has been very wet. Last year especially. The Waupaca County property especially so. It has been basically under water the past two years and we can’t get in until everything freezes up, therefore limiting our own harvest quotas. With conditions what they were, it is difficult for hunters to get out and both get a deer and report their personal sightings and the amount of deer on their property. I know for certain that neighbors to our property weren’t even out. The deer ARE there, but when only a few people are hunting on a specific property, it makes it difficult for one or two hunters to cover 40 or 50 acres. Just an offering from my experiences. The CDACs have no idea about specific locations’ deer quantities for every hunter.
I hunted quite a bit during bow from October up to the gun season and then I hunted a good 50 hours in 5-6 days of the gun season that I hunted. All that time in the woods and I think combined I might have seen 30-40 deer. Which is considerably low from back a few years. I used to be able to sit and see at least 5-6 deer per morning or evening hunt let alone sitting all day during gun. This past year was the absolute worst season in my 24 years of hunting. Each of the last 5 years the amount of deer seen in the stand keeps dropping. I honestly do not think there are the amount of deer in this county that the DNR thinks there is. We have plenty of predators that hunt the deer and with some of the past few winter being bad, probably too a toll on the numbers. Each of the last two years getting 3 for tags per season I think was a joke. I’d rather see one buck tag and one doe tag per season the next 2 years to let the population grow.

The deer population I have witnessed over the last couple of years leads me to believe the numbers are finally at a decent place. I believe the earn a buck implemented in the past (15-20 years ago) really decimated the population and for a number of years I only saw one or two deer and some years I did not even see a deer hunting. This was a very different hunting experience than I have ever had hunting on private land and was not enjoyable. I am finally seeing deer and harvested one this last season. I am glad to see it where it is (2019) and in my opinion the population is fine where it is and could even be allowed to get a little better instead of bringing the population down. If you look at the numbers people are still not getting the deer that the CDAC has hoped they would to bring the numbers down. Not many people practice QDM in our area so I know they're not purposely passing up deer, they're just not seeing them.

In my opinion, an antlerless buck (nub buck) should be counted as a buck, not "antlerless". I realize that nub bucks are shot accidentally in many situations, but a better way to monitor the sex ratio of the harvest would be to report on the actual sex of the deer. Not just whether it had antlers. This would slightly change the registration process. Our doe harvest (not "antlerless") should be at a 1 to 1 ratio with the buck harvest, or slightly more (when attempting to decrease the population) as deer are born in this same ratio. However, reporting an "antlerless" kill is, likely VERY different than reporting the actual sex ratio of harvest. I would support some form of antler restriction. Whether it be 3-4 points on one side, minimum spread, etc... I think ANY buck killed needs to be reported, and tagged (when possible) as a buck. Anyone killing a nub buck should be forced to use their buck tag, if available.

My thoughts on the spring hearing questions pertaining to crossbows was that it was maybe to stringent. I think women and children should still be able to use because most women the most they can pull back for a compound bow is 45 lbs. What a nice way to level the playing field for women if they so chose and what a nice weapon to mentor a young child. 55 might not be to much to ask for men also. This brings me to muzzleloader hunting. They seem to be forgotten. I think they earned the right to have there own season.If you want to extend gun maybe it should be with the muzzleloader. Lastly if there is so much fighting about buck harvest maybe we need to adopt hunting like some other states where your issued only one buck tag and 2 does. Harvest your animal however you like in the prospective season. Just some thoughts. Realize it will always be hard to make everyone happy. Thank you for your time.

I would like to see in person registration brought back for the sole purpose of many that do not call in their correct deer harvest and take too many bucks, I have been hearing 2nd hand talking about some that say it is too hard for DNR officials to catch them. I like the current way, but it makes me mad when people do not follow the rules when some years I fail to even harvest a mature deer. I would like to see baiting back for us that the deer only pass through the property to get to neighbor farm fields. The deer have zero reason to come by if the corn crops are still on during the gun hunt, which has been my case the last 2 years. I am apposed of deer season extending past December, you have had over 3 months to hunt already. It would be nice if every other year the gun season could start a week early to allow the hunter to get into the better part of the rut, which may increase harvest numbers.
I believe the DNR should bring back Backtags and deer registration. I believe this will give the DNR a better reading on the deer numbers. I don't think other hunters are being truthful in their hunts. I also believe the DNR should open a wolf season in the northern counties. I have personally seen multiple wolves in Vilas county while grouse hunting. I think wolves are an important part of the ecology system, but they need to be managed. Make up a number for wolf tags and treat the wolves like you do bear hunting. I also think if the DNR would change the rules on what is a legal buck would benefit the deer numbers and make Wisconsin more of a destination hunting State. I believe 3" tines on a buck is too small to shoot. Let's do what other states do and have it be 4 points minimum. That would give so many deer a chance to mature. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions.

NO ON THE HOLIDAY HUNT!!! You say opportunity, what about the opportunity you take away from people? A lot of people enjoy to small game hunt (rabbits, grouse, etc.) during that time period. At that time of year a lot of trappers get to go on private land, now they can't with Holiday hunt going on. Maybe some years the snowmobile trails are not open yet, but what about all the clubs that go out to mark & clear the trails? A lot of it is done at that time after the crops are off. Plus what about the archery people that want to hunt bucks? Did any of you get the total number of deer taken in the holiday hunt in 2017? Compare it to the total harvest and you will see that the number is not significant. Did any of you get last years results from other Counties to see how that compared to the total harvest? We have a long enough deer season to harvest deer WITHOUT THE HOLIDAY HUNT!

I hunt often by bow and gun and understand the deer heard on my property well and the number of deer in my area are not as high as the DNR estimates. In the video it was admitted that the numbers lost from predators and winter lose is not understood for an accurate count. In the last three years before the 2019 season we had a large winter kill, I watch the heard lose weight by showing their ribs at times. The past couple years I have found more predator sign than ever before with an increase of deer carcasses. Its interesting data in the video but I truly believe not taking into consideration predator counts and winter kills our DNR is asking us to kill more deer than what's needed depleting our heard. Thank you for this opportunity to voice by my observations, I chose not to shoot a single deer the last two years because of my findings ad talking with my hunting neighbor.

My impression is that the deer numbers are substantially lower than what they have been in the past. The age group of the bucks has become much younger. Based on my personal observations the buck/doe ratio also seems off. Along with the overall lower deer count, there are also fewer bucks, and they are younger. I noticed this drop off when rifles became legal to use in Waupaca county. Hunters became much more successful hunting more mature bucks, thus the apparent drop off of the age group and the bigger bucks being seen on our property. In conclusion, I would advocate for a 1 buck a year bag limit, regardless of weapon used. This way, hunters would be more apt to pass on a buck and at the same time be more willing to harvest a doe - if they want venison. I think this would solve 2 problems at the same time, reduce the herd size where it is needed, and improve the buck/doe ratio.

Predator control measures need to be revisited. Wolf sightings have become common. Deer densities appear to vary greatly throughout the county. Personally I have difficulty filling 1 gun tag or any archery tags due to the lack of deer sightings/opportunities. That's not to mention the 3 antlerless tags that come additional with each license. Additionally, my time spent in the woods has increased significantly, which typically increases the odds of harvesting but that hasn't been the case for me. If cwd hasn't been detected in the county, why isn't baiting allowed? When legal, my sightings and opportunities were much more frequent. Since baiting isn't allowed in Waupaca county, why are the majority of outdoor stores/gas stations in the county able to sell corn/bait, including powdered food / attractants? Seems to be a conflict of interest unless your in it for profit.
My brother and I along with kids & grandkids have hunted for over 60 yrs on private land in Waupaca. Although Waupaca is among the largest kill counties, I've seen a significant decline in the # of deer seen, and taken. We usually only hunt the first 3 days of gun season. Last year I saw 2 deer-no shots. I'm sure the farmer getting crop damage permits 10? years ago definitely affected our #’s. I think coyotes have recently added to the decline. 15 yrs ago I would see 75 deer opening weekend, declined to 30’s , now 5 or so. A neighbor hunter who organized Quality Deer Mgt for our area reported this was the first yr in over 50 yrs hunting that he did not see a deer opening weekend. The tree damage from the July sheer winds had an affect. Finally I would like to see the Oct doe only season return to reduce the herd. At 74 yrs old I’m not going out in the weather for the Holiday hunt.

Waupaca Co clearly has too many deer for hardwood forest regeneration; however, it is unlikely that the number of permits will have much impact given the traditional gun season structure. Waupaca has deer densities 5-8X Menominee Co, the county with healthy forest regeneration. While these low numbers are likely unachievable, there needs to be a change in attitudes toward incentivizing hunters to harvest does and broaden the gun season over a month earlier to get peak rut and maximize deer movement. It seems deer movement during recent gun seasons just doesn’t happen. There are many private parcels closed to hunting and the deer just lay low. As a forestland owner and a hunter, I would not mind seeing increasing wolf predation of deer if that’s what it takes. FYI. I have a success streak of 40 years harvesting 1 (or often 2 or 3) deer. I wouldn’t mind seeing my streak broken.

Way fewer deer out there in Waupaca and Sawyer counties were I have hunted for 30 years. Not even close....I’m in the woods constantly and see fewer deer and pass fewer & few bucks every year.....why, because they are not there to see. Furthermore as a high school teacher and the parent of a 13 year boy I can tell you unequivocally it is much more difficult to interest “the next generation” of hunters in hunting and woodsmanship when there is no game to interact with. Hunting has been my passion for all of my life and my son is interested, as it’s in his dna but he has made comments about the lack of deer sighting and how it makes him want or not want to hunt. Our fin @ feather club at school has proven this when students exchange notes....poor deer sighting equals less interest in hunting when so many other activities are out there for kids...mostly virtual endeavors.

THE ONE THING THAT WAS NOT ADDRESSED WAS BAITING IN THE COUNTY. BAITING IS SUSPENDED IN WAUPACA COUNTY AND THE PURCHASE OF CORN AND APPLES ARE AVAILABLE AT SEVERAL BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTY. I KNOW THAT IT NOT ILLEGAL TO SELL THESE ITEMS. HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HEAR SOMEONE SAY THAT THAT NEIGHBOR IS BAITING OR I PUT A LITTLE CORN DOWN WHEN TALKING HUNTING. THIS WOULD NOT BE INVESTIGATED IF REPORTED. IT IS AMAZING THAT A GAS STATION HAS 50 BAGS OF CORN AND 20 BAGS OF APPLES ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE GUN HUNTING. THEN DRIVE BY ON THE FRIDAY AFTER THANKS GIVING AN THERE ARE 4 BAGS OF CORN AND NO APPLES. ON APRIL 16, 2020 I DROVE TO MY HUNTING LAND AND THAT SAME GAS STATION HAS AT LEAST 50 BAGS OUT IN FRONT GETTING READY FOR TURKEY HUNTING? I AM NOT AN EXPERT OR HAVE A DEGREE IN DEER MANAGEMENT BUT IF IT LOOKS LIKE BAIT AND POURS LIKE BAIT IT IS BAIT.

I would support an every other year doe only season. We would have some huge bucks around and finally reduce the doe herd. Giving out 6 tags when you buy a bow and gun license is a joke. How many families can actually eat 6 deer in a year? My family can consume a maximum of 3; there are 3 of us. More than that and my Dr. would not approve of that much red meat. Our reason for seeing less deer during the 2019 season was in large part based on 2 facts IMO. Too much water, our woods was underwater, deer avoided it. 2nd is all the standing corn. There was plenty of standing corn yet this spring. People forget about that. This was not due to a lack of deer. I have camera pictures this spring with 17 deer on a small clover plot and that is just what is in the cameras view! Good luck, you guys have your work cut out for you. Dammed if you do, dammed if you don’t.
Keep gun season same as it is. Creating a longer/earlier gun season essentially lowers the amount of deer that will be taken. In Waupaca county if you don't harvest a deer on opening day you are pretty much done for after that. The amount of activity and gun shots on opening day is substantial and if you had a longer gun season that is just how much longer after that one day opening day of gun that you would have it be quiet and deer bedded down and much more cautious. Keep same crossbow season or extend it. As a female crossbow is my choice of weapon as it is much easier to handle than a compound bow. In support of ethical hunting and making sure you have a good shot for a good kill I think you would find more bad shots and wounded deer by making kids, women, and elderly etc. have to use a compound bow for more hunting during the archery season.

We could definitely support at least three antlerless tags per gun tag in Waupaca County. Many people will be recovering from the economic damage caused by the Covid-19 virus and the stay-at-home orders, and will be depending more on venison to feed their families. There is no shortage of deer in our county! The goal is to reduce the herd, so if you are serious about that goal, increase the number of antlerless tags to at least three. You also should support extending the bow/crossbow season through Jan. 31. This provides more opportunities for everyone, especially those with unfilled licenses. It is cold during that month, so there is no danger of killing too many deer. Very few will take advantage of this extension, but why not work to increase opportunities? Again, we have plenty of deer! Thank you!

The deer population and harvest numbers all appear to be trending down so at this point I do not understand the thought behind depleting the resource more than it currently is. I have been hunting the same land for over 35 years....every year we see less and less deer and have a lower success rate. if the trends continue, we will eventually ruin a resource and a tradition that has been in place for many years. I think that one thing that was missed in this is hunter safety.....I know there have been times myself where I have not felt safe as a hunter due to the willingness of careless others to shoot at movement because they have tags to fill. I do understand the difficulty in managing this resource and appreciate everyone's hard work...please be open minded and listen to the sportsman that are in the woods hunting.

The deer sightings and harvest has been lower the last 5 years. Our area hunters have noticed less deer and they are younger deer. The deer are so small now. I do not like the multiple deer seasons. The hunting season is way to long. We do not need the T-zone, muzzle hunt, youth hunt, and holiday hunts etc. The bow and crossbow season and 9 day gun season is enough and long enough. There is talk among the hunters here to only shoot bucks and at the same time knowing others are shooting at everything that crosses their path. They are getting disappointed with the hunting season as it is now. The earn a buck years hunters were shooting anything so they could shoot a buck. They left many deer in the woods where they shot them. What a waste for many reasons. What kind of hunters have we become to be so selfish!
The current framework that is in place in Waupaca County and most other historically high deer-density counties seems to be working, albeit this is a large change from previous decades. Nothing really sticks out here as unusual, however, the decision not to extend the archery/crossbow season really doesn't make sense, given the fact that Waupaca County is still one of the most populated counties in the state. The extra deer harvested during a January hunt would help some areas with their urban-deer problems (the city of Waupaca specifically -- which has an urban cull program in place). One other minor concern is why the 2,000-ish fewer antlerless tags in the quota when the CDAC's recommendation is to reduce the deer herd? Yes, completely understand the quota and the actual harvest are nowhere near comparable, but ...

For three years I have completed this form and stated that the DNR needs to get rid of all the extra doe only seasons and holiday hunts. The majority of people do NOT go back out hunting after the 9 day gun deer season. Make all hunters harvest deer during the 9 day hunt. By doing this more people will remain in the woods and on stand thus moving more deer around. I can't say this enough! People are Not coming back after opening weekend. I live in the country and own land, I see what the neighbors and people from out of town are doing and they are not hunting after opening weekend anymore. Please note that if the state pushes for a doe only hunting season you will lose 40-50% of the hunting population including myself. I will hunt out of state for a buck and not harvest any deer locally.

25 years ago you would see 50 deer opening weekend on the 80 ac we hunt. that was when kids get doe tags and limited other where given out. then it went to 2 doe tags for everyone. took 7 years to drop it down to 25 opening weekend. then they gave out 10 doe tags. well in less than 5 years the opening deer crossing land went down to 7. now well see 7 all week. so yes i am not happy about only having 7 deer on the property verse the 40 from 25 years ago. every year we would get 3 year old buck 150 plus class . now lucky to get a 130 class every 3 years, LUCKY i said. so still need to build up heard and kill them wolves please. that idea sucked and is killing deer hunting in some areas, killing it i say !! thanks hope this helps and make smart choices please. killing the deer hunt in wis.

Last year’s hunt was the worst in our 40+ year history. Weather played a huge part in that thanksgiving was later than most other years. I would consider most data collected from last year to be skewed by the weather. Second point, Waupaca County had CWD IMPORTED into it by a game farm. That same game farm continues to have multiple tests per year that are positive, yet, they continue to operate. I urge the DNR and other agencies to force this place to increase their security by added a double fence around the place. The mere fact that they are operating as business/usual tells all of us that the DNR is not serious when it comes to CWD in this County, and they should be. This place continues to sell hunts even though they are supposedly quarantined. Fix this NOW please.

I think Waupaca County does not need an extended gun season to meet quotas. If people complain that they are seeing less deer and so it’s harder to harvest an animal, don’t extend opportunities to harvest. Give less opportunities and let the deer population grow. I think an extended gun season would be the final straw for a lot of hunters and people I know. I understand you may sell a few more tags to people that aren’t that interested in hunting. But by extending gun season, you would be ruining it for a lot of avid bow hunters. I think the best thing that could happen for the Wisconsin deer season or more specifically, Waupaca County, is to reintroduce earn-a-buck. Have people need to harvest a die before they can harvest a buck, but still give people 2 antlerless tags.

I have hunted in the same unit (was 63A) Central Farmland for approx. 40yrs on private land. I realize deer sightings vary w/weather, standing corn, etc. I am an avid archery & gun deer hunter and 20 + years ago, it was not uncommon to see 50 + deer on opening day gun, as they would really start to group together by Sat afternoon and thereafter. Seems the last 5 + years, we see fewer and fewer deer, both during rut and opening day gun. Not unusual now to see only a couple deer opening day. I am not "anti DNR" by any means and usually support most of your recommendations, however the deer #s are definitely way down over what we used to have to have and it may be time to issue say 1 antlerless tag only - with each buck license. Thanks for your understanding.
Trying to decrease the deer population more than it already is, is very inconsiderate to the future hunting generations. It’s not the deer population fault more and more of the land is being runtimes into housing/roads. I’m a very avid hunter and outdoorsman. What needs to happen is a 4 point restriction on one side of antler. Very common law in states around Wisconsin to help keep healthy deer numbers and a good balance. To keep does in check 1 tag per liensence (1 for gun, 1 for archery) would be more then acceptable. The proper buck to doe ration on a 40 acre parcel is 2:1. I hope the dnr get the point that a lot of us avid outdoorsman/hunters would be more then happy to see a 4 point minimum antler restriction. Sincerely a worried outdoorsman.

The last couple of years my deer sightings have fallen drastically. I have kept a diary of every bow hunt I have been on since 1978. I personally believe that the future of our deer hunting heritage is in dire straights. Young hunters need too see potential targets on a regular basis to remain interested. The last two years we have not seen a deer on opening day of gun season. 30 years ago if some one had told me that 2018-19 I wouldn’t see a deer on the opener I would have said they were nuts. I realize there are pockets of deer where numbers are high however I don't think this is county wide. I wish we could find the proper solution i.e smaller size management units or something. Good Luck CDAC you don’t have an envious job. Thank You Guys and Gals.

I believe if you looking to down size the deer population of does then you should have earn a buck. Another thing I believe in is if I buy my tags, I should be able to hunt any county I want for my first doe tag not being told I have to pick where I hunt for a doe. I will purchase tags for my county. I enjoy this state and I enjoy different areas of this state and for me to buy a doe tag for each county I travel that limits me. I have bought different county doe tags and did not see a deer. With me traveling stimulates the economy. I purchase a hotel room, eat at restaurants, purchase groceries, consume gas. We hunters do a lot of traveling but for us to decide where to hunt and purchase tags for each county I go to is ludicrous.

it is my opinion that proposals with high numbers of antlerless tags promotes unreasonable killing and poaching........ if there are so many deer lets just kill them I am an avid bow hunter and I feel like extended gun seasons interfere with my chance to harvest a deer with a bow........the constant chase to get more deer with guns makes it hard for deer to settle into natural movements that bow hunters need to really hunt........I like the peace in the woods for bow hunting and with one gun season upon another the woods don’t settle down......with multiple tags many hunters take the attitude shoot anything simply because they have a tag.......second season bow hunting is difficult with gun hunters in the woods all the time.

This past year I could have taken many deer. I had shots each and every time I bow hunted or gun hunted. I chose not to take as many as I could have because I did not require that much meat. As far as moving the gun season leave it as it is. The season was 1 week later and the rut was over. The bucks were resting, the ground was too noisy and the bucks were bedded. That being said I still saw several bucks and does any one of them could have been taken. Must hunters exp. Gun are only out there the first 2 days. Hardly anyone hunts after Thanksgiving. This year we will be right back to normal and maybe the things will be a little bit quieter in the woods. Giving more of the ones that only hunt 2 days out of the year a chance.

Although Waupaca county is very large in size does not mean the herd population is substantial in all areas of the county. Going back to individual management units (i.e. 62b or 62a) was a far better measure of managing the heard across the county. Also allowing any "bow" hunter to use a crossbow is absolutely absurd. Crossbows are essentially rifles which in turn increases the buck kill long before the traditional 9 day gun hunt. This not only decreases license sales for the gun season due to hunters not seeing the buck or deer numbers in general, but it also extremely increases the overall kill numbers of harvested deer and wounded deer. I have noticed a large increase of caucuses on private land due to crossbow wounds.
Predators in Waupaca county are affecting deer numbers at a greater level. The number of wolves hanging out in this county is increasing, and sightings are happening more and more. The number of coyotes is almost out of control at this point. Until we have a way of controlling wolf predation, deer numbers will continue to decrease. I also believe that the number of antlerless deer killed in 2018 had a large effect on total number of deer seen last season. It is time to cut back on antlerless tags now, limit of 1 antlerless tag per license to build herd back up to proper levels. I am also in favor of limiting buck harvest to only 1 buck per season period, no matter what weapon is used. It is high time for this.

CDAC council, Waupaca County has 2 active CWD positive captive deer operations near its boarder. One in Marathon county has reported 104 cases of CWD. One in southwestern Shawano County has reported 31 cases. Marathon County has reported their first case of CWD in the wild. This was less than 10 miles from the Waupaca County line. Waupaca County will be dealing with CWD in the wild shortly. Given the disease concerns, agricultural crop damage, and damage to forest habitat and lack of forest regeneration, please use all the tools possible to put as many tags in the hands of those that will use them. Extending seasons when possible will give needed time to use this opportunity. Thank you.

don't want the long bow season can't get in the woods for snowmobiling even if the land owner does not bow hunt !! they will not let us open up till all hunting is over!! I wish it was all done by Jan 31 of each year !! I mark trails and work with the snowmobile clubs and I groom for Marion winter wanderers snowmobile club. just to get in to take care of trees that went down over the trails. after hunting reg. gun hunt is over is the time to move in and get the trails marked!! cant get it all done in one day!! snowmobiling season is so short now when the bow goes till end of Jan sucks for clubs. let the snowmobilers ride for what pay for !

The units are far-too large. In the past having three units for the county was better than this. There is an over-abundance of deer in some area, but not many in others. I have kept track of my deer-sightings for the last 10 years and can share this is interested. Providing 3 additional tags was ridiculous for my, specific area. I am open to having a longer season, or special holiday hunt, etc, to allow those that maybe didn't harvest a deer to have additional opportunity. However, giving one person 4 tags doesn't make sense to me. Perhaps give 1 additional tag, and allow the additional holiday hunts, extended archery season, etc. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

I have hunted deer both with bow, crossbow, and firearms in the east central area of Waupaca county for the last 53 years. In the approximate last 20 years I have seen a steady decline in deer numbers, with much of the surrounding residents agreeing. The antlered harvest declines and the antlerless harvest increases every year. You can not keep harvesting an excessive amount of antlerless deer without decimating the overall population. The carrying capacity and deer per square mile estimate are a joke beyond laughing. Why is the gun season harvest numbers way down and why so many hunters complaining? A number of reasons, but number one, "You can't shoot deer that are not there".

It's pretty simple!! Bring back EAB! At least use this as a tool, not every year but something like every other year?? You'd also have to bring back registration stations which helped small businesses and gave a more accurate count, I'm sure some people fake a registered deer on line or just forgot, it could easily happen. Ban BAITING state wide, keep gun season where it is, get rid of the non-traditional gun season totally, go to one buck only state wide, and get rid of the crossbows or open that season same as gun. They have a stock a tigger and a scope come on they even advocate to shoot 100 yards!! Sounds like a gun to me and you don't even have to draw the thing back!!
The deer population in this unit has been going down and staying down for a number of years due to over extending permits and predator kills, number of wolves seen has gone up. The party system from a number of years ago worked and kept deer in check and still provided a good hunt. Things now are distressed, the enjoyment gone. My grandsons only hunted two days and then quit when no deer were seen. I hunted 9 days and saw no deer. I really look forward to deer hunting and this year I am seriously considering not going, as I have heard from other hunters. Things need to change or the number hunters are going will fall also and number of new hunters will drop also.

I would like to see you consider implementing a policy where we can as a county have an antler size limits for hunters over the age of 18, we have some good genetics in the area and most area residents are trying to implement QDM strategies. I think you would see the private land owners try harder to reduce the herd size if they would have some assistance throughout the county with a size limit on the bucks. I think a great way to do this would be to work with a QDM specialist to give recommendations. Maybe like fishing you come up with a slot limit where you can shoot small spikes or forks but need to pass bucks until they reach 100" or some other criteria.

As a hunter, Husband, Son, Dad, Grandpa, Bow Hunter Preferably, Outdoors Enthusiast, I am greatly saddened by how people that no longer have to hone a somewhat primitive skill to shoot a bow. Today, there are crossbows that are reliable at 100 yards. What a shame that archery is no longer a skill as a result. My first deer was a 5pt buck with a PSE compound bow. If a person is handicapped or over age 60, I have a totally different view. The crossbow has made it easy for poachers to shoot many respectable deer from the herd. I would like to see the use of crossbows to be as it used to be. Handicapped or over age 65. Otherwise it is no longer archery. Thank you.

Please understand that not only the wolf river drainage basin, but low land in general has been underwater for the last three years. This has forced the normal deer herd out of these areas to higher ground. This might make deer numbers suddenly increase on these higher grounds, but keep in mind, a large portion of the county will have absolutely no deer. After seeing one deer the entire 2019 gun season, I truly believe the deer herd is far below a reasonable number. By continuing to over harvest the deer herd, you are making many of us quit the sport altogether. Remember, if more and more of us hunters stop participating, your deer management will be hampered.

I have been hunting in the Big Falls area for about 35 years. During the 2019 year I had a trail camera almost the entire year. I'm amazed at the number of pictures that I got of predators. Bears wolves and coyotes. Including many many pictures of coyote pups. During the 2019 bow and gun hunting season I only saw one fawn. I'm kind of a die-hard hunter and capable of putting a lot of hours in the stand each day. During the 2019 hunting seasons I saw a lot fewer deer than I did in 2018. This really makes me think that predators are having a bigger effect on our deer population Waupaca County then previously thought. Just something pretty to consider.

I have hunted Waupaca for 35 years. This past gun season ( and I hunted the entire week) I saw one deer opening morning a small doe. That was my grand total for week. Also true from neighbors I talked to. Deer numbers in the Ogdenburgs area are extremely low. Many people feel that predators may be the reason for low numbers. And hunter high number of deer taken. I have also hear that there are deer hunter clubs that may be bringing in CWD animals. I would like to think the DNR are on top of this and are diligent to monitor these clubs if it it true and adequate fencing is keeping these animals separated from the wild herds.Thanks for this forum.

Gun hunters need to stop the bickering. Only a fraction are upset about crossbow hunters. The majority is the bow, crossbow, and gun hunters that don't have a problem with anyone else. The minority is a handful of gun hunters that aren't having success. Odds are it doesn't have anything to do with anyone other than themselves. Either the don't have the land type or haven't made it the best for deer habitat or they are flat out just not good at hunting. For once we need to just leave things be for a bit. Always changing and always trying something under the sun. That’s turning more people away than anything. Concerned all seasons hunter
If there was ever a time to simplify things and look at the bigger picture of the world we are living in today it is now. Mother nature is always the best herd manager. 2nd best is hunters deciding on their own private land what is to much or to little and doing what is best for their land. The more the DNR and all these other groups get overly involved every year with ever changing ways they think they can play deer gods the worse they make it by turning people away. Lets get it together. Another thing that should never be a deciding factor is what a Wisconsin politician thinks of the herd based on his or hers lack of hunting skill.

In over 30 years of hunting this DMU, I have never seen so few deer. This has been the experience of virtually every hunter I have spoken to in the area. Deer and deer sign are disappearing. I believe that we are severely over-estimating the deer population in the Waupaca DMU and/or have set the target population too low. I now have young nephews that aren't developing an interest in hunting because they will sit all weekend and not even see a deer, anywhere, at anytime. We are currently managing ourselves out of a sport and an entire generation of hunters- and the wildlife management funds that come along with them.

Please do not ever consider instituting antlerless only seasons. It is my opinion that many hunters will forego buying a license. I would also expect hunter recruitment to suffer. Whether they admit it or not, everyone wants to shoot a big giant buck. When a smaller buck or doe walks by, many hunters will opt to fill the freezer. An antlerless only season will reduce the number of hunters in the woods, and therefore reduce the number of these opportunistic harvests. I would suspect the number of antlerless deer kills would not significantly increase and possibly even decrease if an antlerless season is implemented.

I am landowner who owns land in this county for the purpose of feeding my family and having the opportunity at harvesting a mature buck. I would like to see more bucks get to maturity as well as a more balanced sex ratio. This could be accomplished by continuing to shoot does and protecting young bucks. All of this would have a positive impact on recruiting new hunters since quality/size of the bucks seems to be very important to getting and keeping hunters interested in the sport. A doe only season would get this process started while allowing us to still enjoy the sport by doe hunting. Thanks for considering this.

The number of deer is decreasing each year. Many people I know have quit hunting because of that. It is very frustrating to sit all day(s) and see only 1 or 2 deer . . .and sometimes NONE. I can sit in the woods for gun season and hear very few shots any more. SAD! Doesn’t it show from 2019 that there were 5000 antlerless tags available and only about 600 were sold, that hunters DO NOT want to kill any more does!! And now that wolves have been introduced to the area, more deer will be disappear. I am NOT of fan of a Holiday hunt or extending the bow season . . .and that is someone who loves to hunt!

In Waupaca County, the public land available is abysmal. Some public land parcels are tiny; I wager the size of a football field or smaller. These areas are bordered by private land and seeing a deer in one is up to chance. In this survey, when reviewing the number of deer harvested, the fact that there were less than 400 harvested on public land vs thousands on private should paint a clear enough picture. Every public hunter is crammed into Hartman Creek or the patchy other areas. For a long time it’s felt like a waste of time to hunt out there on the public land. I appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Not as many deer like there use to be. We practice quality deer management. Would like to see more bigger bucks. We take a few does every year. Don’t want to take to many. Because there aren’t that many. Plus predators do kill a lot of fawns. Private land should be the owner’s choice to manage the deer. You should promote deer management. Plus I heard that you want make a crossbow season separate from bow season. I’m 52 and can’t hold back a bow as good so I use a crossbow. Not fair to separate the season. Private land you should be able to use what you want. Public is different. Thanks.
After 35 years of hunting our private land, I have realized that land management is just as important as managing the number of deer, on and around the property. Most people do not realize how much a single deer eats, and how several deer can eat a forest floor clean, over years. As the trees mature, and food is eaten, the deer travel somewhere else. Select cuts, and knowledge, and some patience is the key to keeping deer on your property. There are many who do not understand this, and blame the wrong reasons for not seeing deer “like they used to”. Food and cover draw deer in. Managing the forest is key.

I feel that the number of larger bucks has declined over the past 5 to 10 years due to the amount of smaller bucks taken. It is my opinion that if a no buck season or two, we would have some bigger bucks around. Or if the state put a minimum antler size (for 2-3 years) it would help to raise larger animals in the area. This could be done in the entire state as well. The hunters that are in favor of larger racks would no doubt be in favor of this idea. Also, people that want larger racks or trophy's might be willing to pay a higher price for a license if they knew the larger animals are here. Thank you.

Our family hunts public land in Waupaca County. As with most public land in NE Wisconsin it is heavily pressured. I have observed hunters from neighboring private property hunting the public land we hunt because they are not observing deer on their tracts of private land. I feel the number of antlerless tags available for public land is too high. It may seem counter-intuitive, but would reducing the number of antlerless tags for public land actually increase the total harvest? - or at least maintain the current harvest levels, by reducing the number of individuals pressuring deer on public lands.

I do not feel an "antlerless only" season would be very beneficial to thinning the herd...if that would be the case I know myself and many of my neighbors would not even purchase a license I’d rather see earn a buck come back and that's saying ALOT..that program decimated the deer population! I know lots of people really look forward to chasing that big buck(especially in these tough times) I fully support holiday hunts and extending the archery season but PLEASE do not limit us to what we CAN shoot. I hope you hear our voices and thank you for the opportunity to give our input.

I hunt all seasons and often. The deer population has been on steady decline. The abundance of antlerless tags issued and does killed have taken its toll on the population. My grandson who is 15 years old has lost interest in deer hunting and says it is "pointless and boring" due to lack of deer sightings. He bow hunted 9 times saw 1 buck and 7 doe. He gun hunted 5 days and saw 0 bucks and 4 doe. We have 60 acres of wooded land adjacent to ag fields. You will never convince him that the deer are in our woods, you just can’t see them! How stupid do you think we are.

Over the last 21 years the deer population in my area has reduced significantly. Currently during a gun hunting season I may see 324 deer total. I think is a management unit more emphasis needs to be put on areas that have 4260 deer per square mile which includes the farms in the central Wisconsin area. Many of the areas outside of most farmlands are managed fairly well by QDM. However there are some areas that will not shoot a doe no matter what. If you would like to transport deer we’re to my area where I’m a harvest them that would be greatly appreciated

If you look at the browse lines in Waupaca county you can tell there are to many deer. the problem is people want to see the deer they did in the late 90’s and early 2000’s. But the way people hunt have changed. not many deer drives, heated stands, sneak in sneak out, area no one is allowed to hunt, smaller tracks of land ect. The deer just avoid hunters that don't want to change how they hunt. Do what is best for the deer and the land, not for the people that just like to complain. keep up the good work, thank you for giving up your time and STAY SAFE
other states have early muzzleloader seasons. Wisconsin definitely could use one in certain high deer density counties. Waupaca County still has way too many deer on some properties because people refuse to kill does anymore. Because most people only go antler hunting. An October weekend or 4 day muzzleloader season is what I want to see happen in Wisconsin. After the youth hunt weekend. CWD will just spread faster and more car accidents will happen if hunters don’t shoot more deer. I try killing 6 to 8 every year. With bow and gun, so does my friend.

If the goal is to decrease the deer herd, I don’t see any reason to not have the holiday hunt and extend the archery season to January 31st. The only bad thing about the holiday hunt is that it takes away more time from the bow season. I can take the kids hunting for does during the holiday hunt and still bow hunt to the end of January. Doing the holiday hunt but not extending the bow hunt makes no sense at all. What does it hurt to give us more time in the woods? Extend the bow season to January 31st.

I enjoyed and appreciated Jake Friese’s presentation. I also believe that with the objective to decrease the current population, the archery/crossbow seasons should be extended even further than January. The data supports the effectiveness and the popularity is increasing. Maybe create an additional youth hunt for late season archery/crossbow or other incentives but start focusing on utilizing the archery seasons as a resource. Maybe create separate tag sets for both archery and crossbow. Thank you for the opportunity and your time.

No changes to archery/crossbow seasons—even if I don’t agree with 16-45 year olds using them (without a disability) they have every right to do so during the normal archery seasons. Keep the gun hunt to 9 days, then one week of muzzle loader. Too many wolves. Not the biggest fan of earning a buck but wouldn’t mind seeing it once every 7 years or so. Double fencing of all game farms. Make baiting legal and only limited to corn or apples only. No in store growth hormone enhancers, mineral blocks, additive junk that is probably causing the CWD.

Providing extra tags just promotes people to shoot recklessly to fill tags. In the last years I have found numerous dead deer after rifle season and mostly fawns. Deer numbers have really dropped in my area and most notably mature bucks. Extra tags result in nub bucks being shot as antlerless which results in fewer buck sightings which result in people shooting any buck in future years to fill freezer. Also, if extra tags are available, why wouldn’t the state generate money by selling the tags? Thanks for reading...your job is not easy.

The DNR needs to start listening to hunters out in the field and quit using their models which are flawed. My deer numbers have been decreasing for years. The reason for decreased hunter participation and decreased youth involvement is deer numbers pure and simple. We need to go back to applying for a doe tag and limit buck kills to one buck per hunter either bow or gun. I think the DNR has grossly overestimated the deer herd which with the exception of a few areas I believe is on the verge of collapse. I see about 20% of what I used to see.

Thank you for doing what you believe is best for our deer populations. I believe something has to be done to affect a change so that we see deer during rifle season. I was in a group text with 12 people on private land for the entire season and 1 person shot a deer, considering that person saw a deer to shoot, any deer, 2 others saw fawns, so 3 of 12 people saw deer in 10 days of sitting. The problem wasn’t that there wasn’t a deer population on the properties, the problem was they didn’t move at all and pressure wasn’t a huge factor.

I see lots of deer in the spring and summer but come hunting season they just disappear. Why? No one is hunting any more no one is moving them every year you see fewer hunters and their time hunting is decreased not many years ago opening Sunday would sound like Saturday now you may see an occasional hunter or hear an occasional shot come Monday it’s dead quiet and remains that way for the remainder of the season. Extending the season is useless because no one is hunting. Trying to get kids involved is futile if they see nothing.

I have been to CDA meetings there agenda is to fill there needs not what the public wants. A total waste of time. The forester wants all the deer shot for over brows along with agriculture. The tourism guy wants all seasons available which leads the hunter by himself. Every year they try along with the DNR to improve hunting and it gets worse. Simple fix more deer people see the more kids and people will hunt! If they don’t see deer they will quit kinda like fishing most people like catching not fishing. We want to see deer!
My suggestions would include allowing a person to purchase 2 buck tags a year and use them for any season (archery, gun, etc). I would also put an antler restriction of a minimum of 4 per side in place. The main cause for most of the crop damage is the farmers leaving their corn up until December instead of harvesting it in October like they should, so crop damage should not impact the decision on deer kill numbers. Last year was by far the worst year I have ever seen hunting wise out there. It was a struggle to kill a deer.

There should not be any special hunts, once the guns come out the deer gather in larger groups and denser cover so thoughts of us owning farm land do not see them except on cameras as they seem to only show after dark. As far as vehicle kills that should be the responsibility of the driver not the Deer if they'd pay attention and stay off their phones and quit putting makeup on while driving they wouldn't be hitting as many deer as they do. I have been driving in the country for 40 plus years and I have yet to hit a deer.

Please issue one tag for central farm land that us not county specific. It is hard to hunt public land in Wisconsin without being restricted by tags. All farmland zone give out tag anyway. Would help with hunter happiness and easier use. Antler point restrictions would also help remove some of the die population. Guys would have to shoot a doe for meat in freezer instead of the spike or fork horn. 3 point or more on one side. Would also help with safety because people would have to verify what there shooting.

I fthe advisory is to reduce deer numbers why are permit numbers less? I always count the number of shots from 1-9 opening morning and then the second day. This year was average opener but after that it was awful. I have not seen the deer in the Lebanon swamp that we have seen in the decade earlier. The number of shots does not suggest that many deer were taken this year in that area. I would suggest keeping the number of permits the same or decreasing them. The weather certainly played a part in the kill in our area.

Why does almost every other state promote Quality deer management with Antler restrictions or One buck only or Texas 1) one unbranched antler, 2) a minimum 13-inch inside spread, or 3) at least six points on one side? Wi does nothing but falsely overhype the herd size in an attempt to kill more deer and sell more licenses. Hunters would embrace change - the WI DNR has no problem raising the size limit for Musky try it for deer and hunter satisfaction might go up. As it currently stands its better to hunt out of State!

If ever need to consider an anterless only hunt, I would like to see it as "earn a buck" option. When we had that, we were harvesting the anterless deer but still had option to shot a buck after that, if we wanted. I saw more and larger bucks during those years as I think a lot of hunters stop hunting once they get their 1 anterless deer for the freezer, and that allowed the bucks to survive and grow. This process helped reduce anterless numbers, but still allowed those hunters that wanted bucks to go after them.

Extending the gun season and taking more does out isn’t going to get more people to hunt. People aren’t seeing the amount of deer that they used to and the reason people aren’t hunting and kids are not getting into it anymore is because they don’t want to sit in a tree and stare into a blank woods and not see a deer all day. If you’re looking to boost the numbers stop eliminating all the deer. We see no where near the amount we used to. There needs to be more work on getting more accurate numbers for the herd.

The amount of Wolves and Bobcats in Waupaca County is way out of balance. There were no wolves in our block 4 years ago. Now there are no deer as all trail cam photos are of wolves (Even Collared Wolves) A Collared wolf did not move in - It was placed there by the DNR to reduce deer herds and congratulations as it did. I will contribute water levels was poor for our hunting area and shell ice - but the predators are the main factor of low deer in our block and its a big block between Marion and Clintonville.

You say that the deer numbers were down due to the late season. What I’ve seen in Waupaca county was a continuation of seeing less deer. 5 years ago I could pick and choose what deer I wanted to shoot, now its not a guaranteed to even see a deer. I’ve been keeping a log since 2010 on when and what I see. I can spend hours and hours of hunting an not see a deer. Some friends of mine hunt north of Antigo and he seen more deer Than I did this past year. Oh wait...that’s because of the last deer season.
I believe that the amount of corn left in the fields at the time of the gun season has dramatically decreased the amount of deer I see each year. Farmers have been leaving their corn on later and later in order to save fuel costs paid for drying. Last year was extremely wet forcing some farmers around me to abandon their crops because they couldn’t out on the field to take it off, which in turn changed the deer’s natural area to living strictly in the corn field, and is why I see less deer year over year.

2019 was the first year in 30 years that we observed the supposed ‘gold’ standard of the 1:1 buck to doe ratio on our private 200 acre parcel. We consciously make an effort to shoot and manage the antlerless deer on our land. We are in the middle of a large logging project, to improve and regenerate wildlife habitat. I believe the 2018 winter was harder on the deer than most (most does had a single fawn, some had no fawns.) I believe all three of these factors influenced the deer herd in our specific area.

every year the hunting gets worse and worse, we did used to have way to many deer and now i can hunt 8 days all day during gun and see 3 deer if that, and that’s hunting farm fields. the farmers around us kill everything that moves and we have nothing. opening day in our area we did not hear a gunshot until after 8AM. during bow season we saw more deer but 90% were yearling bucks and if you saw a doe it was very small, we just have no doe left in the area after years of everything that moves being shot

I wish I could explain why I’m seeing less and less deer every year since I started hunting on my property. Last yr I didn’t see a deer during the gun season and only a couple during bow. We had a couple pictures during the bow season but none during the gun season. None! That’s so hard to believe hunting in Clintonville. It’s just frustrating putting in the time I do. But I am a outdoorsman and live for the challenge. I’m just concerned that our herd is healthily but not wiped out either. Thanks.

the problem in my area is that it is made of small private farms and the neighbors are all trophy hunters and don’t seem concern with health issue in there being too many does. I have talked to them about at least shoot some does for the food pantry if anything. right now we are seeing 20 to 30 deer a night in the hay field next to our home & buildings and there seem no change for the past 10 years. I at least shoot 3 to 4 per year and the excess goes to the pantry or my elderly parents for use.

It makes me so sad that kids go hunting g and don’t see deer like we used to due to the wolf population. We have more wolves on camera than deer 😥. Every reason we got rid of wolves years ago shines through today. Every person who lives in town and thinks they are beautiful have never spent time in nature, never seen how violent of a predator they are. So sad. So many people have lost faith in the Dnr due to walkers inaction in cwd, we are so far behind other states on testing. Again, so sad.

CDAC has a three year goal of DECREASING the number of deer and should stick to that goal. Please follow the facts and science and don’t succumb to the pressure of hunters’ emotions. Their voice carries due to quantity, not quality. We (myself included) have a hunting representative on CDAC. All of the other representatives have a duty to do what is right, not what is popular. If you don’t want to support ecologically sound practices, please step aside and let someone else fill your place.

The over population of deer in this unit threatens to exacerbate the concerns Hunter’s and landowners already have about this states failure to control CWD. More family members are questioning the wisdom of eating the venison harvested by Hunter’s. Future land values will undoubtedly be negatively impacted if the threat of CWD continues escalating. High populations are damaging forests and future income from managed timber land. Earn a Buck is needed here despite political opposition.

I dont agree with any antlerless holiday hunt. If I have a chance to hunt that time if year I want the option to kill a buck or a doe. There are pockets of higher deer populations within the county. I hunt land that is 3 to 10 miles apart and the deer populations from 1 to the other is completely different. May see 7 different deer on 1 property and only see 3 different deer on another all season. The deer population per square mile isn’t the same throughout the whole county.
I know in the early 2000-2005 seasons the area's I hunted would see many more deer on the landscape. Early bow season would be common to see 20-30 deer in ag. fields. Now we see 8-9 maybe. Gun seasons in the same early years would see 15 or so on opening day. Now we see maybe 4-5. This past season I only saw 1 deer opening day. I know the population was too high back in the early 2000's but now I think is too low. Thank-you for your time in this forum to get some in-put.

I feel 2 antlerless tags per weapon season is reasonable, with bonus tags available for public and private hunters who feel they need more can purchase, My honest opinion with the way 2019 went, with the unusual weather pattern we had I feel todays hunting styles hurt hunters success (no drives/group hunts pushing deer) Too many worry about pushing that “trophy” off their parcel. Im not sure if these info things will make a difference but Id like to think they do, Thanks

Do not extend the 9 day gun deer season to 19. Do not support an antlerless only hunt or extra antlerless tags in the area. Some parts yes but this county may need to be broken down more. I live near the shawano county line and we've had a very large decrease in deer population over the last few years. I don't know where the DNR gets their numbers but I can say they are very far off for this area. I would like to see the DNR do their part in increasing deer herd numbers

What I see so much more now a days is slot more turkey's in groups of 20 or more and coyotes in group of 7 or more. I have watched turkey destroy corn fields worse than deer. I set out 10 trail cams and in 2019 I could not believe just how many turkey groups and how many coyote groups there was and just how big they have gotten. I think the best thing you have done is make it okay to use cross bows. I feel there is a lot less wounded deer and slot less tracking.

I would love to see the regular deer gun season opened a week earlier, and have the season last for two weeks. That is because if we have a horrible weather week, or the river bottoms (Wolf River) are flooded as in the last two years, or River freezes over early, as in the last four years, hunters are unable to access their hunting areas, which really minimizes their chances of harvesting anything. Lands covered in shell ice are just about impossible to hunt.

I grew up in Waupaca county and have owned 40 acres in Waupaca county since 1971. I feel the deer population has increased lately and I hunt with a muzzle loader only. Personally I feel that the bow hunters have enough time to hunt, they don't need additional hunting time. Please don't eliminate the muzzle loader season for additional days for regular shotgun/rifle. I only wish that the muzzle loader hunters could take advantage of the rut season.

Deer numbers seem to be down in many areas of WAUPACA county. Higher number of deer seem to be in small clumps in the northern part of WAUPACA, Iola, Big Falls. The rest of the county numbers are low. We cannot continue to only focus on the high number in a few areas and not the low numbers in the majority of the county. I think that we need to simply have bow/crossbow, gun, and youth seasons. The rest of the seasons should be dropped this year.

If you take care of the deer herd the hunter success will Follow. I recommend putting another question on the deer registration process. Ask how many hours the hunter has spent scouting and preparing for their hunt? I think too many people expect to just show up and shoot a huge buck and the NRB proposals regarding deer season length and crossbow use reflect that. That is not how it works. It’s called deer hunting not deer killing for a reason.

I have noticed in the last 10 years or so that there are way to many anterless deer. My father's land is just being over run and the deer kill off all saplings and marsh grass has choked everything else out and his woods are just dying. I believe people are just worried about shooting a buck and nothing else instead of taking care of the herd. I really think earn a buck was a good idea and still is. So I really think we should bring this back.
10294 I advocate 1 buck per year. It would solve the population problem in some areas, and in others would have a positive effect on the quality of the hunt. Too many mature bucks have been harvested with the advent of rifle hunting in Waupaca Co. It has had too big of an impact on the quality of deer. Additionally the crossbow has had this same effect, and has seriously drawn down the overall number of deer, and the numbers of more mature bucks.

10295 In the last five years I've watched wintering numbers decline drastically. Maybe this is due to the use of crossbows during the archery season. Hunting is a great sport and we are passionate about the hunt. Extending hunts and use of crossbows is killing this sport. Future generations will not get to experience the thrill of the hunt if we continue down this path of destruction. I'm not just talking about one county but all counties alike.

10296 If there is crop damage and farmers are being paid or reimbursed for crop damage then those deer numbers that need to be removed should be offered to the public on a first come first serve basis but with safety in mind. The land owner shouldn't be able to deny a hunter who is trying to secure a crop tag. Too often those landowners save the crop tags for friends. If you save the tags for friends, then you don't get crop tags or compensation.

10297 During the entire 2019 hunting season, I saw less deer than I did on some DAYS in past years. Hunting and increasing bag limits/quotas, I believe, are a direct cause of this realization. Stop asking how to reduce (eliminate?) the deer population and the number of insurance claims and start asking how we can insure our future generations can truly enjoy their time in the Waupaca County woods (and the state of Wisconsin, for that matter).

10298 Crossbows during archery season is what’s killing the gun season. What was it? Over 42% of bucks taken last season were gone before the one week gun season!!! That’s unacceptable. You need to either stop crossbows during archery or just open it all up to whatever weapons but only issue one tag for all of deer season. I’m also tired of reading everywhere all these bogus reasons of the low gun deer kill. It’s crossbows. End of story!

10299 I don’t believe that the number of antlerless tags issued with licenses in this DMU has a significant impact on the number of antlerless deer removed. In my opinion, the majority of hunters are not interested in killing a large number of deer. I don't believe that with the current system of online registration, that DNR has the same accuracy assessment of the harvest as it had with the tag/registration station system of the past.

10300 Regulations are getting too complicated with the private/public, zone/county separation of tags. I believe regulation should be done by county and that is it. No more zones, and public/private separation. Also, baiting should be the same state wide. One should not have to buy or rent additional property in a different county to bait. Additionally, stop raising the cost on WI residents and raise them for out of state hunters.

10301 I’ve been deer hunting since 1954 and it used to be fun and entertaining. But the effects of the 'quality deer hunting' that started about the year 2000 has really taken a lot of the fun out of it. I have had a lot of success with bow and gun and last year was the first year not seeing a single deer in prime deer location that I own. Need to go back to some of the same rules and type of season we used to have 15 - 20 years ago.

10302 I very MUCH oppose extending the gun season. I believe educating hunters on reading sign, playing the wind, and scouting techniques will enhance their hunting experience. You get out of it what you put into it. Please leave season design the same. Crossbow, bow, gun, and muzzleloader ALL have a place and offer great opportunity as it exists. No changes are needed!!! Sorry, but frankly people are becoming lazy hunters!!!

10303 One thing that I TRULY would like to see would be a return to having back tags, and deer registration stations. I feel that many deer harvests are not being reported and believe that would make a difference. I also feel that the archery/crossbow season should remain as it was in 2019. I wouldn't mind having a cool down period of a couple of days at least, for ALL hunting prior to the opening of the deer gun season. Thank you
Don’t take away the crossbow option. I really enjoy my crossbow and I’m better at it than a compound bow. I feel using the crossbow increases my chances of a kill and it keeps me in the woods where as if I had to use a compound, I’d spend less time in the woods and likely not even make a shot. I’m over 50, if that factors into the equation at all. Thank you for your time and giving me this opportunity to provide feedback.

I find that the regular 9-day gun hunt is always a week too late. The rut is long over, and the deer have retreated well back into the non-accessible swamps. We see numerous deer during the fall archery season, but very few deer during the gun hunt. My recommendation would be to move that season to a week earlier in the calendar. The rut would still be mostly over, but the deer haven’t yet vanished from the landscape.

I enjoy Wis. hunting and always will, at 68 years old I’ve seen the deer population of years gone by and it was fun seeing a lot of deer. I don’t see the numbers now and it seems the amount of hunters are less and don’t hunt as hard. I think every hunter listens for gun shots close or far away and shooting is definitely less. Maybe if dnr could bring back bounting on coyotes that would help fawn population. Thanks

In 2019 I hunted many hours on private land and never saw a deer. On stand early in morning and stayed until quitting time four days in a row starting on opening day during gun deer season. I am going to quit hunting because of your poor deer management in Wisconsin. I will hunt Wyoming again where I do see deer. Look at your 2019 deer kill results. It does indicate that the herd has been mismanaged.

We used to have a bunch of big bucks running around and the deer population is going down. What I would like to see is an antlerless only year because people are starting to shoot smaller and smaller bucks because they are not seeing big bucks. One year would help tremendously and I believe if we just take out some more does it would help decrease the population and get it managed between buck to doe ratio.

I would like to see the bow season start when it normally does in Sept and end on January 31st of the following year. I would also support the use of crossbows for people over 50 or who have a legitimate disability. I would like to see the traditional gun hunt of 9 days continue and would not be opposed to a black powder season to begin after the traditional gun hunt and last through December 31st.

The deer herd in central waupaca county sucks. The populations are much lower than the 80's when hunting was fun. You continue to over harvest which leads to less deer to see and lack of interest. The sport is seeing declining participation due to low hunter satisfaction. I think northern waupaca county has huge populations and skew the data for the entire state. Please wake up and save out sport.

Please consider strongly maintaining the deer herd or slightly increasing for 2020 and going forward. Your decrease plan and vision is wrong and incorrect based on my experience and observations. I spend a lot of time in the woods and have made my own deer counts year to year. Please use the feedback and listen to the hunters like myself making deer herd decisions for 2020 and beyond. Thank you.

I've been hunting private land in this county for 14 years and my family has hunted it for over 30 and each and every year the deer numbers go down. Due to over shooting of doe in the area and the constant rise of coyotes and wolves. We saw 2 deer all bow and gun season in 2019 on 100 acres of timber with 6 guys hunting all season. Licenses need to be reduced and predators need to be managed.

I personally believe that an anterless only season would force the citizens of this county to hunt elsewhere. I know that in our household we love the meat and will take an anterless deer early, then hunt for a wallhanger. If we get one, fine, if not there's always next year. With just 2 in the household we really don't need the meat from more than 2 animals. I feel that is doing my part.

When will small baiting amounts be brought back. This will help bring the deer herd down since everyone would be able to bait slightly and bring the harvest up. This would give everyone a fair chance rather than just the hunters who are breaking the current baiting laws. Also I heard the CWD was found on game farms not wild deer. If this is true baiting at minimal level should be fine.
Now that we have wolves in Waupaca County you need to include all the deer they are killing far exceeds the number accepted when talking bonus permits crop damage, and youth hunt. I’m finding far more wolf tracks in my swamp than deer tracks last winter. The number of deer that I see is down dramatically to the point of seeing 3-6 deer a night four years ago to some days 0-1 deer a day!

The numbers in this unit do not accurately reflect the entire unit. There are higher numbers in the Iola area that are far from the numbers of deer in the northern portion of the unit. It also does not take into account the proximity to the very large areas of private lands such as the Tigerton lumber company lands that hold large numbers of deer but are closed to public hunting.

I think u people want to kill hunting. There is not as many deer as u people think. U dont know how you count the deer but however u guys do it your wrong. You must be TRANSPARENT ON HOW U COUNT. Otherwise you will NEVER BE TRUSTED. Next year if you make us kill a doe first I will not get a license and many others will do the same. Not that u people care what anybody says

Issuing more tags does nothing as private land owners will not kill does- It is a vey sensitive subject I still do not understand but hunting Forest county and then Waupaca county and hearing land owners down here get worried when you shoot 5 doe off the property is concerning when you see 20 plus a day.. same ones or not. Up north seeing one a day was big deal.

We used to see a lot of deer then a wolf showed up and that didn’t seem to affect the deer herd to much but the last couple of years multiple wolves have been seen. In my area it’s getting harder to get a deer much less see some. I understand certain areas are over populated but even driving around the county I just don’t see the deer that are supposed to be there.

Waupaca County has an abundance of deer , problem is some areas are over populated while others have near target goals . The county needs to have sub zones . I live in Helvetia township in the northeast corner , more deer than you can shake a stick at , I hunt in St. Lawrence township, saw 0 deer bow hunting and gun season . I shot my deer on the neighbors farm.

If they are going to have doe tags, make people purchase them at $12 a piece. Too many people in the woods that think brown is down because they have free tags in there’re pocket. Also extending the season to 19 days is ridiculous! I hunted every single day during gun season and I never saw a deer. That is insane! Deer sightings are getting lower every year.

Too many Hunters are not seeing anything and are losing interest in hunting My son and Grandson stop coming up because we hunt public land and see nothing but Orange I feel if you would give out less tags more people would at least see a deer and have an opportunity to harvest In 2018 one person hunting shot for deer and in return three of us see nothing

Where I hunt near Iola my uncle has counted herds of 70-80 deer in his 40 acre field at a time. There are so many deer in Iola it is impossible to plant new trees and there are so many deer ticks with Lymes disease. My father and I have gotten Lymes multiple times and it's disappointing we can't use our woods during the summer in fear of getting sick.

If you kill off the deer population the deer hunting tradition will die. Many young hunters don’t want to participate if they aren’t seeing anything. I am speaking from experience, as you thinned the herd and we didn’t see deer my sons lost interest in hunting deer and the rules are so complicated youths can't understand them and they keep changing.
Just driving to and from work constantly stopping for deer. Neighborhood field had 121 deer feeding in it on 4/17/2020. The winter was very easy on the deer and the health they are in there will be an abundance of fawns produced. With that said we are going to create the risk of CWD more in our area and I want my grand kids to enjoy what I had.

I heard some talk about limiting the cross bow season in November. I do not like that idea at all. Why should we be limited y the amount of time to hunt during the best time of the season. It took forever for older people to be able to use a crossbow and know when we have some time somebody wants to take that away. Doesn’t make any sense.

As a father of four who wants to get my kids interested in picking up a passion of mine, it’s almost impossible to keep their interest when you you bring them out for a 1/2 day hunt and don’t see anything. I know there are a lot of factors that go into pursuing deer, but in my opinion there have been too many harvested, decreasing the herd too far.

get rid of crossbow hunting for anyone under the age of 70. Or give them a very limited season. They are destroying the great hunting tradition in the state. Also, I do a lot of walking all winter long and can count on hand the number of dead deer I find. I think that shows that the deer numbers haven’t exceeded the carrying capacity of my area.

Farms should allow hunting if the have crop damage. They get the best of both worlds currently. I see a lot few deer hunting than when I started hunting in 1982. Why own land for hunting if there are not enough deer to see and keep your interest. For the cost of land management and taxes you could hunt in Iowa or Kansas and see quality deer.

In 2017 an in 2018 the winter killed a lot more deer than people know. I live an hunt on forty acres an found at least 6 dead deer both years. An that’s only on forty acres. An I leave crops on the fields for the deer I don’t harvest my corn or my beans it’s all for wild life, 14 acres. I’m getting tired of the slaughter year after year

Please consider implementing a 4 point antler restriction to: 1. Increase the overall age structure of the deer herd. 2. Encourage hunters who strictly to hunt for meat to harvest a doe, thus aiding the CDAC goal of reducing the number of deer in Waupaca County. 3. Attract hunters to the county to hunt “trophy class” whitetail. Thank you!

age structure in deer herd is way off, too many old does and not enough mature bucks. buck to doe ratio is way off. rifles and crossbows have reduced the number of bucks to the point where i am thinking about quitting hunting. shorten seasons and go back to shotgun only and crossbows for disabled and elderly. need to harvest more does.

I’ve been hunting my property in Waupaca County for over 40 years. It is getting so bad that if I don’t shoot the first deer I see I’ll probably not get a chance at another one. I saw 4 deer last year on opening day and nothing the rest of the season. The year before I saw 1 deer. I can’t rationalize the deer count that you provide.

On my private land that I hunt I see very few doe a year maybe 5 sightings all year and they may be the same doe, I personally do not agree with trying to decrease the deer population in this county I feel like it should stay the same or slightly increase. I do not see nearly as many deer in the fields like I have in years past

Give 1 permit for each licensed season and allow the hunter to decide what to shoot, buck or doe. Sell bonus tags if you want. If a person wants to hunt with bow or gun, they would have a chance to shoot 2 deer of any sex. Stop all special hunts except for a youth/first time hunting season around the same time as you do now.

My land is in Mukwa on the river bottoms of the Wolf River. This was flooded much of 2019. This affected how many deer I see. I understand this is a micro-ecosystem in Waupaca County but wish it was managed this way. We have seen fewer deer since Earn a Buck. While it has been wetter, the population hasn’t rebounded.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10338</td>
<td>I don't think Insurance companies have a clue how many deer get killed or does the DNR. There is a lot of deer that get killed along roads that walk or crawl into the woods and die that never get counted. So I think there are a lot more deer dead every year from that and other animals killing them that don't get counted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10339</td>
<td>I think the DNR is killing hunting season by issuing so many Doe tags. I own my own land and the number of deer are way down. If it keeps up, I'll stop hunting and let the deer stay safe on the land. Wolves are killing more deer around us or chasing them out of the area. Start having some guts and put on a wolf hunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10340</td>
<td>In our area we have seen a sharp decline of deer. The past two years we have not taken an deer because we did not see them. There are many acres of corn and soybeans and no deer. Neighbors are also frustrated with no deer. This few of deer has us reconsidering hunting. A longer season will not fix not having any deer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10341</td>
<td>The Wisconsin DNR has done absolutely nothing to &quot;manage&quot; wildlife in this state... You don't manage or improve any public land. Their are no deer left period!!!! I will never buy a license or permit or anything for Wisconsin again until things change..... which we all know will be never......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10342</td>
<td>Between archery and gun season in 2019 I sat 63 days and only saw 7 deer total. I have been hunting private land the last 6 years, and every year I see less deer. Even during the gun season there has been less shooting. Not sure if it's in the area I am in, but numbers have definitely been dropping every year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10343</td>
<td>There are many public hunting spots in this county that the DNR could be better utilizing the land for additional crops to create a stronger heard. Why give out two tags with every license for doe, one should be enough, let the heard get built up again like it was 10 yrs. ago or consider an antler size limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10344</td>
<td>I definitely don't think there are as many deer as you say there are. The number has declined tremendously since I started hunting. I quit hunting for a number of years because it was a waste of money. I only hunt now for my sons sake but his interest is declining as well with the amount of deer we see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10345</td>
<td>The deer population density in Waupaca county is very high. When CWD arrives, it will spread very quickly. Therefore, it is my opinion that real progress should be made to reduce the deer population density to mitigate this risk. Anything to encourage the harvesting of antler-less should be employed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10346</td>
<td>Over the past three years, deer numbers in our area have decreased dramatically. Example in the past two deer seasons, we have seen very few deer and haven't had the opportunity to harvest any meat for our freezers. We used to see herds in the fields in the evening. Now it's less than 10 deer if that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10347</td>
<td>As a Snowmobile enthusiast, I am against these extended hunts as it is causing landowners to close their Wooded property to trails. I will not allow hunting on my property during these times. There is no reason to allow hunting during the winter time for sole purpose of controlling herd numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10349</td>
<td>The number of deer I see over the years has gone down significantly. Being a landowner and what it cost to purchase land and paying taxes, it doesn't seem to be worth hunting any more. And you say you want to keep hunting going. I don't see that happening with the decreasing deer herd every year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10348</td>
<td>I've said this for the last 4 years, 1 buck only. People would shoot more doe and still have the opportunity for a buck. If I harvest a buck with bow and buck with gun there is no need to shoot a doe no matter how many tags are issued. However with 1 buck tag I would definitely shoot doe for meat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10350</td>
<td>I am against having a holiday hunt. With offering less doe tags per license and less bonus tags, I see no reason for a holiday hunt. No one I've talked to is in favor of this. If the objective for 2020 is less does (less tags available) then there is no reason for more seasons to hunt does.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10351</td>
<td>I hunted on average 4 days a week during bow, gun and muzzle loader seasons this year and I can honestly say I saw more bucks than does on the two private properties. My family is always trying to harvest more does and we noticed the buck to doe ratio was more to the buck side than doe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I would like to see the use of shotguns included in the muzzleloader season. Since going to rifle statewide, I'm guessing many people have shotguns not being used. This would give more opportunity to hunt for those who don't bow hunt, or may not be able to afford a muzzleloader. Thank you.

I hope to enjoy the hunt, many people think buck harvest is everything, at my age I hope to just hunt, but we have lost the youth, keep trying to offer more youth hunts, people have lost the traditions I loved, sad days ahead, hope we can survive, stay safe, God bless, Tom King

Just one comment. I hope proposals are carried out based on best science rather than popular opinion. Scientists know what needs to be done. Hunters are tools to help this happen. I will do what is decided regardless of my opinions. I only want what is best for the herd and ecosystem.

We have seen way less deer since we had severe storm damage last year in our woods. My self and many of my friends would like to see a legal buck be 8 points or more. I think this would increase the doe harvest. Lets make baiting legal again this would also increase the doe harvest.

Many hunters are losing interest in our area during the gun season. Extended seasons seem to force deer to only move at night. Last year I hunted 60 acres that always had deer movement, I seen 5 deer over 10 long days. I do not foresee hunting deer in state much longer at this rate.

Crossbow hunting should be limited to individuals who are over 55 yrs old an/or disabled. Muzzle loader hunting should be limited to the gun deer season with no special week. Waupaca County should go back to shotgun only hunting with muzzleloader happening during that same time.

We need to increase the deer population in Waupaca County,... not decrease. There should be a hold on shooting bucks, decrease in doe tags to increase the population as well allowing bucks to mature more. Allow the youth hunt to occur after regular season if so applicable.

I bowhunt, gun hunt, and muzzleloader hunt. I saw the fewest number of deer throughout the season that I have in a very long time. Very concerning considering how many tags were issued. We live in the woods and haven't seen many deer all winter and spring. Very concerning.

2x as many deer are harvested on public land versus private land on a percentage basis. Lower deer populations on public land versus private is very noticeable to those hunting the limited amount of public land. There should be separate approach for managing public land.

What is the most effective method of deer count? Are there any signs that deer move outside their habitat? What is the cost of crop damage due to deer? Other means? Where are the open pantries for deer drop off? Will firearm of choice be used during the gun deer season?

I wish deer harvests were averaged / graphed over a 5 year period, as deer life span in the unit only average 1 - 2.5 years. giving a population density over 2 generations would provide a look at trending growth more inline with weather, preditory, environmental effects.

Stop killing off all the does/nub bucks before my grand kids loose interest in hunting altogether, their interest is fading. I am tired of hearing the Wisconsin Bowhunters trumping up their sightings so they can keep killing deer and stay in the woods all season.

The holiday hunt severely reduces the amount of late season bow hunting that can take place for hunting a buck. I understand it is a "projected" tool for reducing population by means of eliminating does, but i support moving it back some or shortening this hunt.

There should be a limit on how many hunters are allowed to hunt public land during gun season at one specific time. I have witnessed an unsafe amount of hunters on public land. They are too close together and therefore start pushing boundaries into public land.
I would like to express my support for a full crossbow season. Having invested over $1,000 in equipment and having sold my compound now, I would be giving up a dramatic amount of time in the woods! Please keep the crossbow season as is. Thanks for listening.

There are deer in abundance in certain areas. Harvesting does is not as easy with numbers changing across the county. There is also a large number impact on the deer with our rapidly growing wolf populations. Areas where deer where plentiful are now very thin.

Some areas have good deer numbers but a lot area are dropping. The fawn production is very low. I hunt Waupaca and Shawano. I see more deer on 15 acres in Shawano than 160 in Waupaca. The county is drying up and doesn’t look good. I’m not the one thinking this.

My son, grandchildren, and I hunted my property north of Iola and we saw ONE deer total during the gun season in 2019. And we hunted many days. That was the worst season we’ve ever had. My grandchildren are not sure they want to hunt anymore. That’s sad.

When deer numbers go up, hunter numbers will go up! This will bring FUN back to the idea of hunting!! Each year you are on a decrease path, hunter numbers will fall. Yes, as all things are in a political environment, my opinion will go in the barrel.

I think that if you couldn’t harvest a buck unless it had 3 or more points on one side not counting the brow tine people would be more app to shoot a doe and we would also have a better chance of shooting a mature buck. I think more does would get shot.

I appreciate your hard work and efforts in this manner and thank you for the opportunity to provide input! I think that the crossbow seasons have made a positive impact on deer hunting. I would oppose any restrictions on crossbow hunting seasons.

It is the responsibility of landowners to maintain healthy habitat and populations in private property and the DNR to aggressively manage and create quality hunting opportunities on public lands. Science must take precedence over emotional antics!

Bring back baiting. I own a small piece of property and only have deer travel through it. Without baiting, my kids and I have very little chance of harvesting a deer in Wisconsin. That is why we travel to Wyoming for our hunting season.

I would love to see earn a buck put back in. Also limit crossbow season. I would also like to see some discussion on only one buck per year any weapon per person. Thank you.

The buck to doe ratio is way out of wack. Seeing 25-40 deer in multiple fields in a 5 mile drive is cool, but shows there is a problem with hunters NOT harvesting enough deer, particularly antlerless. These are not healthy populations.

Deer kill down due to delay with crop harvest providing cover in standing corn. More car kills due to increased traffic and not paying attention then to increased deer population. Extended season hurts other tourism such as snowmobiling.

I thought it was wrong to not have a holiday hunt in 2019 when the gun season was as late as possible. They deer weren’t there during gun season, and if the goal is to decrease numbers, opportunity to harvest deer would have helped.

Bring back earn-a-buck. Keep our gun season at 9 days as it is now during Thanksgiving week. Try to develop a more balanced herd. Bring back registration to lessen the poaching. Have a one buck per year limit across all weapon types.

Let’s try one buck per person per year and get rid of party hunting. Make Waupaca county people want to hunt in again. It’s worse now than many public “up north” locations. Your ruining hunting and taking the people out of it.
10381 I think that we should consider not using crossbows during the bow season unless you are 55 and older. I use both but would do without for during the bow season. Still allow to use during the gun season and holiday hunt.

10382 I personally do not agree on extending the archery season. I am a avid hunter and snowmobiler, our trails can not open on most the trails we have until the seasons over and thats late the way it is already on some years

10383 Over abundance of fawns. Use to be able to see adult does on a regular basis but not no more.Noticed the same thing in Trempeleau County. More bucks seen than adult does this has been going on for last ten or more years.

10384 I donot think that you should change the bow and crossbow hunting season structure  if you need more deer taken let the people hunt with the weapon they chose or you will lose even more hunters than you already did !!!!!

10385 I’d like to see antler restrictions. Hunters should be harvesting mature bucks 3 yrs and older. 4 points or more on one side. I know this doesn't always necessarily mean an 8 pointer is a mature buck, but it would help.

10386 I think there should be an earn a buck season for private land only we shoot some does, but many of our neighbors don’t, if you want to decrease the population, have earn a buck, i know it is not popular, but it works

10387 I strongly oppose adding on another week to the gun deer season. I do not think More people would hunt just because there is more time to hunt. I also think it would take valuable time away from the bow season.

10388 An earn a buck season would be much more beneficial to population control than a doe only season. A doe only season would likely discourage a good majority of already lowering hunter numbers for that season.

10389 Numbers lower, and thats saying something cause 2018 was poor as well! Old registration system needs to return in some capacity. Your numbers are way off because many don’t register, forget, ignore, etc.

10390 I strongly believe the deer are over hunted making them very nocturnal, I have seen evidence in this by how the deer react to opening day of gun and by trail cams and monitoring my property year round.

10391 I would support antler point restrictions. 1 buck per hunter. Also not opposed to some form of earn a buck all to help increase the antlerless numbers and to increase the age structure of the herd.

10392 I think late season( Dec -January ) antlerless only gun seasons would productive in allowing hunters to fill in unused tags as well as help in controlling the abundant deer herd in Waupaca co.

10393 Give out all the doe tags you want but hunters only want to shoot big bucks. Maybe the dnr should take a different approach to improve hunter numbers. Look at what Iowa does and follow suit.

10394 Suggest to increase the nine day deer season. Keep the hunting season no later than December so the hunt season does not affect other activities that bring tourists and money into the state.

10395 deer hunting is less fun due to taking traditions away. Registration stations need to come back and go back to back tags. if all these changes keep up I would consider getting out of hunting.

10396 We own 40 aces, 3 people in hunting party, we saw 6 deer between us opening weekend, no bucks, did not shoot any. I hunted every day to shoot the one buck I saw on wed, on a leased property.

10397 Im trying to get my young sons interested in hunting. Seeing very few deer doesn’t help. Also we need to find a way to establish a better age class of all deer but especially mature bucks.

10398 Seemed to be far less shots than normal during gun season. Far less sightings as well. I am concerned with poachers and the wild turkey population as well. Zero gobbles this entire spring.

10399 Introducing an antler point restriction to have a positive impact on herd age structure and herd health. And to propose the shooting of a doe to help aid in your herd reduction goals.

10400 Way too many deer around. Let's get the state back to an earn a buck program again. Would also like to see a shortened crossbow season, since it is basically a gun as far as accuracy.
Definitely up the fine and loss of license for many years if caught baiting deer. Make it a major offense. Make it so people do not even toy with the ban. Seriously it has to stop!

I think Muzzleloader hunting should be in January, because I see deer the first two days of Gun hunting, and then the deer go nocturnal. Then I don't see deer until after Christmas.

Deer herd needs to be significantly reduced for forest health, regeneration and for the deer herd health. The doe to buck ratio is way too high, need to reduce doe numbers 50%.

All these regulations and changes each year is adding to the decline of hunters, including decline of deer population for the interest of the young hunter. (Not seeing any deer)

If needed, I would support an earn a buck framework for both bow and gun hunting... allowing a bow hunter that harvests 2 antlerless deer to earn a buck tag for gun season.

I feel the last 5 deer seasons have been consistent and they seasons should be left alone. The number of tags provided with each license should be the same also. Thanks

Start the deer gun season earlier- November 15, at least! It just makes sense because there are more deer moving. Keep archery season all the same. Thank you.

To many doe seasons. Way to many special seasons. Don’t like crossbow season, makes it to easy. Would like to see 1 buck per hunter per season no matter the weapon.

Too many deer. Deer browse is a huge problem in woods all over the county and they set back regeneration for decades with constant pressure. Shoot more deer.

Do not have a Antlerless only season. It would really hurt the hunters that go out to hunt and maybe even discourage them to even hunt hurting you even more.

We only need one doe tag and one buck tag people are giving up on hunting because they are not seeing any deer because you keep giving out so many doe tags.

I’m sure that I’m not the best deer hunter but when you can spend three days in the woods and not see more than one deer, overpopulation can’t be an issue.

I believe there are too many deer being shot with the crossbows, they should not be allowed to use during the month of November unless you are disabled.

Just for not see as many deer and very boring for a kid to sit and see no deer or very little they loose interest in hunting when there are no animals.

Baiting should be allowed on private land and should be considered a harvest tool also. Perfect shots placed in the vitals helps the harvest numbers.

Bring back the 4-day "T-zone" antlerless only hunt during the end of October like you used to do. This 4-day hunt greatly increased harvest numbers.

Many hunters I know would like to see antler size restrictions put in place in order to increase their chances of harvesting a more mature buck.

There are far too many antlerless deer in Waupaca and Shawano counties. Bring back earn a buck! Antler quality and high buck ages are way down!

At present I do not use a crossbow, but in the near future I will. I do believe that it should be treated as regular archery tackle. Period.

Waupaca County should go back to having shotgun only season. Cross Bow should be limited to people who are disabled or over 65 years old.
There are too many deer in some parts of the county and other parts hardly any. I don't have a good answer how to normalize the population.

Deer season needs to be extended and we need to remove antler-less hunt. no reason why there was 300 some odd deer shot on public land

One of the main reasons for reduced Waupaca deer harvest in 2019 was that many corn fields were not picked until after the deer season.

Deer population numbers are exceeding carrying capacity of the land. To achieve a reasonable population doe numbers must be reduced!

The CDAC seems to have pre determined that our unit has too many deer and the questions are designed to arrive at that premise.

There needs to be a coyote, wolf, and big cat season. I see more bobcats than deer. Also have seen Mountain lions on occasion.

I feel the estimation of deer populations are way too high in Waupaca County, and also too many anterless kill tags given out.

You can give out all the free tags you want but if people don't go back to group deer drives you will never get your quotas.

Without baiting and unfriendly neighbors I seen one deer all of both seasons last year. Tons of deer and wolves on cameras.

Stop decreasing deer heard numbers because someone's flower bed was eaten. Or because of motor vehicle accidents.

Don't like all the special seasons. Stop shooting all the does. Make it 1 buck per year only, not one per weapon. Thanks

Over the last 2-3 archery and gun seasons, I have noticed a decline in the number of deer seen, even during the rut.

Wolves in Waupaca county need to be eradicated. Go back to in-person registration. Too many undocumented deer kills.

No holiday hunt or extended archery! If u want more does shot, only give out one buck tag to be used for bow or gun.

If you are reducing the number of doe tags there is no reason for a holiday hunt. I am against the holiday hunt.

I only oppose the holiday antlerless hunt, because as a bowhunter that is an opportunity to hunt late season.

Please do not go antlerless only for all seasons. We will end up worse off because many will not hunt at all.

no change of the crossbow season maybe go back to the senior only can hunt with a crossbow not everyone.

Continue to work on earn a buck as a tool to reduce doe populations, very effective but controversial

if bow season is open crossbow should be always as well no shorter season for crossbow senior hunters

I believe the estimate of deer mortality due to predation is difficult to assess but underestimated.

If hunting public land in Waupaca county is your only option you may want to consider hanging it up

Way too many deer being hit by cars in this area. Seems to be over population of deer in this area.

No longer seasons! The deer movements only happen at night. No bucks for one year sounds great!!!

Do not change the crossbow season. Many of us are not going to hunt if we can’t hunt the rut.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10446</td>
<td>Please consider breaking the county up into zones. What works in one area won't work in others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10447</td>
<td>I would oppose extending the deer gun season beyond the current 9 day format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10448</td>
<td>I would be opposed to any program that would require an earn-a-buck proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10449</td>
<td>There's way too many wolves in the state, we need to put a season on them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10450</td>
<td>Support the holiday hunt for added hunting opportunity for school age kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10451</td>
<td>Discontinue private and public land holdings for hunting license purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10452</td>
<td>How can you decrease the deer herd when you could not even MAINTAIN it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10453</td>
<td>I recommend only 1 buck per person per year, either bow crossbow or gun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10454</td>
<td>If you want to get the numbers down, then make baiting legal. Period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10455</td>
<td>The deer numbers are the lowest I've seen in 40 yrs of hunting there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10456</td>
<td>Make muzzle loader season longer, possibly thru the end of the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10457</td>
<td>Charging more and limiting season length for out of state hunters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10458</td>
<td>The population needs to be lowered we need a antler less hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10459</td>
<td>Having crossbow and archery season open on the same days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10460</td>
<td>Leave the deer season alone... Quit changing things up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10461</td>
<td>Do not shut down bow hunting prior to gun hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10462</td>
<td>Opinions of having a dedicated cross bow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10463</td>
<td>Too many predators in the county, mainly wolves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10464</td>
<td>Lobby to return earn-a-buck option to the DNR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10465</td>
<td>Would like to see 1 buck per hunter per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10466</td>
<td>I support the recommendations for this dmu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10467</td>
<td>There are a lot less deer now than ever!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10468</td>
<td>All deer hunting should be done by Jan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10469</td>
<td>Change more for out of state hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10470</td>
<td>Saw far fewer deer during bow season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10471</td>
<td>Should have Earn-A-Buck re-instated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10472</td>
<td>Trust the science and scientists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10473</td>
<td>Extend the deer gun season 1 week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10474</td>
<td>Doe to buck ratio is to extreme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10475</td>
<td>Should open baiting again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10476</td>
<td>Not seeing very many deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10477</td>
<td>Thank you for doing this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10478</td>
<td>Please no holiday hunt!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10479</td>
<td>Earn a buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10988</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Waushara, Central Farmland

The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

752 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 266
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 198
   - I hunt in this unit: 698
   - General interest in this unit: 141

The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 666
   - Bow: 417
   - Crossbow: 330
   - Muzzleloader: 245

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 23.47
   - Maximum: 66

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 470
   - Mostly Private Land: 113
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 58
   - Mostly Public Land: 21
   - Exclusively Public Land: 33
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 33
   - Not too crowded: 78
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 44
   - Somewhat crowded: 33
   - Very crowded: 22
   - Not applicable: 15

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 161
   - Fewer: 242
   - Same: 251
   - More: 69
   - Many More: 14
   - Unsure: 15

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Antlerless Quota is...</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
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Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>319</td>
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Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
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10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...

Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT:

Support: 262
Oppose: 424
Unsure: 66

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...

EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021:

Support: 396
Oppose: 293
Unsure: 63

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...

Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:

Support: 77
Oppose: 632
Unsure: 43

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...

...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?

VALID: 177
NOT VALID: 632
Unsure: 27

Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

*Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very*

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<th>Concern</th>
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<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.26</td>
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<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
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<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
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<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
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<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
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Waushara, Central Farmland
In regard to the statements above any answer could be taken in any desired way... the results of that survey are not valid without allowing for explanation after each question. This is the reason why I answered "Not at all" for each statement. From a dedicated and serious hunter in Waushara county: First of all, I would like to take a moment to thank you for the time, mental energy, and commitment to our county and state’s deer population and overall health of our herd. Deer hunting in Wisconsin is not only my passion, but it also impacts me daily in my property management decisions, food plot designs, strategy scheming, and even my, nearly daily, food eaten with my family. I am 32 years old. This past season was my 21st year hunting in the state. I have killed a buck all but one year out of the last twelve years and for every one buck I’ve killed, I kill an average of 1.3 does. I say this to communicate that I am not just a trophy hunter. I have killed some very nice deer, does included, over the years but I can tell you with complete confidence, not one of the many deer I have killed were by accident. I work hard for and earn every deer I kill. Many opportunities are there for those who are willing to work for them! I have heard the whining and complaining from many fellow hunters about low deer numbers and not seeing deer. Personally, I don’t buy it and I don’t sympathize. Sure, they may be putting in the time during the season sitting in their stands but they aren’t putting in the time outside of the season. For those who own land or have access to private property, which is the vast majority, they aren’t doing the property management projects to improve habitat or food sources, they aren’t putting in the time for off-season scouting, contemplating new strategies or stand sites, or creating mental back-up plans and strategies. But, I will tell you, they are talking. They are exerting mental energy by complaining that their stale efforts aren’t producing impressive results. Do not sacrifice tradition to attempt to appease these lazy hunters. No one is entitled to a deer or a trophy, and true success only comes to those to work for it. At the conclusion of last season, I was mailed the end-of-season hunting survey. In the survey, I was asked the question to the effect of, “At the beginning of the season, how confident were you that you would successfully harvest a buck?”. I answered this question with the greatest confidence allowed. In fact, I can confidently say right now that I will kill a buck this coming fall. This confidence comes not in the properties I hunt but in my preparation. By the way, I killed a buck last year on public land. Let me get to the point. As a true deer manager in the state of Wisconsin here are my recommendations to my county and state decision makers: Keep it simple, stick to tradition, be open and honest-informed hunters are happy hunters. - Don’t cater to the squeaky wheels by fundamentally changing what has worked. - Don’t be afraid to allow deer numbers to increase - hunters who see deer and experience success will keep coming back - Accurately and honestly communicate estimated deer numbers - these numbers must match what hunters experience in the field or skepticism will ensue - Be open and honest with the reasons and motivations behind management plans - this will build trust, buy-in, and compliance - Continue supporting hunter recruitment strategies such as discounted fees for first-time buyers, and continue with the youth hunt season - this will promote license sales and a new generation of hunters - Keep phone-in registration but require backtags with licenses visible - convenience with accountability (this is appreciated by those who operate honestly) - Do not change the 9-day hunting season structure - don’t change tradition, keep it special - Do not add a holiday hunt - at minimum a four-day doe hunt is acceptable but by this time serious hunters already have their freezer full - Do not extend the bow season through the month of January - again tradition, risk of killing shed bucks, added stress on deer during a crucial month, and finding a dead fetus inside does leaves a bad taste. Thank you for your time, - Luke
Despite the low perceived population of deer during the gun season 2019, before season, this winter and this spring are showing some of the largest herd sizes I've seen in 20+ years. While not as bad as it was prior to earn-a-buck, it is headed there in a hurry. I don't feel that adding addition anterless-only seasons, nor extending the 9 day gun season is going to drive any significant change. People don't utilize the full 9 day season as it is. The second weekend is just as quiet as mid-week for the last several years. The multitude of anterless-only seasons have little participation locally and tend to drive the bow-hunters out of the woods during those times. Are we even getting enough of a net gain of hunters/kills during those seasons to be worth the dis-engagement they create with the bow hunters? I know multiple farms with ag-tags and the volume of requests for people to come fulfill those is very low and half of those calls are apparently tire-kickers that are not respectful of the farmer's time. There's plenty of accessibility, but a lack of hunters. Wisconsin needs to work on recruitment of additional hunters rather than focusing on making a season every other weekend. Without adding to the hunting population, the addition of extra seasons and tags is going to continue to drive diminishing returns and further devalue the tradition of deer hunting in Wisconsin. What is Wisconsin doing to connect with current non-hunters? As society becomes more and more health conscience and demanding to know where their food comes from, the virtues of venison in the freezer would be sought after by many if they understood it. This is likely not the audience the DNR knows how to connect with at scale and will require segmenting the population of Wisconsin by interests and learning how to communicate directly with each of those segments. Figuring out where venison, small game and waterfowl fit in freezers that have never seen it and then showing those segments of folks why they 'need to have it' & showing them how to access it and then what to do with it once you have it (because preparing a lean cut of venison like a well marbled ribeye from the butcher shop is a sure-fire way to convince people that venison is inedible) is what will address this. I've read about some amazing mentorship programs going on, but those programs, while extremely good, aren’t recruiting at the same rate as the hunting population is declining. Asking the same traditional audience to kill more deer isn't the answer, and in many cases is turning them off which just makes the problem worse. Getting more people out there by engaging new audiences is. The traditional audience can only do so much recruiting and when it 'feels' like the DNR is on a 'slaughtering mission' gun deer seasons with low deer traffic due to weather and low hunter movement (from a lack of hunters and more rural segmented land owned by non-hunters), it's easy for the traditional audience to not be excited about deer hunting because it felt like the cards were stacked against them. When you're not excited, you don't do a good job at recruiting and you might even quit. Adding seasons I suspect is hurting hunting population numbers. Hunters are going to fill their freezers and that's their threshold. Once the population of freezers are filled, the hunting is done for the year, regardless of how many huntable days there are. Get the hunting population back to where it once was so there's more freezers to fill and quit worrying about the minimal incremental gains to be had by adding a messier schedule to navigate that is disengaging the foundation of the hunting population. The revenue then generated by the increased sales of tags and equipment certainly wouldn't hurt the efforts of conservation either!
Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments. In this survey I actually opposed holding the Holiday Hunt ONLY because of the way the question was worded. I am not totally against the hunt, but believe you could satisfy a much bigger % of hunters AND get closer to accomplishing YOUR main goal, which is to ("harvest more deer") IF you approve the extension for bow and crossbow hunters until 1/31/21 along with holding the Holiday Hunt. I see no reason why you couldn't allow both. I know the snow mobilers and their season are a concern come January, but lets all be reminded this would be bow hunting not firearm hunting. Private land owners may have to make a decision and determine which would be more important to them at the time, bow hunting or snowmobiling??

Let's be honest, those private lands where there are snowmobiles racing around are certainly not going to be a #1 choice for deer to be hanging out, so the risk for a snow mobiler to be shot by an arrow would be VERY, VERY low! So with that said how bout we try to please the majority and make it a win win for most everyone, all in an attempt to shoot more deer. As for the Holiday hunt on its own, I would certainly be curious to know what the deer harvest numbers were by year for Waushara County, when we DID hold those previous hunts, as I know we have in prior years. My last comments will be on the proposed "Quota" increase for 2020. I own two parcels of land in Waushara Co., one in the Town of Leon (62 acres) and the other in the Town of Saxeville (20 acres.) I have six hunters in my hunting party and we rotate each season hunting between the two properties. I can only comment on the deer numbers seen on my properties. I personally hunted all day seven of the nine days of gun season only because health wise I am still able to so at 67 yrs. old, and I love to be out there. I saw 2 deer, both bucks. My 12 yr old granddaughter shot the only one we saw sitting together on opening day at 3:45 in the afternoon. I then saw a very small fork horn Sunday morning of opening weekend and that was the last deer I saw for the season. As for the rest of the group there were two small fawn does seen. Others in my party hunted half days on and off throughout the remainder of the season but finally gave up, very discouraged. When I am told that the County is being over run by deer and that the browse lines are 4 foot high in a big percentage of the County, I just cannot confirm that where I own land. I agree, the County has numerous deer in SOME areas, but that is NOT the case in the majority of the 71% huntable acreage throughout. If it was, car kills would be up, deer and harvest numbers would up because nearly everyone would be having the same opportunity to harvest a deer. With all of that said, that is why I voted to not increase the quota goals. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

I have owned quality deer habitat in Waushara County and hunted it for 25 years. The last 6 years we have seen fewer and fewer deer and turkeys on our property and in 2019 I did not see a single deer during the gun season despite hunting for 6 of the 9 days. I attribute this decrease to predation, mainly coyotes. Prior to 2014, we had not heard, seen or had deer camera pictures of coyotes on our property. Now, we hear them every night and our deer cams have just as many coyote pictures as deer. In addition, the last three years few if any fawn pictures. Most does are alone. The video said that predation rates are considered when determining the overall deer population for the county. However, the fawn survival summary used to calculate that number is from 2011-2013. I believe this is flawed as the true population of coyotes has greatly increased since 2013 which would cause fawn survival to decrease, hence why we are getting hardly any fawn pictures. I also believe this is why we rarely see turkeys. 10 years ago they were abundant, now if we see one we take note. Newly hatched turkeys are easy prey for a coyote or any predator. I used to hunt turkeys each spring but gave it up 5 years ago due to low numbers. The lack of deer is a cause for the decrease of hunters. I currently have a nephew and a son-in-law who gun hunt with us that are new to the sport. Neither of them have seen a deer the last two years and I am afraid they are losing interest and will look for something else to do. As I stated above, I did not see a deer during gun season this year, the first time this has happened since we bought our property in 1995. I do not believe that this is entirely due to a late opener either, last year I saw 2 deer in 8 days of hunting with an early opener. My neighbors are having the same issues we are. There may be areas of the county where deer numbers are higher but that is certainly not the norm. I am completely against the "Decrease" designation for Waushara County. People want to see a few deer when they hunt, continued years of fewer and fewer sightings will further erode the base of hunters and also decrease the amount of much needed dollars spent in our county by the hunting public.
For so many of the most recent years the DNR in general has complained from the decrease in license sales. I can say from a personal observation as well as from communication with other outdoors men and women thru out this entire state, the number one reason is the lack of a deer population. Now some of the college educated the state has to estimate numbers of any animals population will most likely disagree but the deer are not here, and if they believe they are I openly offer them the chance to come with me on every one of my outings to walk in my shoes see the mile I put on in search. The amount of funding installing food plots endless hours afield. Growing up in a hunting and fishing family I have been hunting for decades most deer hunting was done within 2 miles of where I have lease(s) today and within 5 miles of the public I hunt today. and can remember a time years ago well before the un-needed earn a buck of being able to see 25 plus deer a day. As a kid I fondly remember not needing any technology or other form of toy to keep me in the woods while hunting with my father and family. Now a days kids don’t even like going.... reason being is what’s the point. I personally hunted all 9 days of the gun season plus 6 evenings of muzzleloader season not to mention 30 plus outings wether morning or afternoon during bow season. And I know gun season I seen less than 5 deer all season of which only 2 at the same time. Muzzleloader season I know was only 7 deer 3 at one time and maybe 25 total deer thru out bow season. If you truly care about the sportsmen and women in this state please listen to this so hopefully in a couple more years my own 6 year old daughter will be able to shoot a deer here. Quit trying to eradicate the deer. Stop handing out endless doe tags. Stop trying to change Wisconsin’s traditions. Let the deer herd grow. License sales will rise. Hunters will be happier and enjoy there time afield more. And the next generation will get hooked as well. Common sense says if the animal your pursuing is scarce you will stop spending time and money in your pursuit of that animal.

I have lived here in Waushara County for 15 years. Now I live in the near the ski hill in Mount Morris. Now in the past 12 to 13 years us neighbors have had very little luck with in 30 acres of land next to each other. NOW the Main reason is, 1, OUR neighbors leave there corn in until Jan or Feb of every year. NOW we have cameras set up all over our lands. IT seems strange that just before deer hunting starts there is a very large decrease in the whole area. NOW after the season starts there is nothing on our cams or any trails of any source from any where. NOW we have deer plots 6ez, at least 10 apple trees or more, OAK & MAPLE TREES WITH PLENTY OF ACRONS. to OUR SURPRISE NO DEER AT ALL. we DON’T SEE ANY DEER OR ANY THING UNTIL AT LEAST UNTIL March or April. Also when we clean our lots up every spring we find loads of acorn nuts our food plots not touched and plenty of rotten Apples all around. NOW we have contacted the DNR about poachers in our area. ALSO its seems our famers do not get there bumper crops out of the fields in enough time, RIGHT??? US neighbors want to start a Petition to get the farmers to get the Corn out of the field in enough time, Would this be possible??? Also it has been done before we should have a PARTY PERMIT FOR ALL DOES. it WAS 5 HUNTERS WOULD BE ALLOWED 1 DOE FOR THERE PARTY. IN THE LAST 5 YEARS OR SO I STOP AT ONE OF THE DEER STATIONS AND ALL YOU SEE IS BAMBIES IN THE PARKING LOT. WHY, WHY, WHY??? EVEN THE BUCTERS ARE SAYING WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE CRAZY HUNTERS. THERE IS A VERY LARGE DECLINE IN THIS AREA AS FAR AS DOES SINCE YOU GIVE OUT MORE DOE TAGS THAN ANY THING ELSE, RIGHT??? I THINK US DECENT HUNTERS HAVE GIVEN UP SINCE THIS AREA DOES NOT HAVE ANY DEER OF EITHER SEX DUE TO THE CORN FIELDS AND OVER HUNTING OF BAMBIES. IT HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE TO START THE DEER SEASON A LITTLE LATER, WE KNOW THAT WOULD BE GREAT. IT COULD START THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING and GO THE 10 DAYS.
We have land in this county for the past 6 yrs and I can say there are not that many deer in this side of the county nor any wheres in this county. If we don’t get our deer by the beginning of gun season we will not see anything. I’m not sure just when buck was just for gun only season. I thought you could shoot them at any season. I do not favor an earn a buck because if you see a buck during bow but can’t shoot it because you have to shoot a doe you will not probably have that chance again guaranteed!! I’m not sure where you get all your deer you say we have in this county. You have be looking at certain pockets where there are deer. But as a whole there are not that many deer. How do you know that they are not the same deer you see all the time. Can you tell them all apart?? I know we have the same deer on our property all the time and that is only about 15 if that and not many buck. Issuing 3 tags is ridiculous. Two tags is too much. If nothing else issue one and if a hunter wants more they can purchase one. Plus it will create revenue for you. Our deer population in this county is not that plentiful. Visitors are not going to hunt here if you keep trying to kill the hunt in this county. Also this new season you are looking at is stupid. We have already 20 days of hunting. This new idea just doesn’t make sense. The 9 day hunt has always been the weekend before Thanksgiving and ending the sunday after Thanksgiving. After that you don’t see hunters out anymore. We’ve driven around this county after the 9 day gun and there is nothing. At that time people are not interested in hunting. Ice fishing is then the thing plus the holidays are happening. Leave the season’s as there are for bow and crossbow and gun.

I oppose extending the 9 day gun deer season. There is no good reason for this. I would like to see back tags come back so when I see someone trespassing I can easily get there info without confrontation! Crossbows should remain as archery equipment and should not have it’s own season if you single out crossbows single out compounds also it’s not traditional equipment I think that adding a point system like alot of the surrounding states would be nice have a 4point limit on 1 side this would help with seeing more mature deer I think it the minimum age for hunting big game/deer should be 8 to 10 I’ve seen pictures where 2 and 3 year olds supposedly shot deer do you really believe this? I’ve seen adults that cant hit a deer a 30yards but a 3 year old did this is just being abused by parents for a second buck tag I’m all for getting kids out and into hunting but they need to start on realistic game like squirrels and rabbits and not big game I would like to see doe tags that can be used in a bigger zone I grew up hunting all of southern Wisconsin green,rock,walworth,Jefferson,dodge,colubia county’s now I limit my self to 2 county’s due to having to buy doe tags for every county you want to hunt you should recieve 1 doe for the lower half of the state or the upper along with your state wide buck tag and if there are bonus tags for the county you selected you get those tags for that county I miss driving all over the state hunting all the different public but I’m not going to spend $50 extra to get tags to hunt in other county’s

I SAY LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE. DEER QRE FINELY COMING BACK AFTER YOU DESTROY IT WITH THE EARN A BUCK. I KNOW YOU ARE TRYING TO GET THE DOE KILL UP BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY FREE TAGS YOU GIVE YOU WONT GET HUNTERS TO DO IT AND IF YOU TRY THE DOE ONLY SEASON YOUR LICENSE SALES WILL TANK. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE DEER HAVE BEEN CHANGING THEIR HABITS BUT YOU NEED TO ALSO KNOW SO HAVE HUNTERS. THE DAYS OF THE MEAT HUNTERS ARE OVER. ITS ALL ABOUT THE BIG BUCKS NOW. WITH ALL THE TV SHOWS AND ADS AND STORY’S ON BIG BUCK THE INDUSTRY HAS EXPLODED WITH NOTHING BUT PRODUCTS AND ATTRACTANTS AND FOOD PLOT SEEDS THAT MOST PRIVATE LAND OWNERS ARE CREATING A HAVEN FOR BIG BUCK WITH A FOOD SOURCE AND WATER HOLES AND IT ALL ADDS UP TO BIG BUCKS AND ALL THE DOE’S RUN FREE. AGAIN YOU CANT MAKE THEM SHOOT THEM NO MATTER HOW MANY FREE TAGS YOU GIVE. ALSO. PLEASE DO NOT HAVE A HOLIDAY HUNT AS THIS TIME IN A LOT OF BOW HUNTERS IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES TO HUNT ESPECIALLY BIGGER BUCKS AND YES I SAY BIGGER BUCKS AND I DONT WANT TO HEARS THESE GUYS CRYING THAT THE GUN SEASON IS TOO LATE TO FIND BUCKS Trust ME THERE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL BUCKS STILL THERE THE KEY IS YOU CANT SHOOT A BUCK IN THE HOUSE WATCHING TV YOU NEED TO BE IN THE WOODS PERIOD. I DO KNOW EVEN WITH THE 9 DAY GUN SEASON AFTER OPENING WEEKEND THE NUMBER OF HUNTERS OUT IN THE WOODS DROP AND EVEN YOUR ANTLERLESS SEASON IN DECEMBER THERE ARE HARDLY ANY HUNTERS OUT PLEASE LEAVE THE SEASONS THE WAY THEY ARE THANK YOU
Every Fall I spend a lot of time in the deer woods. I’ve hunted the same general area for nearly 40 years. There are far fewer deer in my area than ever before. Yet you continue to add more seasons, more extra deer permits and anything else you can get passed to kill more deer. Deer damaging backyard gardens doesn’t cut it with me. People choose to live out of town and have moved into areas where they should have been smart enough to understand that wild animals will eat their plants. Deer car accidents are even less of an argument for reducing the deer numbers. Again, people choose to live in populated deer areas and drive 70 miles per hour in the dark on county roads and hit deer. Come on! Who should be paying for those accidents? If people were fined $500 for killing a deer (valued natural resource) with their car driving irresponsibly, I think there would be far fewer deer car accidents. The majority of car deer accidents are caused by poor judgement of the driver. Maybe the insurance companies should stop paying those claims and enabling that behavior. There are lots of accidents caused by alcohol, yet nobody is calling for fewer liquor companies! Why should Wisconsin’s resources be limited because people make poor driving decisions about how to drive and where to build their home? Think about it!!

Waushara Cty get linked in with Counties like Green Lake where deer populations are very high. For years Waushara has had declining deer numbers because of all the extra tags given to reduce numbers. I’m all for having antlerless tags to give hunters a chance to harvest game and put meat in the freezer but I think the tag numbers may be a bit high for Waushara Cty. As far as a State wide ban on baiting I’m 100% against it. Baiting deer is causing less harm than small food plots or large crop fields. CWD started in Deer farms and is a main contributor to This problem. Until Deer Farms are closed and illegal to operate I think it’s absurd to take away the rights of the hunters buying a licence. If they want to bait. I believe they have the right to do just that. Many States allow baiting and have very healthy deer herds just like we do in Wisconsin. These states also have some cases of CWD, just like ours. My personal belief is CWD has been around a lot longer than we think and our herds are still strong. We would have larger herds in Southern Wisconsin if we wouldn’t have decimated every healthy deer to try and eliminate so few affected deer. Please remove the ban For every County. Especially the Northern Forest.

We bow hunt a lot through October and November and see good numbers of deer, bucks and does. There just simply isn’t enough hunting pressure for the gun season. The deer are usually ending the rut and have locked down and are resting. At this point the only way the deer are going to move is if they are pushed and theirs not enough people in the woods to make this happen. So the hunters sit and do the deer. Years ago when hunters we up we would hear hundreds of shots a day and now I can pretty much count them on one hand. The 600 acre parcel that I hunt only has about 10 people on it and its not enough to make them move. This is why we spend more time bow hunting rather than gun hunting. While bow hunting I can see 10-15 deer a day and usually during the gun season I see one or two. Another issue is all the small parcels of land that has been bought up and isnt hunted and the hunters can hunt it so the deer go to a quite space and bed down where there isn’t any pressure. Years ago people hunted everything and worked together and this is why the deer were forced to get up off bedding areas and gave hunters a better chance at harvesting a deer.

When we agreed as hunters that we would allow anyone to use crossbows that was an agreement that should stand. Its an individuals choice whether to use a crossbow or conventional type bows. With the recent opprotunity to allow mentorship hunting for our youth some have opted to bush the crossbow for our young hubters to keep them interested in the sport. To have the possibility to only allow hunting with a crossbow for the month of October is insane. This would only allow the weekends for my child to hunt pending on my work schedule. This could not only be determent to succeeding the hunting culture but also discourage our youth from wantingbto hunt at all due to limited time to do so. If this ideology passes i will be one to step up and create a sanctuary on my many acres of land that will have no hunting and will allow the deer to populate as much as they want as long as i live. I will also make it known that we will no longer participate with huntingbin the state any longer and will take our money to out of state locations to continue our hunting ambitions.
10493 1. I have talked to private land owners that only hunt antler-less deer on public land to try and maintain deer numbers on their own property. 2. Farmers that have are having crop issues should open there land up to the public to help reduce the problem. trying to get access to private land is nearly impossible. 3. More people are putting stands on public land and leaving them up and not removing them each night. Trying to claim areas as theirs this need to be enforced much better. I have had a few bad encounters the past few years with this. 4. I have seen less deer each year which I attribute to more people hunting and more pressure on public lands in the area. I hunt a lot of public land in central Wisconsin and hunting pressure has definitely increased due to the following. Allowing crossbows hunting to anyone not just older or handicapped and deer numbers being so low in the northern county's. Bad winter kills and predators have significantly reduced the herd so people are looking for new areas to hunt.

10494 I have hunted this unit exclusively for 42 years. It used to be that I would always see some deer. In the last 4 years I once saw a doe with her (? 2 fawns. This maybe due to the amount of standing corn during the season. There is still a fair amount unpicked. That and 1/3 of my land has been underwater for the last 2 seasons. We did have Earn a Buck twice, and that seemed to lower our herd count. Plus I feel that there are some wolves about based on scat found. We do have a lot of coyotes. 2 years ago 3 neighbors combined trapped about 35 of them. Yet they are out howling on clear nights. No one in our group would willing way shoot a doe unless it is a cripple. Our younger hunters are exempt from this. We refer to the does we see as brood mates. Before baiting rules were enacted, there was a guy with a job of hauling away waste from vegetable canneries. One year deer ate 2 loads of carrots at approximately 25 tons per load. The first load was cleaned up in less than a month.

10495 I think that the seasons should stay the exact same dates that they have been and that crossbows and compound bows should be allowed consecutively as they have been the last few seasons. I appose any sort of earn a buck or antlerless season other than the Holiday Hunt. I would also be willing to pay substantially more money for the tags and registration to go back to the way it always was. I personally talk to many hunters in Waushara County that feel the same as I do about tags and registration stations. I’m certain there are thousands of deer a year in the state that hunters are accidentally forgetting to call in. I hear about it several times a year about a hunter shooting a deer or turkey and forgetting to call it in for days. Once several days pass and then they remember, they are scared to call in for fear of repercussions. The old way of notching a plastic type tag ensures that one cannot just reprint a tag at home and also makes you go to a registration station immediately to have it registered.

10496 I believe everyone would like to have a larger, healthier herd. There is no reason to give away more then 1 antlerless tag. If people want to buy an extra that is fine. Most of the people that are over harvesting aren’t even eating the deer personally. All of my years growing up hunting was hunters choice and we saw plenty of deer and everyone was able to harvest deer. I am an avid hunter and will be able to harvest as many deer as I have tags for but for the people who don’t have opportunity like I do to get into the woods I’m sure are very upset with the numbers. I have two young kids, I bring them with me hunting and they weren’t able to even see a deer sitting all day quietly. We need the numbers up so that everyone can enjoy being in the outdoors and seeing deer. For anyone over the age of 30 it’s about counting deer not killing deer. Keep the tag numbers down! Create a better herd! Help young people become interested! I used to see 60 deer a day. Now I see 0-4. Please help the heard grow.
Do not impose a Holiday hunt into archery season please. If you were to do this make it early in the season, such as in September, that way the rut is not affected by this Holiday Hunt. Also keep it strictly bow because I don't know how that would work if u had it as gun. I am assuming it would be archery but I just wanted to clarify that if it were to be a gun holiday hunt that would have a significant impact on the deer herds and would force them to go nocturnal which will ultimately end in less deer harvested. Also do not enforce an antler-less only season because that will affect the people that want to harvest bucks. Obviously the goal isn't to harvest a buck but people will harvest does as well during the late season. Again if you were to do an antler-less only season do it early like in September because I know a lot of people that won't shoot a doe late season because they are afraid that they will kill a doe that is carrying their monster bucks blood inside.

Bow hunting in this unit has been very good with many deer encounters and chances to harvest a deer if one chooses to. Gun hunting on the other had has been very low deer sightings the last few years, in 2018 I hunted 5 days and saw a spike, 2019 hunted 3 days and saw a doe and two fawns early opening day, did not come back for second weekend. Our group has (4) hunters and the years mention above we believe we saw the same deer at each of our stands. (2) members of the group hunt on 33 acres, (1) on 20 acres and (1) on 4 acre plots that are all connected. We have made comments to find some other hunting opportunities in place of our gun season, but we do not, due to (1) older and (1) younger member of the group. I hope this information helps! keep up the good work, I don't know how you stay positive with all the opinions out there. I love being in nature, harvesting an animal is a bonus for me, there is a lot of other things to see while on stand.

There are spots in Waushara county Like North Central (Springwater) where there are more than 100 deer seen per square mile and it is 100% private land where NO does are shot. The land owners do not and will not shoot does and will not allow anyone on their land to harvest any. A mile or 2 away where there is Public land where sightings of deer are rare, but have a lot of pressure from hunters. When bonus antlerless tags are giving out in these areas, it just drops an already low population lower. These type of areas are more common in Waushara county and represent a more realistic heard numbers. When the population numbers of example Springwater, are added into the overall population it makes it look like Waushara County is way over populated, when I believe it is the complete opposite. I do not have a good idea how to change this. You can not force someone to shoot a doe if they don not want to.

First, let me say thank you for not recommending an extended bow season. I hunt every year-- with a gun, sometimes with black powder, and sometimes with a bow. I am able to get my deer during the regular hunting seasons. My freezer is full. It is too cold to hunt in late December and early January. I also snowmobile and enjoy the winter. I realize that for the last 2 years, the snow has come later (Feb or March). However, when the snow does come, it only lasts about 4 weeks. If next year, the snow comes in December, we will miss the entire season if it only lasts for 4 weeks. Snowmobiling supports our local economy. Snowmobilers spend an average of $200/day/person when they come to use our trails. Make the gun season longer in November if the herd needs to be reduced (which I question) but don't interfere with the other sports: snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Giving 3 tags out this year is ridiculous. Two has even been to many. Reason, think about it. When you have 2 or 3 people hunting from one home and I'd they were lucky enough to fill those tags that is 6 to 9 deer just for gun!!! Who needs that many deer???? No one!!!! Then you put the bow season on that and it's even more out ravenous. Deer in this county are not that plentiful. Maybe by Poygan and a couple other little pockets but the western part of the county is pretty dry. I can only think that you got your data of so many deer from the Poyan and the other couple pockets. And I'm sure they are the same deer. Treat the whole county as one instead of looking at just a couple of areas that have a big herd. All you guys are doing is making people to not want to hunt. The DNR is screwing things up more and more to the point were hunting will no longer be a thing of enjoyment.
I don't think that the number of antlerless tags that we put with the purchase of a license matters to the number of antlerless tags that are filled. That is because of a bias of the hunters. Last year we had many deer on our property. But our heuristics were to shoot bucks only if we could. As we got our first buck we said the second buck had to be a big buck, then the third buck had to be a trophy. Well we ended up with three bucks and all the venison we wanted. But we ended up with a great deal of antlerless tags. We started to hunt public land at that time. But I am suggesting many hunters use these heuristics so the antlerless harvest is not what we expect. To change this I think a couple weeks of antlerless only hunting would increase the antlerless kill numbers. I would NOT enjoy the hunt as much then, but my love of hunting would have me out hunting antlerless deer.

I have hunted on my 100 acre property located in the Town of Saxeville for the past 30 years. In the early years the deer herd was plentiful and I was very selective of the deer that I harvested. As time goes on I continue to see the number of deer decrease due to an excessive number of antlerless deer taken each year. Last year was the worst hunting I have ever encountered. I sat for many days during the archery and firearms seasons and never saw a deer yet all I continue to hear about is all the deer the DNR says are out there. We have taken so many antlerless deer it is to the point where the deer herd has been nearly wiped out. Stop handing out all the antlerless and bonus tags and let the herd rebuild itself. I also oppose a holiday hunt. Most of the deer are taken in the archery and 9 day firearms season. If you dont have a deer by then your chances are not very good.

CWD must be the number one priority in herd management. We need more testing of harvested deer, and more aggressive measures to slow the spread of CWD. I recommend a limit of one buck per year for all weapon seasons combined, but then offer the ability to obtain a second buck tag (again for all seasons combined) if two doe are harvested. This will reduce population and likely be more popular with the masses than the traditional earn a buck season. We should also consider antler restrictions such as a minimum of 4 points on one side. This will help create more hunter interest because hunters like big bucks and it will result in more big buck opportunities. Adding hunters will ultimately help with harvesting more deer. In the meantime, killing older bucks instead of younger bucks helps to slow the spread of CWD because older bucks are more likely to have CWD.

As a whole, and after 38+ years hunting this area, I'm having a hard time keeping the next generation's level of enthusiasm for the season as I experienced at their age. My Dad introduced me to bow hunting in this area and it never disappointed with the amount of action we were able to experience together. Even as bumbling novices, we saw plenty and even brought venison home just about every public land we tried. These past years are a far cry in deer sightings and harvesting. I make it a point now to talk to every hunter I encounter just to see if it's just my poor skills in not seeing the amount of deer in years past. The consensus is unanimous; the "good ole days" are over. Until they really listen to the hunters, the licenses will decline along with the funding. Time to part ways with the insurance companies DNR executives!

I have private land and did not see a deer during the gun season on my land or a vast amount of public land, with little visible signs of deer. I do not believe enacting a longer gun season or giving Additional additional antlerless tags is the answer. I have seen few deer during bow season recently and have attributed it to too many earlier enacted gun hunt opportunities (youth hunt/ antlerless). Why is the DNR opening gun seasons so early and allowing So many non-traditional gun hunt seasons? In my opinion it needs to return to the old season schedule and allow additional antlerless tags be available during the traditional 9 day gun season and eliminate the youth hunt and antlerless hunts. I would rather see a holiday hunt added in December than the impact I've seen throughout multiple units on hunting by adding youth hunts and earlier antlerless hunts.
I'm very involved with my oak savanna and prairie restoration project. I spend many hours closely watching plant and tree health and growth. I've become keenly aware of the staggering amount of deer browse damage to white and bur oak. It's almost impossible to even find new oak growth and virtually all young oak is heavily browsed. Between invasive buckthorn and a deer population that's more than double what it should be will we even have hardwood forests in the future? Given the declining number of hunters and inadequate number of natural predators can our DNR policy even hold the deer population steady? In 2019 in Waushara County hunters didn't request all available bonus antlerless tags. How will offering even more in 2020 help. Soon deer may need to be managed as pests rather than game. Thank you and best wishes.

I have hunted in Waushara for the better part of half century. I have seen ups and downs in the deer population. Hunting practices have changed with more hunters just sitting in their stands/blinds and very few looking for trails, bedding areas, feeding areas, and rutting areas. Very few hunters are involved in deer drives and most depend on baiting for deer. Today hunters are lazy. If the deer do not approach the hunter where the bait is planted they do not even see it. They also contribute to the deer going nocturnal after opening day of the rifle season. Crossbows were once only used by persons over 65, or with some injury which required the use of that weapon. The same argument was used when compound bows arrived on the scene. Most compounds are accurate to extreme yardage along with the crossbows.

I do not think that adding more antlerless licenses to the general deer tag will result in more antlerless deer shot. Most hunters are only going to shoot one (or maybe two) deer anyway. If someone wants to shoot 4, 5, or 6 deer, let them, but make them pay for the extra tags so that wildlife management can benefit from the increased revenue. Also, I would like to see some antler restrictions implemented. Encouraging antlerless harvest by default increases harvest of buck fawns leaving that many fewer bucks that can reach 3-4 years of age. The least that you can do for someone that wants to harvest a nicer buck is to let the yearling bucks pass through the system. Yeah, that probably screws up the SAK models, but the reality is that many people are already passing up bucks so it should be incorporated anyway.

It seems important to the DNR to issue antlerless tags per licence to allow the population to be decreased in the Waushara farmland region and many other regions with similar conditions. I hunt with my son and his three sons. That makes five in our party. We hunt on a portion of a 150 acre private land shared with two other hunters. Our party of 5 all bow hunt and gun so that means that we received or would receive 3 extra antlerless tags per license as is proposed and was I believe issued in the past. That comes to a total, for all licenses, of 30 does to be shot on this 150 acres. REALLY! Last year we harvested 5 bucks and no does even though we readily hunted for both. The year before we harvested 3 bucks and 3 does. Our numbers are much more in line with what really happens in the field and yours should also.

My wife only gun hunts and in ten years of hunting she's only seen 2 bucks. She has seen two does a season in that 10 years. My son hunted with me for the 1st time this year for gun and we never saw a deer. I am a avid bow hunter and when I was 5 years old out in the stand with my Dad we used to see an average of 25 to 30 deer in a morning or evening sit. Now between my brother inlaw, Dad, and I we are lucky if we see one deer a weekend now. We have 5 cameras set up on 40 acres and in one weeks time are lucky to have 5 pictures of deer. We see more wolves, coyotes, lynx, bobcat, and prey birds than deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, and partridge. No bucks should be shot under 6points and ear width, and no does for gun season. And no special hunts, one doe tag for bow.
I understand that the DNR states that the deer herd needs to be decreased, but in my opinion, the deer herd is already way too low. I am sick and tired of going deer hunting, both bow and gun, and not seeing any deer. I am trying to introduce my son and daughter to hunting, but I am not having much success. My son and daughter have both went gun hunting for the last three years and each of them have see zero deer. Zero deer in three years for both of my kids. I always keep hearing how the number of deer hunters is declining and how we need to get our kids involved in hunting. Well, I am trying, but my kids are not going to want to go hunting if they aren't going to see any deer. The deer population is way, way too low. The deer population need to INCREASE!!!

Despite 2 packs of wolves in the area based on observation our deer numbers in the far north west corner of the county seem to be stable over the last few years. Approximately 12 years ago we over harvested the area, filling most of the tags we had available. For the next 5 years seeing deer during the season was rare. We have since learned to manage the herd in our area on our own along with QDM we have quality hunts with 1 or 2 trophy bucks coming out of our area every season (archery and gun). One additional thing I have noticed is how the deer herd correlates to the turkey population in our area. More turkeys/ less deer. We seem to have a good balance at this time, but it has fluctuated over the years. I hope this information helps in your study.

Here we go again. Another year of commenting about trying to keep our snowmobile trails open through the Christmas and New Year's week. The holiday hunt should be abolished once and for all. As a snowmobile club member, we spend eight months of the year going to meetings. Many things are discussed including trail maintenance, budgets and fundraisers. We spend many hours maintaining the trails by cleaning out fallen trees and branches, repairing bridges and putting up and taking down trail markers. Many hours are spent on groomer maintenance and grooming the trails when we have snow. A lot of time is spent behind the scenes preparing for the snowmobile season. Please do not cut it short. It's our time to ride and enjoy the great outdoors!

The deer population is getting bigger where i live because of 1 landowner buying all the land he can. Only his close family hunts on 1000 acres On my land my family is shooting all the tags we get. Been doing that for a while now. It's not that easy to do. Holiday hunt will help that. If you have a holiday hunt I can't figure out why you wouldn't extend the archery season also. I bow hunt and harvested several deer late season. Deer are deer no matter how they are killed. You are taking days away from the bow hunters without giving something in return. It can't hurt nothing but the population. NO matter what NO earn a buck! with the laws as they are now anyone could call a doe in. who do you need to show? you don't need proof!

Why not impose antler restrictions to 4 on one side? This could force people to shoot more does instead of bucks. Also giving hunters more chance to shoot deer is another way to get rid of does. Extend the archery out even longer. Holiday hunts are a waste of time, and take away from snowmobiling. If they extend the rifle season, I don't see any need for additional doe only seasons. There would be ample time to fill all your doe tags over 16 or 19 days and extend archery seasons. Giving out more doe tags is not the answer either. Alternating every other year of doe only season through the whole year I think would be something to try. It would also make bucks bigger and make waushara county a go to county for big bucks.

I don't see why your goal is to reduced the herd. I see far less deer now than I did 15 years ago. You say it is to stop cwd but the only way to stop that completely is no deer. You stopped baiting etc. that is a good step now let the heard grow some. Stop letting the insurance companies influence your decision on deer numbers. There is more cars on the road than ever and the amount of cars on the road is increasing every year and therefore the number of deer car collisions will naturaly increase. If people don't want to worry about hitting deer they should stay in town. We need more deer not less. There should be less antlerless deer tags. People are giving it away or wasting it so let it live in the woods.
I strongly oppose the current crossbow hunting season and rules. What was wrong with the old way where ONLY disabled hunters or 65 years or older could use them? Opening it up to anyone like it is now has created an unfair advantage for the crossbow hunters and makes traditional and compound bowhunting much less enjoyable. I’ve seen a lot more hunting pressure due to that. If you want more deer harvested or more interest in hunting I recommend going back to the old way of crossbow hunting and possibly extending some of the other seasons. This new way has definitely seemed to do more harm than good in the hunting community! Thank you for your time!

The deer herd in this unit tends to be more abundant near ag fields. Away from them the density of the heard is far less. Your numbers are taken strictly by ag fields. While no data is collected away from these areas. The insurance companies pad the pocket books of the politicians pressing for more deer to be killed. This is the major cause of anger by archery hunters and gun deer hunters alike. Instead of listening to the insurance companies. Start listening to the real hunters out there. And not the ones that hunt over corn fields and 5 acre food plots. Not everyone has access to those sources and those people see far fewer deer while hunting.

I find it very puzzling that you complain you want more deer killed in farmland zones yet you continue to handicap the hunters. I hunt my brothers land in Waushara county so I designate private land on my license. He owns 28 acres of land. So now I am limited to killing a doe in your farmland unit to those 28 acres. Doesn’t seem logical to me. I used to hunt public land in Waupaca and Outagamie counties and still can. Maybe I could kill a doe for you in one of those farmland units but I’ll be damned if I’ll buy more tags. Once again , do you want more deer killed or not ? Then quit tying the hunters hands.

Earn a buck ruined the traditional hunt and it has not been the same since. Society wants hunters to take kids hunting but if there is very few deer that doesn’t work. When you see more Wolves and Coyotes than deer its not good and it keeps growing in numbers every year. ( pictures to prove) This site talked on mortality rates on the deer but they are from 2011-2014 right after that is when the wolf population around here started to increase. You have your counts of deer and I have mine with over a 20 year study and numerous camera’s. I would like to believe I'm not being lied to but I know what I know in a scientifical study of my own.

Leave things the way they are. Do not try to add more hunts that hinder the ability to harvest a buck or a doe throughout the season. If the counsel wants to make things better in waushara county and increase the harvest numbers, then ban shining and food plots so the deer go back to natural patterns. Waushara county has a perfect deer herd, but are driven to be primarily nocturnal because of shining. Also there is no baiting in the county, which should include food plots, they are both made to attract deer to a certain location. It's time that you guys start acting like the smart people that you are and that I have faith in.

I have 3 comments; not being able to cross bow hunt in the month of November would take the rut away from a lot of guys which I believe is completely unfair. Second the phone reporting is throwing your numbers WAY off. I know lots hunters and have talked with even more that "forgot" or didn't bother calling in their deer harvest. It's not a viable choice for tracking the numbers of deer harvested. And finally, a gun season longer than what it is now, would be ridiculous. You'd have more hunter accidents and even more deer NOT being reported. Thank you for all you do to keep us hunting and enjoying the outdoors!

A holiday hunt would eliminate the snowmobile season for December. The one season in the past several years where there was enough snow in December to open the trails there was a holiday hunt and the trails could not be opened. With the current economic environment I believe that bars and restaurants will be looking for all the business they can get. Snowmobiling brings them a lot of business. Also, I believe gas stations do well when the snowmobile season is good. Snowmobiling is good for the local economy. I can’t speak for hunting’s contribution to the economy but from what I’ve heard it doesn’t help much.
Please go back to a 4 party system for antlerless deer along with a 9 day season, cut out all the other hunts ie: holiday hunt, youth hunt, etc. etc. etc. Bottom line leave the does alone it does not take rocket science to figure out that they are the one’s that produce future deer! I have hunted many years and am disgusted totally with the DNR and how they use tax payer money to fund things over the years to ask for input only to do what they want anyway! I am seriously considering retiring from hunting or not even purchasing a license and take my chances.

Please consider a one buck limit per year per hunter. I would hope this would accomplish a few things which I feel are vital to the future of Wisconsin deer hunting. First, additional opportunities for all hunters to harvest an antlered deer. Second, once a hunter harvests her or his buck they then could solely focus on harvesting antlerless deer, thus reducing deer numbers. Third, I believe it would be much more agreeable than an antlerless only season or earn a buck. Fourth, it could lead to an increase in the quality of antlered bucks, thus increasing the economic value of our deer.

As a hunter, I spend a lot of time preparing and scouting. Deer hunting is my biggest hobby. Deer numbers on my land still haven’t recovered from pre-Earnabuck levels. 50-75% of people gun hunting in my group the last four years did not see a deer in 3 days of hunting. It’s very frustrating and takes the fun out of it. Many of my friends are thinking about quitting. With hunting in decline across the U.S., we need to make hunting appealing and not keep dragging down the deer numbers. Seeing deer makes it fun, so if we aren’t seeing any deer, there’s no reason to keep doing it.

the comments of one of the advisors shows his ignorance, when asked why the kill rate was down he came up with the excuse that the rut was early and the gun deer season was late. That dose not explain why deer hunters cant kill enough deer in 3 plus months to reach their quota, but he stated that it was ok to take away the possability for snowmobile trails to open in December because there's been no snow. YOU CANT KILL ENOUGH DEER IN 3 PLUS MONTHS SO LETS TAKE AWAY THE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS OPENING EARLY, IF THEY SHOULD GET SNOW. NO TO ANY ADDITIONAL GUN OR BOW SEASONS, NO HOLIDAY HUNT!

I have lived in the same house for 40 years. I have never seen so many deer. Every night there are a minimum of six or more deer in my garden. My landscaping is ruined. Every single shrub has been destroyed by deer. Driving between my farms I see deer at all hours of the day and night. Max speed is now about 20 miles per hour-unless you want to run the risk of hitting one of these animals-and wrecking your vehicle. Deer shouldn't be protected-landowners should be free to shoot deer all year long until such time as the herd is brought down to a reasonable level.

Regardless of what the "experts" are expecting us to believe, there are far fewer deer within our county than there have been in the past. This condition likely derives from several factors, including the number of antlerless animals that are harvested and predation that the Department steadfastly refuses to acknowledge is occurring. If the Department is serious about its incessant efforts to develop the next generation of responsible, ethical hunters then it should be more conscious about having an adequate availability of game for the young hunter to pursue.

Studies cannot be anywhere near accurate when they’re performed in an open field and "guessing" on the amount of deer there is per square mile. One field might have 100 deer and the next 10 miles of woods has nothing. I have seen opening day deer hunts where we would see 50 deer a day. I am not suggesting we have to go back to that but now we’re getting lucky to see 1. I can't even get my kids interested when we continually go out and see 0 deer. This is absolutely the wrong thing to do to add more doe tags and to continue bringing the fun out of hunting.
For years, my family and myself have enjoyed the winter sports of snowmobiling and cross country skiing in Waushara County. Many of our trips have occurred during the month of January, year after year. I do not agree with this change, as it would take the whole month off the calendar. It would not be to our benefit to purchase WI snowmobile passes for such a short season. We would also no longer be spending our money on hotels, restaurants, and bars in the area. I do not support the additional deer hunting season proposed for the month of January.

I, as many others, have discussed how we miss being able to take day trips throughout the state during deer season and hunt other areas that have say different topography, for the fun of the deer hunt season. Now that we have the current structure we can’t have a spontaneous day hunts because we have to obtain a specific county tag (private or public) for an antler-less. Which isn’t always easy to get during the season. Its too bad, like the buck tag, that a state wide antlerless tag isn’t sold. Just a thought outside of the current structure. Thank you.

I would like us to not have youth hunts period most adults are taking their young children out during the gun deer season anyways maybe offer an additional tag during the normal gun deer season. Having the extra youth hunt I believe dampers the deer movement during the gun deer season and let’s face it the adults are the ones harvesting the deer for their children. Have the youth hunts be on wildlife preserves not public or private properties an they should be supported by a DNR representative of some type that is watching the child harvest the deer.

Lots of traditional and compound bow hunters are losing interest because of the surge of crossbow hunters and the unfair advantage. I propose going back to the old way where only people disabled or 65 and older could use a crossbow. There was absolutely nothing wrong with that. If you want more deer harvested you can change the amount of tags handed out or lengthen seasons if needed. I think the current way for people allowed to use crossbows is slowing going to decrease the amount of people that hunt deer because of the unfair advantage.

We have few deer in the county. Hunters left the woods because of it. Your public land hunting is a joke. Private lands only do well with large acres. That way they can manage their own land and not be to effected by how bad the deer are being managed. Why do you think quality deer management has taken a hold in so much land in Wisconsin. A lot of people are tired with the way wisconsin runs it’s deer herd. It’s time to go back to the old ways. Run it like the 70’ and 80’s and you will do well. You have the records from them now use them.

I listened to the CDAC call. There are not too many deer. The deer/car accidents have decreased for the last two years. It seems like this group was trying to justify high deer numbers, when the data showed they had remained steady or declined (the deer/car incidents and the lower deer kill). You could give 100 antlerless tags free with every buck tag and it would not increase the antlerless kill much. I have talked to many of our neighbors that have hunted here longer than I. The population is in a pretty good place right now.

If hunters aren’t getting enough time to get out and kill a deer then more season needs to be added. Make the season a 16 day season. The hunting season being open during Christmas is not necessary. The argument of needing a separate muzzleloader season is also unnecessary as that weapon can be used at any time during gun season. Also, people are going to have to get used to the earn a buck program for a few years until the population gets in line. I realize it requires legislative action but that is what needs to happen. PERIOD!

We have 100 acres of land for great deer retention including non disturbed areas for bedding, ponds for water, and plenty of natural food growth. Over the last ten years we have seen a steady decline in deer numbers. The early special hunts put the deer on alert and most go nocturnal movements. We stay away as not to disturb them hoping they aren’t bothered and feel they can stay on our land. Once the nine day season starts we do expect to see deer. We ask for no more special seasons prior to the traditional nine day hunt.
You'll never reduce the herd by extending hunting time in the woods. Time in the woods is not the solution to the problem of excessive deer herd. The solution is hunter access to where the deer are. We now have most hunters with 5-10 acre small parcels they’ve bought or have access to for a place to hunt. Those hunters push deer into area's where hunters aren't. Big tracts of land, where pressure is low and hunter selectivity is high (trophy). Want to reduce the herd? Solve the hunter access to good huntable land problem.

I cannot believe that they want to increase the kill in Waushara County has anybody ever drove around at night and looked in the fields there isn't any or barely any go to other counties you will see a lot more deer quit letting the insurance companies tell you what to do I know this because of the deer in my backyard has decreased to a point where I barely see any deer anymore used to see 6 to 8 deer now I see one maybe two not good do not shoot any antlerless deer is in with Waushara County For at least three years

I believe more than enough antlerless permits are given out, but only certain individuals or groups fill their antlerless tages and hunters will need to be incentivized to use a antlerless tage. Earn A buck is effective but a lot of hunters are against it. You could say that one antlerless would Earn a buck for your both your archery and firearms buck for those hunters that do not believe in shooting antlerless deer. In my opinion without Earn A Buck there is no way to get certain individuals to harvest antlerless deer.

I feel the deer herd does need to be decreased for keeping CWD out of county and reducing deer/car accidents. 2 antlerliss tags is enough as for myself seldom fill those with a harvest. As I have recently, 2 yrs purchase non-resident license I only purchase the bow/crossbow license because of expense, and now harvest one less deer per year. So if this helps my last 3 season's included 3 bow and 1 gun license = 4 buck / 8 antlerliss tagging options 12 total and I used 2 buck and 2 antlerliss tags, so 8 tags never used

If you want more Deer Harvested, Brig back the 2 gallon limit of baiting. If you are worried about CWD, Shut down the penned Deer farms, statistically, in my opinion, that's where CWD comes from in the first place. If you make baiting illegal, then shut it down in the whole State. Or open it in the whole state. Bring back the tagging system and registration stations. You will see a better harvest. I believe a lot of kills go unreported with the call-in system as people forget to report it within 24 hours.

In general I believe that the number of doe harvested has negatively impacted the deer herd. Most of the farms in the area are corporate, carry insurance against crop loss and therefore loss is negligible. I am on my land frequently outside of hunting seasons. If I see deer 6-10 times a year that is a lot. Yes there are some road kills, but I don't think insurance companies should have any impact on harvest numbers. Additionally, with online registration, it is my belief that numbers are being under reported.

We have been hunting the same 400 private acres with the same guys (more or less) for 40 years. Initially the harvest was poor but a few decades ago it improved. The past several years have been a disaster. The great majority of our group buy nonresident licenses and don't get their moneys worth from hunting 5 days in ideal habitat and not seeing a deer. An earlier hunt might help, but would conflict with Michigan’s gun hunt. I frequently walk the land and I'm not seeing a lot of deer on a regular basis.

I have hunted here for 41 years and the number of deer on our farm and surrounding farms is similar in the 41 years if you look at the deer numbers in cycles...we have had more deer than what we have now we have had less and most of this depends on the Winter. My own feeling is most people are responsible enough to handle this on their own without instituting these crazy ideas like earn a buck or some of the proposals being mentioned here...I also do not believe that hunters are registering their deer...

I don’t believe we need to change anything with the deer regulations, I think things are fine the way they are. People who want to harvest a deer will, For myself and others I want the opportunity to harvest a nice animal each year, does that mean it will happen absolutely not that is why its called hunting. I hope we leave the bow and gun regulations the way they are I personally have not seen a lot of does that past 2 years. For the people who are in charge please leave things the way they are.
Deer are becoming concentrated due to owners having bigger tracks of lands like 100 or more acres and with food plots on them. And they limited the amounts of hunters on them. I own multiple smaller tracks/parcels in Waushara county and this is the truth some groups see on the average of 15-20 deer per day and at least 5-6 bucks per day in which I observe luckily too see 1-2 deer per 9 day gun season. And after the 9 day gun season it is still the same till the end of the deer season.

Private land owners vary so much on acreage. Large tracts commonly use quality management. Therefore harvesting "Quality deer" (large bucks, less does). You then have smaller tracts that are usually "meat hunters". How can the state handle these two totally different hunting philosophies?? Is education on "Herd management" for all property owners, large and small help? I don't live in the county but have hunted there my whole life. Personally the last 3 seasons gun hunting have been awful.

From my observation, the deer population in eastern Waushara County is severely diminished. The opportunity to see, let alone harvest a deer during the firearms season has steadily declined scenes the earn-a-buck era. It makes it extremely difficult to introduce young hunter to the sport when seeing a deer, let alone having the opportunity to harvest one is nearly non existent. I would like to see the doe tags reduce one per person per year to be used with either archery or a firearm.

My own experience and survey of family, friends, relatives, and casual conversations with strangers have shown that there is a significant discrepancy between the number of deer in the deer herd to what the CDAC is leading the hunting population to believe. Sit in the woods, hunt year over year in the same location, and you will come to the conclusion that the biggest problem is over harvesting, deer baiting, and blocks of forest being bought and developed for executive country homes.

The number of hunters crowded onto the public land moves deer into the private land. The ratio of actual hunters per acre of public land vs Hunter per acre of private land causes the deer to move off the public land onto private land. I believe the best way to control the deer population is to create opportunity by opening private land by programs that reward land owners for opening their land. Tax breaks for private land not open is creating large tracts of deer sanctuaries.

The deer population is finally coming back from a number of years ago when the DNR's choices destroyed the deer population. It's sad when you have 35 acres of woods in the midsts of hundreds of acres of woods in full county blocks, sit 9 days, and maybe see 1 or 2 deer, means the population is too low!! use to be able to see 6-12 deer a day, just had to wait for a buck, Now you have to shoot the first thing you see just to fill your tag! Quit screwing with the populations!

I have hunted this DMU for 50 years and have seen the decline in the deer population for the last 20 years, yet more and more permits and desired harvest number keep going up. I think the models or counting methods are out of date, as they don't reflect reality. I've hunted the same area and have gone from seeing 20-30 deer on opening day to seeing 4-5 for the whole season. I'm not seeing what the projected harvest should be and I live here and I'm in the woods daily.

Herd is healthy, but predators are healthier. In Mount Morris we have an over abundance of coyotes/coywolf that decimate fawns. On 150 acres we have 2 known coyote kills of adult deer over winter. Competition with coyotes and wolves make it difficult for a successful harvest for hunters. No opinion on baiting, as I had better success in 2015 and 2016 when we concentrated on food plots, and are going back to food plots as a priority for a successful hunt.

I feel deer numbers are finally beginning to return to where they should be. ‘d earn a buck was to come back that would be a serious detriment to deer hunting. Earn a buck was the worse thing to ever happen to hunting. The antlerless hunt needs to stop as well. In regards to crossbows todays compound bows are equally comparable so there should be no change to use of them. I would like to see the muzzleloader season move to the week before Christmas.
I strongly oppose cross bow use during archery season! It has a stock, forearm, a trigger mechanism, and a scope! This gives cross bow hunters an unfair advantage to kill antlered deer during the extended "archery" season. Cross bow season should have been combined with Muzzleloader for Antlered permit and use in any gun season (general 9-day, muzzleloader and any holiday "antler less" season). It makes sense and it would be more fair in my opinion.

I have observed in the last three seasons that Waushara county’s deer heard is on a gradual rise from the vast over harvest that took place in the early years of antlerless only season and earn a buck practices. The deer heard does not have near the number of deer it did 15 years ago but there are more deer then 8 years ago. I strongly feel the heard is around a healthy population and the county’s goal should be to maintain, not reduce the population.

Please do not take out more deer out of the woods. We see much fewer deer in the woods then we did in the past. It is difficult to keep the young hunters interested when they see just a few deer in the 9 days of gun season. We saw many more deer years ago. We have hunted and shined the same land for decades and no matter what people say...(the way you hunt has changed or weather or timing of seasons), there are much less deer in the woods. Thank you

I hunt other countries of the Taylor county and the Mauston area, I have bow and gun hunted the area north of Wautoma for 45 years and over the last 5 years I have never seen fewer deer. Between the bears and coyotes the fawns don’t stand a chance. 25-30 years ago opening day Morning of sounded like war with all the gun shots, now it’s quite. Talk to the same neighbors I have always had and their grand kids, they all see and shoot fewer deer

I am a hunter in Waushara County and I oppose the recommended Holiday Hunt. I feel that the State is hurting opportunities for other types of outdoor recreation such as snowmobiling and cross-country skiing during the week of Christmas. Please try to come up with an alternative to the Holiday Hunt such as a longer regular season ending by December 15. I don't think that the Holiday Hunt has effectively helped reduce the herd in our area.

Overall hunting numbers are on the decline. These anterless only hunts take away from the people that are truly working to manage the harvest and let small bucks pass. Putting all these anterless tags out there allows these people who will harvest "anything" to continue to not help the overall population or sport! Try looking for a better way to get more hunters, younger hunters, interested in being in the field.

I would like to inform the panel that 2019 was by far our worst deer season ever. Our group hunts exclusively on private land during the gun season that is both farm field and woods. I personally saw only 2 deer during the season and hunted all 8 out of the 9 days. Typically i would see 10+ deer a day. The rest of our group had similar results on the 800 acre farm. The numbers in our area were very low last year.

I think the rain and wet land influenced the hunt in our area of the County. Hunters to the east of our land weren’t able to hunt because of the level of water on their property. If an anterless only hunt Is established my family will not be hunting. We did not see the typical number of deer this past year and would not contribute to decreasing the deer population further by harvesting only anterless deer.

Too many hunters on public land and too few deer has been the recurring issue every year since I purchased a home in the area and hunt. Without private land the chances are a lottery statistic that you'll see a deer and get a shot. Sitting in my stand before day light to have the sound of what you think is a deer only to be hunters walking into the woods during early daylight ruins the hunt every year.

I have a concern about more relating to hunting. Over the past several years hunting in this area I have seen fewer and fewer deer that we thinking about skipping years from hunting to allow the deer to populate a bit more. 4 years ago, there was a decent opportunity to harvest a nice sized deer. Over the past few years the opportunity is less forcing hunters to take smaller deer.
As in the past, I continue to oppose a holiday hunt in Waushara County (and all other counties). I believe you are provided plenty of time to hunt before that period of time. Businesses are suffering enough right now with COVID-19. We need to give them every opportunity to try and catch up over the holiday season. More tourism from snowmobilers means more support for businesses.

Money invested in snowmobiling is a lot. Snowmobiles, trailers, clothes, gas, lodging, registration and trail passes. With this kind of money invested in the sport I do not want my season cut short with a holiday hunt. Do what you need to do out of the snowmobile season. My family is all together Christmas through New year's and we look forward to snowmobiling during that time.

Our deer sightings have decreased significantly over the last decade. We are still planting food plots and improving habitat, but it's not helping. In my opinion does have been over harvested during that time period. We can now grow white pine trees, so the deer are not being stressed over winter. My vote is for 1 doe permit per hunting license. Thank you for your time.

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I hunt on the very eastern side of the county and have seen less and less deer each season I've been out there. I hunt private land that borders public. This area does not have the deer numbers the rest of the county must. I do not support a holiday hunt. I would support Earn A Buck before any other measure. Silly to get rid of it and its proved time and time again.

The proposes brought forth are glaring examples of why hunter participation (aka- revenue) is down. People want deer numbers increased. The special hunts and ridiculous rules are an annoyance at best and "over kill" at its worst. The DNR and CDAC have to start asking how much longer before A- hunters stop buying licenses or B- hunters stop buying licenses and still hunt.

The registration reports on per hour sightings seems absurd. Sightings by myself, my father and cousins on the adjacent parcels, drop drastically after opening day of the gun season. Zero-sighting days for the last 7 days of the gun season are not uncommon. I am not saying the data is incorrect, but that the point attempting to be made with it is not actually supported.

If the dnr believes what it says about the late gun opener and wet areas that were unhuntable resulting in lower harvest numbers then why are they always trying to change the season format. The only season to be looked at is the crossbow season, leave traditional seasons the way they are in regards to archery and gun/muzzleloader and drop the doe only and holiday hunts.

I personally hope the gun deer season is not extended and there is no change to crossbow season. If the big concern was a low number of deer harvested with gun then stop giving out so many tags which depletes the herd. I understand the herd needs to be managed but you can't have so many hunts and tags available yet expect hunters to see ample deer when in the woods.

I own 127 acres in this deer management and enjoy hunting. I am also an avid snowmobiler. If the Board decides to hold a holiday hunt, it will keep snowmobilers off the trails even longer. Like hunting, snowmobiling brings a lot of revenue to our community and others along the trail. Please do not force me to trail my sleds farther north.

Completely get rid of the entire council of ???. That make up these crazy registrations, from 1971 to last year, 2019, I use to see 10-15 deer a day during bow hunting and gun hunting, last 2 years I saw “0” for 9 days during gun season!!!! You guys ruined the entire bow and gun season!!! And you bozos wonder why nobody is buying a license?? Fix it!!!!

Strongly oppose extending the deer season through the month of January. Snowmobiling is vital to the area. Short season to begin with. One of the main reasons I own a house in this area is because of the snowmobiling and easy access to the trail system. I am a member of a snowmobiling club as well. Please do not force me to trail my sleds farther north.
I like to see ample numbers of deer available to harvest. I think if you add that many antlerless permits people will abused it and it will reduce The herd too far just like we did with the earn a buck back in the 2000s.I also have three kids that are going to be hunting soon I want them to be able to have the opportunity to harvest deer. for a freezer

If Wisconsin has extended gun and bow seasons it will ruin the population and won't bounce back. A lot of people are greedy and will shoot any deer that moves and don't participate in QDM. We can't just take and take some more. That's not how it works. It's is our job as hunters to preserve the wildlife we have, not dwindle it down to nothing.

I have thoughts on state hunting seasons. Where can I comment on them. I did go to the next page and found out there are no opportunities to talk about state regulations. I would like to abolish the muzzleloader season and just make the total gun season two weeks long and you can use muzzleloader or rifle or shotgun during the whole time.

Well I'm very upset that all the changes that DNR has made in the last four years, stop all these extra hunts have bow, gun, and late season bow. And for baiting it needs to be legal during the winter months after hunting seasons to help deer make it through harsh winters, food plots are the same as putting food on the ground period!!!!!

I am not happy with the number of deer I’ve seen in the past several years during the gun hunt. I see fewer deer each year. For the 2017 hunt I saw 1 deer. For 2018 3 and for 2019 4. For many years I used to see multiple groups of multiple deer but this has not happened in a long, long time. Deer hunting is fast losing its appeal for me.

Why can't the archery season be extended w/out there ALSO being a holiday hunt? If the goal is to reduce the deer herd, there is ample opportunity to do so before the holiday hunt which overall participation is pretty low. Many people also have some days off of work during that time that they could use to get out and archery hunt.

Eliminate any antler-less hunts statewide. No T-zone, no holiday hunt, and no earn-a-buck. Issue one buck tag and one doe tag that is useable statewide on public or private land and allow residents to purchase one bonus tag. If the DNR is adamant on having an antler-less hunt, designate the youth hunt to an antler-less only hunt.

Archery season. Gun season. Muzzleloader. Late archery. 1 BUCK TAG gun and archery 1DOE TAG For gun and archery No doe hunts. No holiday hunts and stop giving out so many doe tags. It doesn’t make sense. Deer numbers are down so we put out more tags? That’s ridiculous. 9 days for a gun hunt is MORE than enough time to hunt.

I am opposed to a holiday hunt. Winter sports such as cross country skiing and snowmobiling already have a short season and are unable to be enjoyed during gun season. Number of hunters participating in a holiday hunt would be minimal and their contribution to the local economy would be less than winter sports could provide.

I would like to see an extended archery season come back to Waushara county. Overall I think it is a fun time of the season for hunting and if our overall goal is to decrease the population, I don’t see why we wouldn’t have this season. Thank you for the opportunity for the public to weigh in on these topics and regulations.

I would wonder why, with a 3rd year objective of reducing the deer herd in Waushara county, a recommendation to hold a Holliday hunt, but not extend the archery season?? The objective is to reduce the size of the herd! But, not allowing all the tools available to hunters, is not in alignment with CDAC recommendations!

Bottom line is there are a lot of people around me that don’t shoot does. That’s what they believe is right witch I don’t believe that it actually hurts the herd with to much does. I think putting baiting back in the county and the surrounding county’s will help with your objective on getting the herd under control

I disagree with the objective to lower the population. I have talked to several neighbors and all agree the deer numbers have improved but are not too high. The lower buck kill and deer-car accidents show this. We need to take some more antlerless deer but it is against the culture of those I talk to take does.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1778</td>
<td>I am totally against trying to increase the harvest. Deer populations are way too low in this area. Something needs to be done to increase the numbers. I am so disappointed not seeing deer during the season or for that matter out of season. It is to the point where I may not even buy a license at least for 2020.</td>
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<td>1779</td>
<td>Deer numbers in the area/land we hunt are finally getting to levels I as a landowner we feel are finally comfortable with. We don’t see any ag damage or overbrowsing compared to other areas/counties. We are hoping the CDAC doesn’t do anything to mess this up with non-essential holiday hunts or doe only hunts.</td>
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<td>1780</td>
<td>I really like the idea of a 19 day hunt. It would be nice if the gun season could start a little sooner. Rut is mostly over by the time gun season starts. Is there anyway to make it possible to use tags in different counties? Like maybe login into DNR with tag # and inputting county you want to switch to?</td>
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<td>1781</td>
<td>Please do not have an antlerless only hunt for all seasons because I believe that this will greatly effect the decrease of hunters that will go hunting. I for one will not go hunting if this is the case. I can also assure you that all others in my hunting party agree with me on this point.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1782</td>
<td>It is time for you to stop believing everything the DNR is telling you. WE DON'T HAVE TO MANY DEER IN THE COUNTY!!!!!!! We had way more deer 10 to 30 years ago. It was easier to get new hunters excited about hunting when they could actual see some deer. STOP KILLING ALL THE DOES!!!!!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>1783</td>
<td>You are destroying the deer population in Wisconsin for the hunters with small pieces of land. I cant hunt deer if there are less and i only have access to 10 acres of private land. The public land is over crowded and people are shady. Please dont kill the whitetail in Wisconsin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Set the date for opening firearms closest to the 15th of Nov. run the traditional 9 day hunt. followed by 10 day black Powder. PROHIBIT any hunting 5 days prior to the start of the Firearms Season. Let the woods and deer calm down before everyone stomps through their yards!</td>
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<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>When I was younger hunting with my father and grand father I used to see a lot more deer while I was hunting to now I hardly see any and I believe it is hard to get people into hunting when they don’t see a deer or get the chance to shoot one their first two years hunting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1786</td>
<td>I realize some areas have high deer populations, but for the past five years I have seen a total of three deer. If the deer are around they must be nocturnal as our party is lucky to see one deer a season. (We hunt hard, but only have a limited amount of land to hunt on.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Simpler and inexpensive CWD testing is imperative to assess true prevalence in the state and thereby direct control measures. Education of the public and hunter population will serve to keep the herd and hunters safe and maintain the strong hunting tradition in Wisconsin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>I believe we should not worry about what the insurance companies are complaining about i.e deer vs car accidents. The insurance companies do not reimburse anyone for harvesting them. In my opinion it should be up to the hunters as they are the ones paying for the tags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10558</td>
<td>EVERY SEASON I SEEM TO SEE LESS DEER,BUT I FEEL WITH HARVEST RULE CHANGES,QUALITY DEER MGT.RULES AND MORE HUNTERS NOT DRIVING COULD AFFECT MY THOUGHTS,I HAVE ENJOYED WISCONSIN DEER HUNTING SINCE 1962 AND WANT TO THANK OUR DNR PROFESSIONALS FOR THE FANTASTIC JOURNEY</td>
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<tr>
<td>10559</td>
<td>I don’t believe you will solve the deer population without an earn a buck season. extra tags might seem to be a good idea but you cannot make anyone pull the trigger on an antlerless deer unless they’re legislated to do so history and the statistics support this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10560</td>
<td>I am not sure where you are getting these deer numbers, but we do not need to shoot more deer in this zone. I am seeing fewer and fewer deer every year on a property that has traditionally held high deer numbers. Please reconsider decreasing the deer population.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please allow use of antlered gun tags during archery season. I no longer hunt deer with firearms. I realize I can hunt with my bow during the firearms season but I'd rather have the opportunity to tag an additional buck without firearm hunters in the woods.

I tried to take my son this year he is 10 there was just too many people for me to feel comfortable having him in the woods even though he was right next To me. Public hunting lands are overrun with people and steering me away from hunting in Wisconsin.

You do not have a good estimate of deer populations in the county. I can show you 10 years of trail camera history to prove the herd is no where near your estimates. You should adapt one deer per person, you choose gun, bow or black powder.

I do not agree with holiday hunts at all. Bring back baiting so I can get a deer. I'm a poor hunter. I need to bait. Also, I do not believe CWD is a threat to any deer heard. Prion's are everywhere. Ever here of Survival of the heard?

With the lack of new Hunters I would propose to get rid of the youth hunt and let these hunters shoot a deer on Private land with any Weapon of Choice. Once Archery season opens. The hunters that hunt Public would have a youth hunt.

STOP CUTTING ALL THE TREES OUT OF PUBLIC LAND! NO ONE WANTS TO HUNT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIELD AND THE DEER DONT LIVE THERE EITHER. THEY ALL GO TO PRIVATE LAND - AND THEY GET ALL THE TAGS. THANKS FOR RUINING THE STATE HUNTING LAND.

Hunting rules change to much. Would like to see more constant. Also CWD needs more attention on cure, less emphasize on repeated testing. Give 1 buck tag and 3 antlerless tags out per season. Allow hunter to choose weapon type.

Many of the deer taken from the private land I hunt on were either injured day of or in earlier event i.e. car accidents and non-fatal gunshots. I would like to see a discussion about harvesting injured deer over healthy ones.

Just leave the season alone. There are few deer now than ever so why do we keep wanting to give more tags out. If you lengthen the season how do landowners police it. Seems like DNR will not be happy until every deer is dead.

Hunters can't harvest deer that aren't there. No I do not believe the deer population numbers. People thinking crossbows are the reason they aren't seeing deer is ridiculous. Same people probably hunt over a corn pile.

The deer population numbers are way down. There are pockets of deer in the county, but the deer population itself has gone down. How are we going to encourage youth hunters in the future, if there are no deer to hunt?

Deer numbers are rebounding from EAB slaughter, but not at level on my land that they were in the past. Don't support Holiday Hunt. Would like to see a bounty on coyotes as incentive to reduce coyote population.

I hunted on 100 acres of private land in Waushara County for seven days of 2019 gun season and only saw three deer and none presented a shot. This is the very LEAST deer I've seen in 50 years of hunting this property.

Move holiday hunt later so people off for Christmas can pursue bucks. Then also when holiday's are over it would allow for maybe a 2 to 4 day hunt after the first of the year. May be a better buy in from hunters.

If we can't bait deer we will not be hunting. Deer will not be on land we hunt with the water table being high and nothing to eat. Didn't purchase licenses in 2019 for this reason. Can't plant food plots in water.

Quit giving out so many doe tags and crop damage tags. Do not extend season property owners cannot police their land that long. If you can't shoot one in 9 days to bad. The hunting is getting worse by the year!!!!

should try the deer gun season a week earlier in November this would help the deer harvest numbers and hunter satisfaction of seeing more deer (in end of rut yet) two weeks before Thanksgiving not one week before
This last year our hunting party did not shoot a buck on opening weekend. This is the first time in 57 years that we did this. After 3 years of earning a buck the deer herd has not come back on our end of the county.

I would strongly support an extended gun season beyond 9 days. Sometimes bad weather ruins opening weekend so having more time is important to me. Also would have more opportunity to take my children hunting.

I have been hunting the same private land for 29 years in Waushara County and this last season one of worst for seeing deer. We need to stop giving away so many antlerless tags to get the numbers back up again.

I’m fine with the extra authorizations, etc. However, I don’t think there should be a Holiday Hunt. The seasons are long enough already. Let’s let some of the other outdoor users have their time as well.

We have owned a parcel of land south of Coloma, on hwy ch since 1984, and have kept a log of every season, and the deer numbers have consistently, gone down, with the number harvested, and the number seen.

I am impressed with the very scientific approach taken to measure and manage the deer herd in Waushara County. We have a quality hunt every year and highly value your successful management efforts.

Ever since you started issuing free bonus permits, the number of deer seen during the season has decreased drastically. I do not think that you have made the proper decisions in managing the herd.

Ever since you started issuing free bonus permits, the number of deer seen during the season has decreased drastically. I do not think that you have made the proper decisions in managing the herd.

My main concern is a healthy buck to doe ratio, and having a strong and healthy deer heard. This is a very important aspect of having a trophy buck population. Please bring back earn-a-buck!

I did see more deer on the property I hunt in the 2019 season over 2018 season even though my Father harvested a doe both seasons 2018 and 2019 and said he seen quite a few this past winter.

Please stop all of the extra add on hunts, leave bow-crossbow alone, move the gun season up if that w appease the gun hunters. Too many early youth hunts trains the deer to go nocturnal.

Remove no baiting in the state. Go after the game farms because that’s where your problems rise from. You want less deer in the state but you tie our hands but not allowing us to bait!!!!

Where I hunt in waushara county it’s not uncommon for me to see 15-20 deer on public land in the 9 day gun season. I personally wouldn’t change much if anything to the current regulations.

Keep current season framework. Providing more tags doesn’t mean more deer killed. I don’t believe in over harvesting that what my family needs. Takes time and money to process a deer.

Deer hunting is going well, I want to continue to see deer in the same numbers but I am concerned about CWD and other environmental impacts the deer are having on the surrounding area.

Stop all these special hunts, they just make the deer more skittish and they don’t move around a lot. With less pressure they are more likely to be moving more during daylight hours.

I hunt on three different parcels in Waushara county and the last 6 years we see fewer and fewer deer. Combined bow and gun hunting. stop giving out so many Doe tags!!!!!!!

The last few years hunting, I’m seeing More wounded and dead deer in the woods. Wondering if more education is necessary for some hunters. I hunt on private land. Thank You.

Very important issue in this area is predators on the deer population (Coyotes). Has become a huge problem on numbers. Also farmers clearing habitat has become an issue.

Just moved out of state and the out of state license cost is so prohibitive for hunting in Wisconsin. The DNR should review this and consider lowering the OOS cost.
To many extra Doe tags given out, leads to less population of deer. There’s no need for someone to shoot 2 or 3 does the deer population just simply isn’t there.

Would support lowering the number of deer more if regulations would lean more toward increasing buck age structure. Increase Doe harvest and reduce buck harvest.

Put in place a 4 points one side antler requirement. Increase out of state prices to match what it costs that specific state. Get rid of all these holiday hunts.

Eliminate all forms of baiting. There are many violations in my unit. 55 # bags. Really? There are wardens citations. How about like $1000 Think you can.

It would be nice to be able to leave two marked tree stands in woods like northern county do on public land. This would help get the deer numbers done.

Crossbows will likely be a tool that continually takes more deer so I see a time in the near future when their season needs to be shortened or adjusted.

Deer seen on cam and in person have been about the same as last 3 years coyote tracks and cam pics have also been high number of deer with no fawns.

More car per family. Living farther away from school and work mean more time on road equals higher chance of car deer acidents not more deer!!!!

Excited to hunt the unit this year with my new crossbow! Always make it a priority to get to Waushara county for early November whitetail hunting.

Strongly against ending crossbow use for all hunters and only letting crossbow hunters hunt limited archery seasons. As these were ideas I heard.

I think we as a state need to look at friends to the west in Iowa and how they are using deer management I think this would work in this state.

The amount of female deer harvest rates are declining number of deer and bucks. Our population on my 185 acres farm is severely down 60%.

Out of state licenses should be raised significantly. We by deer tags in Iowa, we are charged close to 600$ we give away tags way to cheap!

Judging by the number of deer in the fields this spring we will be way over in surviving numbers this year with out an increase of harvest.

Please do not extend, as this will significantly impact the snowmobile season, which is sporadic and short in the best conditions.

I hunt almost every day of the bow season and gun season on 160 acres we have 6 people hunting that property we do not see deer.

During the last 3 deer seasons my party of 5 people hunting on 50 acres of private land have seen 3 deer in those 3 years.

Wisconsin should have a minimum point rack on bucks so we can grow them bigger. We harvest way to many small deer.

The gun season should be moved to an earlier date. Weather plays too much of a role in such a short 9 day season.

I would suggest no antlerless seasons, having a 19 day gun deer season and expanding the bow season till January 31.

I do not support a holiday hunt in Waushara County due to the negative effects on the snowmobile opportunities.
<p>| 10620 | Thank you for your service in wildlife management. Thank you for seeking public input to your decision. |
| 10619 | Bring back EAB or implement antler restrictions. I'm good with no back tag but I do miss registration stations. |
| 10621 | Hunting is getting to be too political with all the regulations and restrictions being imposed, thank you |
| 10622 | I hunted the entire gun season and did not see a single deer. Population is at an all-time low by me. |
| 10623 | The gun season should not take place during the rut. I liked the timing of everything last year (2019). |
| 10624 | I have spoken to you guys personally on a few issue's in the past. I think your doing a great job. |
| 10625 | Agricultural deer damage is my number one concern. Deer population has to be decreased—period! |
| 10627 | I saw some deer, the late start to the season had some impact but everything else seems fine. |
| 10626 | I have seen less deer this past year than previous years and I live on the land that I hunt. |
| 10628 | Extra hunting after November is bad for tourism during the SHORT snowmobiling season. |
| 10629 | Do away with public and private harvest authorization and just have unit specific tags. |
| 10630 | Would strongly disagree with extending the gun season beyond the typical 9-day season. |
| 10631 | Need to put a bounty on coyotes. Wolves are here now need to open the season on them! |
| 10632 | I have not seen a deer on my property while deer hunting (GUN) in the past 2 years. |
| 10633 | Open a wolf hunt or wolf tags. They are very over populated and need to be managed. |
| 10634 | I think we should have an earlier gun deer season that runs longer like 16 days. |
| 10635 | I think the last two years the rut was later and the gun season was too soon. |
| 10636 | Ask for an extended archery hunt to go along with the Holiday Hunt, please. |
| 10637 | When you only see 1 deer in 9 days of gun season it is very depressing. |
| 10638 | Too many deer! A recipe for disaster for disease to spread in the herd. |
| 10639 | My only input is that everyone has enough etiquette for the everyone. |
| 10640 | Deer population in my area is low. The area has been Over harvested. |
| 10641 | I would like to see coyote hunting added to small game licenses. |
| 10642 | We need to re-introduce earn a buck policies for Waushara county. |
| 10643 | We are just starting to see deer like we used to 30 years ago. |
| 10644 | Please consider a gun season that is not over Thanksgiving. |
| 10645 | I have noticed an increase in the coyote population.... |
| 10646 | Don't change anything. It is fine the way it is now! |
| 10647 | Deer population in the Poy Sippi area is way down. |
| 10648 | Limit the size of antlered deer on public lands. |
| 10649 | Needs to be an earn a buck zone for 2-3 years. |
| 10650 | I think in all hunting has been ok in my zone. |
| 10651 | No other recommendations. Thank you everyone. |
| 10652 | There are not enough deer for all these tags. |
| 10653 | Too few deer. Too many antler-less permits. |
| 10654 | Limit doe tags Limit one buck per season. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10655</td>
<td>I believe the heard is much too small.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10656</td>
<td>Need to leave cross bow season alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10657</td>
<td>I am learning new property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10658</td>
<td>Allow crossbow all season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10659</td>
<td>SHUT DOWN CROSSBOW HUNTING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10660</td>
<td>no holiday hunts!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10989 | }
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

243 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 178
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 39
   - I hunt in this unit: 204
   - General interest in this unit: 46

   The following questions (numbers 2 to 5) were only asked of individuals who indicated that they hunt in this unit.

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 178
   - Bow: 107
   - Crossbow: 98
   - Muzzleloader: 76

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 22.77
   - Maximum: 62

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 124
   - Mostly Private Land: 38
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 18
   - Mostly Public Land: 8
   - Exclusively Public Land: 16
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 17
   - Not too crowded: 28
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 14
   - Somewhat crowded: 10
   - Very crowded: 9
   - Not applicable: 2

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 64
   - Fewer: 82
   - Same: 75
   - More: 18
   - Many More: 3
   - Unsure: 1

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Much Too Low</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Low</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Right</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too High</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Too High</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Antlerless Quota is...
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit? 

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License: Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
- Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Support 66 Oppose 162 Unsure 15
- EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Support 110 Oppose 118 Unsure 15
- If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
  - Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: Support 26 Oppose 205 Unsure 12

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
- If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
- If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
  - Should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit? Valid Not applicable in this DMU

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comments for  Winnebago, Central Farmland

**Note:** the comments presented in this report are the unfiltered opinions of individuals who responded to an online public input form. The viewpoints expressed do not represent the views of the state of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, or its employees.

10661 If you sold 250 antlerless tags for public land last year, why would you recommend only selling 225 this year? Your quota for this year is quite a bit lower as well, yet you want to "maintain" the population. I'd like to see at least 250 antlerless tags offered for public land this year considering you sold 250 last year. That way anybody who wants one doesn't get turned away. With the pandemic, people want to put more meat in the freezer and many will look to public land. Why punish them by not offering enough tags? You can still maintain or grow the population by setting a lower quota this year and not turning away hunters from buying an antlerless public tag. Less deer were harvested last year because of poor weather, high water, a late gun season opener, etc. The population is not decreasing. It's actually increasing after less deer being harvested last year. Realistically, you should still offer the same amount of tags as last year because you won't sell them all anyways. I'd like to see a Holiday hunt as well. I can only hunt weekends and get off between Christmas Eve and New Years Day so I would love to take advantage of that. Most people won't take advantage of hunting the Holiday Hunt anyways so why not offer it to the few die hard deer hunters like me? If you do offer a holiday hunt, then just offer 250 public tags then so you are close to your quota. I know the council did not offer a holiday hunt last year because of snowmobilers concerns, which is fine. The snowmobilers had last year of no holiday hunt, this year it should be available to be fair to few hunters who want to take advantage of it. The CDAC is supposed to consider all stakeholders. By listening solely to the snowmobilers and not holding a holiday hunt it is not fair to everyone else. Please take this into strong consideration when deciding whether to hold the holiday hunt.

10662 You need to provide enough tags on private and public land for people to have a chance to harvest a deer. 500 private land tags is the right amount to not sell out compared to last year. Public land tags there needs to be at least 250 since that is the number of people that purchased them last year, as a reminder, just because someone purchases a tag it does not mean they will harvest a deer. It just provides the opportunity to go out to try to harvest a deer. If you want the tags on public and private to remain the same, then consider giving two farmland zone tags with a license. Then you are less likely to run out of bonus tags with the current numbers to ensure every hunter has tags needed to harvest deer, but not go overboard by offering 3, 4, or 5 free tags. The CDAC needs to seriously reconsider the Holiday Hunt. In past years, the CDAC has recommended a holiday hunt in the preliminary recommendation, but then never follows through because of concerns for snowmobilers. It is the responsibility of the CDAC to not cater to a specific stakeholder. I have seen other counties compromise with snowmobilers and allow a holiday hunt, but no extended archery season. I would be in favor of this, but to outright not allow both additional season options because of one stakeholder group is not what the CDAC is intended for.
My main concern is the amount of bonus tags and doe tags in general that are being given with every license purchase. Allowing folks to purchase multiple upon multiple antler-less tags when we already have a harder time seeing deer is ridiculous. We own our own land and the deer population is not what it once was. I like that we are taking this county by county now, I commend you all for that. In our portion of Winnebago county, we do not have an abundant population of deer. They are here, but it's definitely effected even worse when multiple doe tags per hunter are granted, and up the road public land becomes a war zone...not a deer stands a chance. It creates a wasteful mentality, just shoot... if we get it great, if not. oh well. We have more tags. We find gut shot deer all the time, or see deer with holes on the cams every single season... Broken legs, etc. Just after gun season. Lets tone down the KILL numbers and the harvest numbers rhetoric... and focus on getting the herd in shape. Getting the herd in shape will attract more hunters... killing all the deer, causing most weekend warriors not to see anything... will negatively effect your numbers of license sales in the end... not help. Thanks for hearing me out.

Please give deer in Winnebago county a chance to rebound to what we once had. A herd that actually still had family structure, a herd that wasn't left with almost every other fawn family without its mother. The young bucks aren't chased away because of not having a mother, which is bad for the gene pool. The majority of deer living in this county are so overly pressured by all of the seasons that they have to endure, it makes hunting, especially with younger people almost unenjoyable because deer sightings are so few and far between. Our family has hunted our land near Rush lake for over fifty years, deer hunting was great for so many years, but now most of us don't even go there anymore because it's so bad. The habitat is there, the food is there, but the deer are not. If it was up to me there shouldn't even be a deer season in Winnebago county this year. All of the crop damage tags from a few years ago, all the doe seasons, earn a buck have just ruined it. I feel sorry for my son that he can't even go hunt Grandpa's old blind and see a deer, to connect with his past.

In the town of Winneconne, where I live, there is close to 100 deer per square mile. My 10 acres are over-browsed, and nothing can be grown without fencing. I fear deer disease in the herd, tick disease among people, and over-browsing of woods and agriculture. Due to high deer numbers I do NOT shoot coyotes anymore. I know this is not true in other areas, and certainly not in the public areas. We need tools to help reduce numbers in the private "hot" zones within counties. Lengthening seasons is key, as increasing daily hunting pressure causes deer to become nocturnal and greatly reduces harvest potential. Expanding the season allows for cooling periods to relax deer and increase daylight movement. In addition, banning of baiting and feeding would greatly increase daylight movement and harvest potential. I have many neighbors who increase feeding during the hunting season to keep "their" deer safe. I know this is a difficult situation for the DNR and CDAC's, and appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Also, I very much enjoyed the video provided by the biologist. Thank you.

In my opinion, the deer numbers are much lower than the DNR numbers suggest. I'm not against doe harvest, I just believe some hunters will harvest to many does just because they have the doe tags. I have trail cams out year round and had some pics in the spring of coyotes with deer fawns in their mouth. I suspect with the time I spend in the fall of the year bow hunting the number of adult doe without twin fawns or single fawns have declined by minimal 25%. Every year it seems to me that number increases. I don't believe at least in the area that I hunt there is alot crop damage. I've seen raccoon in a corn field pull one stalk of corn down take two bites of corn and travel to the next stalk, and the raccoon numbers are very high in this area. I usually take time off of work to hunt the rut but every year the rut activity decreases not only seeing deer but not seeing any rut sign at all. I enjoy spending time in the woods I don't need to see deer every time I hunt, But every year the numbers seem to declining, this year will be my 42nd year bow and gun hunting.
I hunt on a farm but I am not a farmer. The farmers have a pretty old school mentality of hunting and managing the herd. They come from the methodology that we need to get numbers like they were in the 80's by not harvesting antlerless deer and only harvesting bucks. I would recommend getting information out to these landowners that managing a deer herd is similar to pruning an apple tree. You need to thin it out so what's remaining has enough to not only survive but to thrive. In areas that have a heavier deer herd maybe talk to them individually and offer them QDMA material to shift the old school pattern of thinking. If you can change the thought process, maybe we can not only have a sustainable herd but also equalize the buck-to-doe ratio as well. I have a journal of everything I've seen in the last 11 years and I am seeing 10 to 15 times as many antlerless but the land owner doesn't want antlerless taken. I hope this is read and it at least discussed. Thank you for your time reading this and stay safe.

I have observed fewer deer year after year. As technology has improved the success rate of hunters has also improved. I am concerned with the numbers of the deer in this county. I have observed very little antlered deer, especially, mature ones. Most of the deer I observe are antlerless. I think one major flaw in trying to look at deer numbers is our harvest authorization system. Many hunters get away with shooting a deer and not reporting it or worse yet harvesting more then one deer with one tag. Our system is solely based on the honor system. At the end of all of the seasons they should send a mandatory survey to each hunter like they do for ducks/geese asking us how many deer we harvested/seen for each season(bow, gun, muzzleloader , antlerless). I also do not support the earnabuck framework or 19 day gun season proposal.

I typically hunt the rat river. I walk in, use hip boots to cross water, and take a jon boat in so I can get away from people. I see good bucks, but limited does. They are there, but I would expect to see more. I have been hunting since 1982. My youngest daughter is starting this year. We only archery hunt. With all of the special hunts, youth, early doe/late doe, it seems that after the first week, everything goes nocturnal or close to it. I hunt mobile. Bounce around, get close to beds. The deer don’t get up in lots of spots until 5-10min before last light. I feel most of this is due to the extra gun pressure. My thoughts are go back to the traditional archery season, standard 9 day gun, muzzle loader, and a non interrupted late archery season. Every time I have taken my kids out, we see nothing.

I really hate the way the Antlerless is set up county to country/public/private. I feel you are just trying as your normal to make us spend more if we hunt in different counties and both private and private. I always buy a patrons but I am changing to only a small game next year. I have hunted for 38 years and have seen the DNR wreck it. Impose any regs. They want if big money is baking it. Food plots seeds and equipment cost and make rich people richer by selling it. Bait is cheep and cost a lot less. What I’m getting at is over the years I have spent a lot of money on deer hunting and fishing I stopped fishing 5 years ago and am going to do the same with hunting. Stop catering to politics and big money!!! You wonder why sale have fallen!!!

We have lived and owned property in Winnebago county for over 40 years. I currently own a farm in Winnebago county. The lack of mature antlered deer in the area is concerning. I basically have a deer refuge on rush lake that is managed for mature deer. We did not get a single picture of a mature buck in five months of having trail cameras out. Coyotes are now a major issue around rush lake. Considering we are seeing the fewest mature bucks on record, is it possible that disease is decreasing the buck population? Something is definitely out of the ordinary. The best years of our hunting were during the earn a buck years. I personally think it was an effective management tool. Lets make some drastic efforts to return Wisconsin back to quality deer hunting. Please.
The lack of bucks over two years old is getting rare. Crossbows with baiting in back yards, shooting after hours because lack of noise associated shooting out your windows or garage. Riffles in my opinion are becoming more dangerous as building continues in the country. The amount of pressure put on deer with extended dates and baiting has caused deer to become nocturnal and crossbow shooting after hours is becoming a real problem with the lack of DNR wardens to enforce. Hunters have changed tactics and sit longer in stands on private land, and rarely push deer anymore. Private land owners have become protective of the deer and rarely let you hunt their properties.

In my personal opinion, there should be a limit on antlerless deer. In 2020, we shouldn’t be allowed to hunt doe’s. I believe that allowing for does to live and reproduce for another year or two, will allow for higher populations of deer. I personally did not see many does this last year compared to many years prior. Also, the wolf population in the northern woods is getting out of hand. I have friends and relatives that hunt there and they didn’t see anything during the gun deer season. I personally don’t know if Wolfs are the route cause but they did tell me they saw more wolfs than deer. What is the states plan for managing the WOLF population?

I have a DNR camera and recorded nine different bucks traveling thorough my backyard. I'm sure there are at least that many does also. I hit one on the road in front of my house. The deer look in our bedroom window at night. There are too many deer. We have a seven foot fence around our garden, but a deer jumped that fence this spring. We have various fences around all my wife's flowers. I am surprised that she has not resorted to a life of poaching. Our yard is covered with deer droppings every spring. My backyard habitat can not support this many deer. I'd like to rent a wolf, or a pack! "Maintain" your herd somewhere else.

I see many deer killed from vehicle collisions between December and March on the roads I travel in Winnebago County. This number is significant if factored in to population goals along with hunter harvest, predation, recruitment, and natural mortality. Especially since each doe killed during this time frame potentially has one or more fawns. I have killed several deer the last few deer seasons that were obviously crippled from vehicle collisions. I would like WDNR to more accurately record the number of vehicle-killed deer or maimed deer and apply it to population goals for each county.

I believe that in certain areas the deer herd needs attention and action taken, I’ve always had to hunt public land and once they have a early hunt in the areas for antlerless I notice the lack of deer sitting in the same areas that I have seen deer. I get it cause deer I very smart animals I always wonder if the private land owners that have food plots year around have an impact on any amount of pressure on public lands. I wonder cause of food plots if that’s why nobody sees deer during hunting hours, plus what ever happened to the height a tree stand or blind can be. Wasn’t it always 12ft.

In the fall the deer numbers during bow season, were extremely down, and this was also my first gun hunting season, I did not see one single deer, and it carried into the entire season, zero deer seen on private and public lands, my younger son was thinking of starting hunting, and to be quite honest, after this season I am considering wrapping it up, the doe slaughter seasons, forced me personally by choice to shoot antlered only because of the diminished herd, I have not filled a tag in a few years, this season, not seeing a single deer, during gun, was (is) the icing on the cake.

you need to do control burns on much of the Rat river as the cattails have taken over much of the march grass which gives the deer way to much cover & no way for a hunter to push a deer out of the cattail into the march grass for a chance at a shot. Control burning would help out wildlife as was seen back in the 70 when it burned There was great duck hunting pheasant hunting & deer hunting, Now it just a sea of cattails All over 6ft tall & no way to push deer out into a opening when you jump them all you see are the cattails wiggle & there gone
Lengthen the "gun" deer season. Consolidate all shoulder fired weapons (rifles, shotguns, muzzle loaders, crossbows) into the "gun" deer season. Lengthen the archery season to include all of January. Eliminate all baiting and feeding of wildlife, recommend that if people want to feed "wild" animals that they plant and protect a preferred tree or shrub species e.g. white oaks, Canadian yew, white cedar, etc. And fertilize and/or water existing preferred deer food species. Close and sterilize all captive cervid facilities statewide.

I would be interested to see a separate antlerless season from the normal week. Seeing both buck and antlerless moved a week ahead or behind from the normal time would be more interesting yet. I've talked to a lot of people in our area that seemed to think the deer mostly shut off during the normal week around here. It's been many years we've been hunted that same week maybe try something different. Animals adapt two changes and I can only guess after a hundred some years maybe we're seeing a little something funny there.

Public land west of Winneconne and Omro, Winnebago CO are productive for about the 1st two weeks of archery season. By week 3 deer and most game are driven off. I dislike having to buy tags for private and public, hate buying tags for everywhere I hunt. Sell me a doe tag, I will tell you how I filled it, shut down unit season when quota is reached...like sturgeon spearing. January, if there's places over populated yet, I will go there. If my unit is closed early, less late hunting pressure, better shape herd is.

We need to modify the youth hunt. When I was growing up I went deer hunting with my parents starting at age 10 only to observe. This was a great chance to learn about hunting the proper way. Letting a parent buy a youth tag for a 5 year old just so they can get out a week before fun deer season is ludicrous! Children should go out with their parents but should not have a special hunt. The age also has to be limited back to 12 after hunter safety. No child should be hunting without the safety course.

Restructuring of the gun hunting season needed. Hunting days during the “rut” should always be included in the 9 day season. The deer move through out the day. The hunters technique has changed. Hunter’s sit on deer stands most of their hunting hours. No movement to encourage deer moving. The trespassing law made private land ownership deer refuges. I have a relative who has given me permission to hunt on 58 acres. I usually harvest my deer opening day.

I oppose extending the deer hunting season by any means because it is too stressful for the deer population. Then when gun season occurs, they have already become nocturnal because of the added pressure during the daytime. The chances of harvesting a deer, in return, goes way down. In addition, no animal should be put under constant stress for extended time by continued hunting through varied means. It is unethical.

There are high variations in deer populations on private parcels versus the public land available in Winnebago County. Take a drive around western Winnebago County and you will see boatloads of deer on private land, but hardly any on public land – even during unpressured times of the year. Please do not support any extension of the gun deer season to 19 days. This proposal is unwarranted and unnecessary.

‘- nonearn a buck, just created violators - if you extend the gun season into the rut, you should open archery a month earlier in pre season - if it’s money your looking for, just raise the price of a tag - did you notice last year about 80% if he corn fields were still standing... - and finally, not all properties have too many deer, connect hunters with land owners to cull the deer population -

We see fewer deer every year as a general trend over the last 20 years. I know populations will vary over time. I believe between the youth hunt, the antlerless hunts, the regular season and crop damage tags there are too many hunts. It would be great to go back to just early archery, gun followed by muzzle loader and late archery season. No earn a buck - no doe only hunts.

I know there is talk about changing up the use or seasons of the cross bow. I ask that this does not happen. Please keep the regulations the same. The crossbow for many reasons is why people hunt and it should not change because of a few others that think it is cheating. The only people that can say that are the ones that use an old fashion recurve.
Stop separating the public and private tags!! Some of us only get an opportunity to go private for a day or two. Why should we have to buy extra tags? And the other states charge way higher costs for out of state hunters. We should do that. Yet residents keep getting the costs increased. That needs to stop.

Not holding an antlerless only season in this DMU is a good thing for both private and public land hunters. Not holding a holiday hunt or bonus archery/crossbow time would also be a win for the DMU. We need more deer to make the hunt enjoyable for the next generation.

I have been hunting the same area for over thirty years and could always go out and see numerous deer any night. In the past five years I have been lucky to see one or two. Stop counting the the deer at the dump and assume that’s the way it is all over the county!

I am happy to see what the county has recommended and the quota set. As a longtime hunter, we need to up our deer numbers in this area. We have not had deer since earn a buck wiped them out. Please continue in this manner. we could even SHORTEN the bow season!

I feel we should keep the crossbow season, because it lets a lot if people hunt that couldn’t otherwise. Extending the gun season is ridiculous. If you can't shoot a deer in 9 days with a gun, you don't belong in the woods!

I hunt around the Rat river. And have seen 1 deer in 3 years.I use to lots of other hunters.In 2019 I saw 2 hunters.There use to be cars up and down the road.Lucky if I see 2 or 3 each season.where did all the hunters go.

I think the department is doing a good job of managing the population. I think that the down turn in deer kill numbers is due to lack of hunter activity and the lack of new young hunters becoming involved in the sport.

I still believe the numbers are much too low in our county. We need to let more population happen. I strongly disagree with antlerless only season. We should keep it as one buck one doe tag for each season.

I think there are too many does around eveyrwhere. The winnebago dump area along side 41 is full of deer, I saw 40 plus many times. I think a special bow season to thin the herd there would be beneficial.

I've seen more deer this spring (2020) than any year in recent memory. Easy winter and food supply will enable strong deer numbers in Winnebago county. This is why I stated Bonus tag quotas are too low.

The deer management in Winnebago county has maintained a healthy and abundant herd. I own and hunt my 168 acre tree farm. I am pleased overall with the last 45 years of deer management.

All in all I would say the deer management has been good in this area the past few years. I really oppose having a holiday hunt and extending the archery season any farther.

Increase the deer numbers so that people actually want to go out hunting. It is difficult to get kids and new hunters to enjoy the sport if they don’t see any or many deer.

I am all for extending gun season. I think we need an antler restriction of 4 points on one side . Hunters under the age of 18 and over the age of 65 would be exempt

Help Winnebago co hunter access private land that’s annexed into the city’s that have more than 5 acres of farmland to bow hunt.
No reason to participate in this activity anymore. It's total mismanagement has led to lost revenue and traditional activity lost among fellow hunters.

limit the crossbow permits for youth, let them learn archery first! Put the crossbow season back to an older age limit or handicap individuals.

I live here and crossbow hunt here. There are not as many deer as 10 years ago. In my opinion the whole state's deer population is low.

Should be able to harvest white deer now only way to harvest is with motor vehicle bruising to much meat and vehicle

Open the season on the closest Saturday to the 15th. If that doesn't work open it the 1st Saturday in November.

We are very concerned about the number of coyotes and their impact on the herd and fawn survival

Too many hunting seasons and rules each year. Keep it simple, couple seasons, not broken up

I would support an extended gun deer season if it started a week earlier than normal.

I would like to see a two buck limit similar to what Illinois has for bow hunting.

Nice survey - questions and available responses covered the area that I hunt. Thx

Conservation efforts in Winnebago county have maintained a good herd

Please consider having a gun season that is not over Thanksgiving

Get rid of public or private option. Go back to both.

Good job everyone this is a sound recommendation

Deer populations are much lower than you think

Stop. The deer population isn't that high

I thought this was a good questionnaire.

Great Job. Thank you.
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

271 forms were submitted for this unit.

**Section 1: Information about who provided the input.**

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 166
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 52
   - I hunt in this unit: 243
   - General interest in this unit: 52

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 233
   - Bow: 135
   - Crossbow: 110
   - Muzzleloader: 87

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 1
   - Average: 24.22
   - Maximum: 70

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 163
   - Mostly Private Land: 40
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 20
   - Mostly Public Land: 11
   - Exclusively Public Land: 6
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 3

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 8
   - Not too crowded: 17
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 22
   - Somewhat crowded: 11
   - Very crowded: 12
   - Not applicable: 7

**Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.**

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 48
   - Fewer: 94
   - Same: 92
   - More: 22
   - Many More: 11
   - Unsure: 4

**Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations**

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: 64 Support, 177 Oppose, 30 Unsure

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: 104 Support, 139 Oppose, 28 Unsure

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"...
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons: 30 Support, 220 Oppose, 21 Unsure

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
VALID Not applicable in this DMU
NOT VALID
Unsure

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year...</td>
<td>2.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants...</td>
<td>1.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions...</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer...</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer...</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer...</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy...</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit...</td>
<td>2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)...</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wisconsin could be the best trophy buck state in the union. We could have great hunting for all who want to shoot a trophy on public or private. 1. Stop shooting non-mounter bucks. But in a size limit or stop the buck harvest for three years. Then start on a draw system for each deer zone. 2. Stop shooting the does on public land. Start to put deer plots in on public land to draw the deer off private land. Burn and manage the forests for good new growth. Plant food trees and crops. 3. Stop allowing the deer drives on public land. Large groups are killing our deer and then hunting their own private land. They have good hunting after raping our land. They have a place to go on private land the rest of us sit where they drove and shot everything out. That is why people are stopping hunting. No one wants to sit in the woods and see song birds with no deer. 4. Kill the wolves. There is more of a predation problem than you know. Wolves move up to 50 miles a day to feed on their primary food source which is deer. They also kill deer just for fun. Wolves were exterminated years ago by our forefathers who knew why they needed to be eliminated. 5. I used to o in the woods in the 70's and see 50 plus deer a day with trophies a good potential. Now if I sit all day I might see three deer. Two fawns and maybe a doe if I'm lucky. You will loose me too soon if you don't make the changes suggested. If you do make the changes you won't believe the large bucks you will see and all the hunters will apply for a tag and come back. Wisconsin will again be the state to trophy hunt. If not you will continue to ruin it and I and others will stop hunting. Please listen and make those changes..... Thank you

I have hunted on my 10 acres, in Wood county, for the last 28 years. It has become more difficult to fill even one doe tag because my neighbor's 70 acres wraps around the side of mine. He won't let me get a deer I shot on my own land if it died on his land. I try talking to him and he tells me we have nothing to talk about and walks away. This is poor sportsmanship when it comes to hunting. I could go on about this but I won't. My family and I enjoy deer hunting, but getting a buck doesn't happen most years. We like venison and don't mind shooting does, but this has become difficult, also, because our neighbor won't work with us. We have to be sure to kill that deer on our own land. I don't see why after December 1st if you have left over doe tags from the gun season, hunters can't use the whole month of December to fill those tags. Bow hunters have September, October, part of November, December, and now all January, too. It is disheartening when I see others getting two deer with a gun, plus two with a bow, when I can barely get one. What should it matter anymore to shoot a deer with a gun, bow, or muzzle? We should have a right to shoot deer on our own land. I'm loosing interest in deer hunting when we can't even get 2 doe tags filled because of neighbors being poor sportsman, and not having all of December to hunt with a gun. Thank you for your time.

taking this opportunity to make note that we need to start removing the white deer on the landscape. It is a mistake to protect these deer. Years ago when there was one or two white ones around (possibly true albinos) I understood it, but now there are way to many. It is not a novelty to see a white deer now. When hunting, I am just hoping to see some brown on one so that I can do something to limit the explosion of white deer. In the last couple of years, I have even seen what I call 'color phase'. They may have a swat of cream/tan somewhere on them or just be not quite white all over. One I had on camera last year looked white, until I got a shot of it looking at the camera and you could see true white rings around the eyes and the rest of its head and neck were actually more of a cream or dirty white. I have had several mature white bucks on my property - spreading the defective gene. Mature, protected bucks impregnating all the does that they can... what should we expect???? MORE WHITE DEER. Time to slow them down. If the DNR wants harvest info on them, limit the legal harvest to landowners only or private property only, require a special registration or whatever you need, but don't let the propagation continue. thanks.
Hello, thank you for giving us an opportunity to share an opinion. I really like the direction the dnr has been going the last couple years. That said, we need more tags! There are way too many deer in wood co. Please make more farmland tags available for purchase. the people who have a deer problem can buy them. The people who don’t see many deer don’t have to but them. Also my family hunts together, and If the crossbow season gets cut down or modified we feel it will directly effect the family oriented sector of the bowhunting wisconsinites.

Wounding deer is not ok. Its not fair to the landowner, or the animal. The crossbow lets the hunting husbands of Wisconsin go afield with the family and not worry about a young hunter or wife pulling back 40lbs (or less, I think 32lbs is legal) with a compound and wounding deer. As the crossbow law sits in Wisconsin it creates family opportunities for people who would normally be watching from the sidelines. I wouldn’t want my wife hunting with a compound. Please please don’t change it. Thank you for taking time to read my input. I hope my wife does not have to watch from the sidelines this season.

Many hunters in general blame the return of the Gray Wolf when few if any deer are seen during a hunting season. I am not one of those. Perhaps the biggest predator in any area are the agricultural practices. Dairies are harvesting forage crops in middle to late May each year and destroy many whitetail fawns. One such dairy admitted to "running through the hay-bine" twenty fawns and we are not done making hay. These dairies also destroy countless ground nesting birds (huge decline in turkey numbers) while harvesting hay at an early time. Farmers need to remain competitive and profitable to stay in business. At my age, sixty nine, I would like to be able to use a rifle to hunt deer in warmer months. I find it unfair for bow hunters to hunt for months in decent weather and I am confined to the cold months. I don’t want to take up another sport at my age. I would gladly give up a doe tag for a buck only tag while hunting on my own property if I could use it during September or October. I have attempted to make my property more wildlife friendly, planting trees on some areas. Food plots are planted most years.

Hi, I am a landowner in this unit. Although I only recently purchased this plot of land, myself and a friend have had exclusive hunting rights to it for the past 13 years. I would consider us above average as relates to knowledge of deer management. The amount of trail camera AND physical sightings of wolves on our land has skyrocketed in the past 5 years. Our immediate neighbors have had similar experiences. I know this is something currently restricted on a federal level; is there an avenue to provide empirical data of wolf over population to the USFWS? Myself and my fellow land-owning neighbors would be happy to participate as our quality of deer hunting has significantly decreased over the above listed period of time.

With every year we get these “quotas” but really we need to follow more and more input from us the hunters. Why are we not implementing a 4x4 rule on all buck harvesting? Why can’t we go back to an application for a doe harvest like we did in the past? Online registration of deer is also skewed, because you can’t tell me ever person is registering their kill. I have only been hunting since 1995, but have noticed a steady decline in our local population since some of these new license approvals have been implemented. The 2 questions I have posted above I have asked a lot of hunters and I can tell you there is an overwhelming agreement on both questions. Other states have implemented the 4x4 rule on buck harvest and has seen a lot of success and a more robust population. It also teaches better selective harvest.

I live near a farmer that continuously applies for deer damage permits. Since my land is so near, my hunting land is rendered near useless as the neighbor cleans out the local area. The averages do not represent the results of the local deer hunting experience. The farmer has repeatedly had multiple permits, thus taking many deer. At the same time this farmer does not allow others to hunt on his property. It seems that there may be a better way to control the deer damage permits. The following should be considered: 1) limit the deer damage permit to only 1 permit per year . 2) reduce the number of deer that a permit allows to be taken. 3) contact local neighbors within a 2 mile radius of the crop damage area in question, and offer the local neighbors the opportunity to be issued extra individual deer permits.
I would like to see a program like we had before with earn a buck but instead have earn a doe or possibly 2 buck permits. I think our deer population is fair compared to other areas however I think the population could use a break from any antlerless tags given out. I am a hunter that goes to fill my freezer by in my opinion we need to let the deer population grow for 3 years. I also hunt private primarily but help on deer drives on public and the deer population is not what it once was and I would love to see it back where it was even if that means sacrificing filling the freezer once or twice. A lot of hunters I know feel close to the same way with regard to the deer population. I sincerely hope you consider my opinion to help preserve a Wisconsin holiday that most consider more of a holiday than thanksgiving.

Where I hunt the neighbor has 800 acres of land. He plants 40 acres of food plots as far south on his land as he can. This pulls all the deer away from all the adjoining land. Then he puts a claim in too the Dnr that he is being overbroused. He and the other big land owner neighbor form a co-op and get 25 to 60 doe tags. There group of about ten hunters then go about slaughtering the doe herd at there will and displeasure of all the neighbors who are not seeing deer because they are grouped up around the food source. This has been going on for a quite a few years now. They also try put there high and mighty big buck strategy down every body’s throat. It is a shame that a rich person can control the deer herd in our area. It causes a lot of hard feelings in the neighborhood.

the count of white deer is increasing in this area. It is (beyond) time to allow harvest of these animals. If there is concern over clear documentation of this harvest, the DNR could easily restrict harvest to private lands or even landowners only. along with that restriction, require additional registration requirements with samples for DNR testing or photographs or whatever the DNR needs to better monitor the white deer count. These are not albino deer, they are white deer. I have even seen "color phase" deer with light tan shading in some cases. There are several white bucks per year on my property each year and as they age, they are becoming the dominant deer in the area and are certainly getting their share of breeding done spreading the genetics to more and more does.

I feel the late start to Gun Deer season really affected harvest. The bucks were already holed up with does and we seen very little movement hunting for all 9 days from daylight till sundown. Also the weather affected some of these days as well. We have also seen a decrease in population since the no baiting ban has been in effect. The wet spring and summer made it hard for area farmers to get in the fields to plant and some choose to not plant at all creating less food available for the deer population. The deer harvested in the last few years have been considerably skinnier even though they are mature adult deer. In my opinion again this is due to the lack of food availability. I feel these issues all need to be considered if we want to maintain our deer population.

We noticed if you have that regular season to late. The deer are gone from here. Wood Co. The rut is done with and from that point on we see very-very few deer if any at all. And around here that rut is early Nov. to mid Nov. Like last year the rut around here was mid Nov. When your season started in late Nov. The deer around here where pretty well gone. For the rest of the season. It was slim pickings. If you bring it up to early Nov. We think you will have alot more happy campers out there. Because then they might at least see more deer to shoot. Thank You for letting me put my personal response here.

Having the rifle season over Thanksgiving is a very important part of our hunting history that we wish to keep. Some farmers may complain about too many deer. They should be told to allow more hunters on their land and the population will drop over time. We land owners like having antlerless permits for all in our group. If there are a lot of does, we can try to fill most of the tags. If a sparse population we can leave more unfilled. Foodplotting has helped my small area a lot and it takes some pressure off the nearby farm fields.

I think the recommendations are good for this unit. I wish all of the private lands were allowed to be managed like this. Give everyone a buck and doe tag and let the landowners decide if they have enough deer in their local areas throughout the county to harvest what deer they want. If they have to many they can invite their friends over to hunt and if they have to few they can pass on taking a doe. We also need to harvest some of the white deer. they are getting way to populated. Pretty soon this is all we will have.
I understand that the DNR might close cross bow hunting to end at the month of Oct. I usually do not get a close shot until Nov. If you would close cross bow after Oct. I might as well not hunt. I'm not saying that I wouldn't hunt, but would lessen the chance of a sure shot. I tell my 2 sons and grandson to make sure they have a good shot. I thank you for the opportunity to express my view. Just don't like to have a deer not found and suffer.

Would love to see people actually listen to the sportsmen and women, I can't speak for everyone but from what I have heard people all over the state are saying the same thing they just aren't seeing deer at all. I would like to see a 3 year trial of one either or tag for the entire state Or go to a buck only, that has to have a certain number of points to be shootable. I know other states have done similar and from what I have heard it's worked great.

In my opinion it's real simple you buy Deer license weapon of your choice harvest 2 antlered deer 2 Doe from October 1 to January 1 making 14 days rifle season end of November. Throwing a wolf tag along with it won't hurt that published one bit. I think county management of deer is a poor idea too small of Area it should be more of a region I believe you'll get better results. we do not need to Harvest every living deer that they see.

I have hunted since I was 10 years old, now 59. I see the change in hunters, I raised two boys who shot their 1st deer at 12. no they were not monster bucks but they were proud to take there small bucks home to mom. What have we done, now we teach them to only shoot monster bucks? Were losing our young hard core hunters to the game qdm. Very sad to see this happen, seems now its all about wall hangers and not the hunt.

I would like to see more deer population, I'm a land owner for forty five years and we've progressively seen less deer year after year here in Wood county. Look at your stats from 2008 for the number of deer shot as to recent years. We need less doe permits or no permits for a couple of years to get the herd back up. If you want a holiday season make it limited to bucks and make it a shorter season.

The same answers I answered for Wood county apply to Adams county which I hunt as well and very very few deer the population is not what u think it it way way less and it is making the youth keep interested when out!!!!!!!! Making family's give up and not want to hunt and the damage from wolves are high but is never corrected just keep hearing numbers are up but that's lies

I prefer simple straight forward seasons, dates, and zones. The antlerless zoning is too complex as is in my opinion. I understand the need to get more precise local data, but it is very annoying having to purchase different for tags to hunt land 1 mile north vs 1 mile south. Licenses are expensive enough without having to buy 3 or 4 different doe tags.

There seems to be more and more white deer around the countryside in Wood/Portage counties. At some point, a lot of brown deer will be breeding with the white deer and it will start to effect the overall hunt ability of any deer. It wouldn't be a terrible thing to see the white deer become a target, even if it had to be a special tag applied for.

Private land issues are really concentrating the deer. During the hunting season deer concentrate in certain areas and are not evenly distributed across the deer range. Without giving tags to those individuals with all the deer it will be hard to maintain deer numbers. This problem is not going away and the deer are adopting to this quite well.

I would like to create hunting experiences closer resembling childhood with the ability to see deer and choose the deer that you would like to harvest rather than just settling to see a deer. I believe that we need to control the predators of the deer population to elevate the deer hunting experience.

The wolf population needs to be brought under serious control. Also the social aspect of Wisconsin deer hunting has been lost with the removal of local registration stations. Which also has hurt the local economy. Please bring back the traditional deer season the way it was.
In order to improve the chances of harvesting a buck for any given hunter, the DNR needs to stop looking at the various methods of harvesting deer as separate hunts. There needs to be a limit of one buck per year per hunter, regardless of how the hunter kills the animal.

46 deer per square mile of deer range? No Way. Lived on my land for 25 years, tell me the population has stayed relatively the same? No Way. The deer numbers may be close to where they should be, but they are not as many as you say. My opinion is to slightly increase.

Would like to see a change to the county specific antlerless Private or public tags and change it to central farmland or central forest private or public. The Mead wildlife area is encompasses 3 counties. Marathon, wood, and portage.

Issue one Buck tag per year, per person, to be use on any season. 4-point minimum on one side for 18+ years old. Raise the cost of non-resident tags. Eliminate general crossbow use during archery season.

White deer should be removed from the protected list in Wood County. The population of white deer has been growing dramatically. I saw white deer every day that I hunted during the 2019 gun deer season.

We need to get rid of wolves. If you want more hunters you need more deer. The only way to pursue that is to get rid of the wolves. Plain and simple, make hunting in Wisconsin Great again.

We are seeing about 50% white deer. There are way to many crop damage tags given out in the area. I hunt north of hwy dd off of hwy o. Thank You.

The deer population is too low. The majority of the deer are last year's fawns. That tells me that too many adults are getting killed off! Too many permits are being given out.

The board appears to not be examining the data that shows the deer numbers are declining. though continue to issue the same number of tags which is poor judgement.

Too many white deer in this county. Hunt near Auburndale and Sherry and both areas have an abundance of white deer. and there is getting to be more every year.

Think a point limit for bucks would help the deer herd. Also would avoid people shooting at anything brown. When they perform drives on public land.

I feel that the current management regulations are prudent and reasonably effective. I don’t feel that drastic changes are necessary at this time.

I have noticed a steady decline in the number of deer in the years I have been hunting on this. The last few years, I saw few to no deer at all.

I would like to see an option for white deer. I have see many out of my stand and there are becoming herds of white deer pushing brown ones out.

Harvesting white deer (not albino) needs to be addressed. They are very popular and in the future they will be dominate color. Thank you

Open a month long wolf season in 2020 with no limits. Limit one deer tag per person per season. Stop killing does for 3-4 years.

Allow feeding on Wood county. I’d like to use a bait pile to eliminate garden damage and eating of my very expensive bird feed.

Why not issue a deer damage license. The farmer could use it control damage. You use it as a "take a kid hunting" bonus tag.

2019 was the worst year to date for deer seen. I can't bring myself to kill a doe knowing I'm most likely killing 3 deer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10770</td>
<td>need to make bear tags over the counter for this unit and move the hunt earlier. predators a big problem in this unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10771</td>
<td>The number of predators seen during archery and gun season has increased exponentially in the past several years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10772</td>
<td>the number of albino deer is getting ridiculously high, the harvesting of white deer needs to be allowed!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10773</td>
<td>What will be the status of harvesting white deer? The population is increasing and needs to be addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10774</td>
<td>Would like too see baiting permitted, And greater opportunity for buck harvests, as well as antlerless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10775</td>
<td>Never seen ag tag numbers factored in harvest . My area that effects us greatly .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10776</td>
<td>Wish the number of antlerless permits would increase substantially for unit 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10777</td>
<td>need to change the boundary between farm and forest too many white deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10778</td>
<td>too many albinos in wood county. Need albino season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10779</td>
<td>Please leave the hunting seasons as they are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10780</td>
<td>I feel the DNR is doing a good job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10781</td>
<td>Limit the crossbow harvest!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10991</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The online public comment form is the primary means by which CDACs receive feedback on their preliminary recommendations. While many of the responses can be aggregated, the results should not be treated as representative of the general population. In most cases, results are skewed towards more avid hunters. Furthermore, small sample sizes within each county preclude statistical inference. Rather, this input should be regarded similarly to that of in-person or written testimonies given at a CDAC meeting.

223 forms were submitted for this unit.

Section 1: Information about who provided the input.

1. Why have you chosen to provide feedback about this Deer Management Unit? (Check all that apply)
   - I live in this unit: 93
   - I visit this unit for non-hunting purposes: 54
   - I hunt in this unit: 207
   - General interest in this unit: 40

2. In this DMU, what type of deer hunting do you do? (Check all that apply)
   - Gun: 198
   - Bow: 119
   - Crossbow: 76
   - Muzzleloader: 71

3. How many years have you hunted deer in this unit?
   - Minimum: 0
   - Average: 25.84
   - Maximum: 63

4. Which statement best describes where you deer hunted in this unit last season?
   - Exclusively Private Land: 72
   - Mostly Private Land: 42
   - Public and Private Land About Equally: 25
   - Mostly Public Land: 18
   - Exclusively Public Land: 50
   - I did not hunt in this unit last year: 0

5. How crowded with other hunters did you feel while hunting on public land in this deer management unit?
   - Not at all crowded: 4
   - Not too crowded: 27
   - Neither crowded nor un-crowded: 27
   - Somewhat crowded: 28
   - Very crowded: 45
   - Not applicable: 4

Section 2: Perceptions about the number of deer in the unit.

6. Based on your observations throughout the summer and fall of 2019, how does the deer population in this DMU compare to the year before (since summer/fall 2018)?
   - Many Fewer: 42
   - Fewer: 60
   - Same: 62
   - More: 42
   - Many More: 16
   - Unsure: 1

Section 3: Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

7. In your opinion, how would you rate the antlerless quota recommended by the CDAC for the 2020 season in this unit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Antlerless Quota is...</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Public Input on CDAC Preliminary Recommendations - Spring 2020

Section 3 (continued): Feedback on the CDAC’s 2020 preliminary recommendations

8. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of $12 Bonus Antlerless Harvest Authorizations recommended for this unit by the CDAC for the 2020 season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Much Too Low</th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Much Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Private:</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Harv. Auth. - Public:</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Private: Not applicable in this DMU
Bonus Harv. Auth. - METRO Public: Not applicable in this DMU

9. In your opinion, how would you rate the number of FREE Antlerless Harv. Auth. recommended by the CDAC to be issued with each license for 2020 season in this unit?

Note: Farmland Zone and Metro Subunits only.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too Low</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND ZONE Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METRO Antlerless Harv. Auth. per License:</td>
<td>Not applicable in this DMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Depending on their location, their population objective, and their antlerless quota, CDACs may also recommend some additional season framework options.

If a DMU is in a Farmland Zone...
Implement an ANTLERLESS HOLIDAY HUNT: Not applicable in this DMU

If a Holiday Hunt is held in a Farmland unit...
EXTEND the ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON to Jan 31, 2021: Not applicable in this DMU

If the Population Objective is not "Increase"
Adopt an ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON FRAMEWORK for ALL Deer Seasons:
24 | 174 | 25

If a Zero Quota (buck only season) is adopted...
...should JUNIOR ANTLERLESS HARV. AUTH. be VALID or NOT VALID in the unit?
106 | 94 | 23

11. How important were each of the following concerns in forming your opinion about the CDAC’s recommendations for this unit? Scale: 1 = Not-at-all; 2 = Slightly; 3 = Moderately; 4 = Very

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Average Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of deer mortality during an average year</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of damage to backyard plants</td>
<td>1.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of deer-vehicle collisions</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to deer health (e.g., CWD)</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having a reasonable chance to harvest a deer</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer</td>
<td>3.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of hunting tourism to the local economy</td>
<td>2.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of predators on deer numbers in the unit</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence of deer numbers on other wildlife (abundance, distribution, health)</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report Generated: Friday, May 01, 2020
Wood, Central Forest
Since 2007, the post hunt estimate number of deer in the Central Forest has fallen from 12,400 in 2007 to 9,000 in 2012 to 7,900 in 2015 to 7,000 in 2019. As you can see, the number of deer has steadily decreased. However in the corridor of property that lies between Hwy 73 and Hwy 54 there has been a substantial increase in the number of deer seen. This area is principally private land and the landowners there have been unable to harvest the increasing number of antlerless animals because the area is in the Central Forest Zone and the harvest of antlerless has been restricted. This corridor includes a substantial amount of agricultural land. Most of the deer living in that strip are capable of eating agricultural forage. Because the deer harvested in that area of the Central Forest, where the population is much too high, are included in the general counts for the Central Forest, the total population estimates for the Central Forest are skewed toward a higher total number of deer in that zone.

However the number of deer south of Hwy 54 to the county line have continued to show a decrease in numbers as represented by the harvest as well as reduced sightings particularly along the roads in the area. The Wood County CDAC has requested the DNR realign the zone and move the property north of Hwy 54 into the farmland zone. This request has been denied each year. The deer population in the corridor are eating their homes literally, as well as increasing the opportunity for CWD to pass into the Central Forest and then into the Wood County portion of Central Farmland. The dnr biologist for the area does not feel there is a shortage of winter browse to explain the loss of deer numbers since 2007. I suspect the combination of predators, bobcat, bear, coyote, wolf and our hunting has contributed to the overall decrease in numbers of deer available for seeing or harvesting. The combined archery totals, (bow and xbow) for 2019 reflected a 19 percent decrease in harvest from the 2018 season. This represents to me, a general decline in the availability of animals for harvest. The archery season is not dependent on two weekends where weather may skew the harvest. If they are not there for over three months of the season you can’t reasonably blame the weather. Fawn to doe ratio from 2014 to 2019 indicate the survival in the Central Forest is significantly less than in Central Farmland. Using the deer metric information provided, the average ratio for the farmland zone is 0.95 for those six years while the central zone is 0.82. Multiply those by 100 and you will see 13 fewer fawns in the forest. If the fawns are half does and half bucks there are six or seven fewer does per hundred adult does to replenish the herd in the forest zone. Across the six year time frame that is 36 - 42 fewer does. Our plan to maintain or increase has failed miserably, in my opinion, in the Forest Zone. In the Farmland Zone in Wood County in 2007, the post hunt estimate was 9,900, in 2012 10,900, in 2015 9,900 and in 2019 12,900. We have managed to increase the post hunt herd estimate by 3,000 in Farmland and decrease by 5,400 in the Central Forest. Something has gone seriously wrong. I would prefer to see a deer I can’t harvest to not seeing a deer. I understand the problem of boredom for a young hunter and the disappointment from the lack of an opportunity to harvest their first deer. Unless, or until, we can determine why the Central Forest herd is declining, and initiate a working remedy, in my opinion, we cannot recommend antlerless harvest in the Wood County portion of the Central Forest.
I’ve been hunting the Wood County forest unit for approximately 10 years now including the 2020 season. In that time span I’ve hunted only public land and have hunted just about every chunk of available piece of public land I can find, I’ve bow hunted it and gun hunted it. In I would say the past 4-5 years I’ve been seeing less and less deer harvested. I base this off of talking with friends and family from the area and what I see on the back of people’s trucks during the seasons. I watched the video and observed the numbers and I do understand there are a lot of things to take into account when making a season but I can also tell you that I’m seeing a lot of people disgusted. I know of many hunters who have hunted their entire lives they are now in their 50-60s and they say it’s just not worth it anymore. To me that’s horrible. I grew up hunting in the southern part of the state before I relocated to Wood county. It’s a totally different way of hunting up here compared to there! It’s a challenge but it makes for a thrill! I would say about 8-10 years ago on average I would see maybe 100 deer during the deer seasons. That number maybe a little shy but not much. I walk a lot and cover a lot of ground while out hunting. The amount of deer sign and deer I’ve seen in the last couple years is dwindling. Last year alone I saw 2 deer during the gun season (9 day) and they were racing across a ridge line while I was getting ready to pack it in for the afternoon. (Had spouse obligations to attend to) I’ve seen some super nice bucks in the years I’ve hunted in Wood county and I used to see some phenomenal bucks on the back of truck beds, but the last couple of years it’s empty truck beds and hunters going home empty handed. The amount of Illinois hunters I have seen the last couple of years seems to have increased. I propose a season or a time where residents get a chance at the big bucks that still linger in the county before someone who is a non resident comes and takes the big buck because he crowds you out of your spot. Hunting to me was always about the time with family and friends and the stories! With the lack of deer being harvested people are “throwing in the towel” sort to speak. The little dinners and bars are seeing less people. I do believe that getting rid of deer registration stations was a huge mistake on the states part! I lost count of how many people I’ve talked to about how they miss pulling into the gas station to gather around a truck with the monster booner someone shot and the story that went with it. That to me was hunting, it was something you looked forward to! I know it says to stay to the topics of the county but it is part of my comments. I hope in the seasons to come I can see things turning around. The numbers coming back the deer population growing and the true spirit of the Wisconsin hunter as I like to call it come back alive! Thank you for your time and consideration!

In the last 5 to 7+ years, the hunting in the Forest Cropland area west of Pittsville has changed dramatically. The number of deer sightings are way down. This seems to somewhat match up when we first began to hear and observe wolves in the woods. Every year we now regularly see wolves in the woods while hunting, and saw our first cougar last bow-hunting season. Personally, I have had wolves cross my stand 3 of the last 5 years on opening morning - - the kiss of death in having any expectation of a deer coming through with the wolf scent prevailing in the area! The deer are either less in number or have taken a very nocturnal approach, other than during the very brief period of the rut. It is fairly rare to sight fawns in the woods. Due to the boredom of hunting day upon day of not seeing deer, the number of hunters during the rifle season has decreased dramatically. The younger hunters, which is the future generation of hunter, are losing interest - - understandably.

As a former Wisconsin resident now living in another state, over the past two years I enjoyed hunted on my relatives private land in Wood county. This past year hunted both bow and deer. Noticed a large increase of antlerless deer from 2018 to 2019. I usually saw over 10 antlerless deer a day under and around my stand. No bucks. Neighbors corn field was tore apart from the deer. If Wisconsin’s past winter was mild and with very little hunting pressure I believe Wood county will have a serious over population of antlerless deer. Most of the hunters I saw were over 60 years old and hunt less while most of the younger generation is not interested in hunting. Because of the coronavirus the state will have less hunters this fall so I believe the hunter who purchases a deer bow or gun permit license should include both antler and antlerless deer. If not I believe the antlerless deer population will exploded. Thanks for your time and opportunity to provide feedback.
It would be nice to bring back baiting. It gives people a better chance at seeing deer, along with getting youth more involved and keeping them interested. Back when I started hunting, we seen WAY more deer than now. Why is there the need to keep coming up with these plans for the deer herd? Let's go back to the way it was, when you used to go out and see 10+ deer nightly. I miss those days and my kids do not believe that is true. There are weeks where I go and only see 1 or no deer, and I'm not the only one. Let go back to either-or tags, applying for them, it was tradition. Get rid of these doe only hunts, that's what got us in the position we are in. I would like hunting to go back to "providing for our family" or "a ways of food" instead of how it is now, all for sport. If your like me, I don't care how big the buck is, i just want venison in my freezer to enjoy. I want things to go back to how it was, 15-20 years ago.

I've hunted this area all my life. There was a time when deer were numerous and hurting the habitat. However, several years of overabundant harvests decimated the herd to the point where the population is so low now that depredation seems to be wiping out most of the fawn crop. I see very few deer and almost no fawns. It is common to hear wolves howling. One evening last year, I saw a group of five wolves and could hear at least two more howling in the distance. A pack that size can devour 150 deer annually. It's no wonder deer have become so scarce. I'd like to teach my two grandsons to hunt but I'm afraid there wouldn't be enough deer sightings to even make it interesting. I've been fortunate enough to get a buck each of the last two years but in both cases, it happened during the rut and they were the only bucks I had a chance at all season. To be honest, expectations are now so low, it's getting boring.

I stay well informed on data. Antlerlerless permits had a direct effect on my hunting. In recent years it was a competition to get online to get a permit.I am a disabled hunter and receive an antlerless permit every year. I rarely harvest a deer because of the states ignorance against disabled hunters. Juneau county forest director says he doesn't care if I use my handicap scooter. Wood county forest director won't let me use anything. There is no consistency. The state of Wisconsin makes you fill out a form to use an atv to hunt the area you want to hunt in and you are limited to that specific area. Anybody that hunts knows that you set up different areas to weather conditions. These factors have a direct effect on my deer harvest. Sandhills basically told me that old people shouldn't be in the woods. Although I have obstacles to overcome and shall overcome. Thank You all for what you do.

Never see such terrible hunting in wood county in the 90s when we drove to our hunting area it's was nothing to see a free hundred deer in the 2.5 hr trip now on the same trip if u see 6 it was alot,on opening day it was pretty typical to see 15-25 deer on public land now on opening day I hope to see 3 deer.also shooting on the opener used to sound like a war zone now maybe 20 shots on opener.still plenty of orange in the woods just no deer.i honestly think everyone involved in deer management should no longer have a job.it seems no one listens to hunters only animal rights activists and insurance companies.i fear the rest of my life hunting will never be as fun as I was 25 yrs ago.i also think that youth hunters should only get a doe tag their 1st year,why should my neighbor with 4 kids be able to shoot 8 does a yr and I can't even get a tag....... rediculous

I know the overall kill was down this year but I still believe there is at least a stable if not growing population of deer out on the public lands in southern wood county. We had a late opener this year and the marshes were so wet it was almost impossible to access places that you typically could. The population is not unreasonably high or to high either, but I would sure think after countless warm winters in a row and essentially no doe hunting on our public lands for several seasons there would be enough deer out there to allow a few doe tags. There is roughly 60000 acres of public land in this part of the county and not a single doe tag? Other than a terrible winter scenario that kills many deer I cant imagine how giving out a few hundred doe tags would hurt the population across this huge area of land. Thank You for your consideration.
During the 2019 season, I saw more white deer than I did ones that were brown and legal to harvest. While I saw an ample amount of deer, there were plenty that were not able to be harvested. I believe the DNR needs to reconsider allowing hunters to take white deer as the population is increasing in Wood county and other counties as well. If the population of white deer is allowed to continue to grow it will affect quota numbers in the future as there will be more deer but less available to harvest. As this is a genetically recessive and inferior trait found in the deer, allowing it to be this widespread affects the population as a whole. There are many hunters in this area that are also frustrated with how the white deer population is being handled, along with how the wolf population is also being handled.

500 antlerless bonus tags for private land and none for public is unreasonable. I see a lot of deer North of hwy 54 and south of hwy 73 which about the northern 1/3 of the Central Forest Zone. Wood CDAC wants to have the Farmland zone border moved South to Hwv 54 but that is not the reality we are dealing with for the 2020 deer season. For the 2020 deer season this area between hwy 54 and hwy 73 will be Central Forest Zone and needs to have antlerless bonus tags available to the public. The Public land in Wood County Central Forest Zone North of hwy 54 contains roughly 33 square miles. The Public land in Wood County Central Forest Zone South of hwy 54 contain roughly 63 square miles. The public land in the upper 1/3 of the Unit which contains a lot of deer can't be ignored. How about opening a season on wolves, kill more bears and coyotes. Deer numbers are not growing...at least not in the area I hunt. I listened to the helicopter report that was done near Sandhills. A lot of that area has been logged, so there is probably more food during February. I think these deer may concentrated because of this. I hunt these areas during the fall and am lucky to see a deer. Gun season was great, weather wise, and the bucks were still rutting. I was fortunate to shoot a buck, but the deer I saw were extremely concentrated. When I hunted away from that concentrated area, deer sign diminished greatly and I saw no deer. My opinion is based on boots on the ground, not helicopters in the sky. The deer numbers are hurting! Don’t shoot any does please.

The north and east edges of the current Central Forest Zone are heavy to private land ownership and have a different deer demographic than the public lands. There are more deer on these private lands than on the public lands. To properly manage the herd, the number of antlerless permits should be increased and the overall kill should be increased. The easiest way to do better manage this zone, and the statewide herd, would be to give us a longer deer gun hunt, starting the first week in November and ending the Sunday after Thanksgiving. That will give gun hunters a more fair chance to get a deer. This means the bow hunters will have to share the rut season that has always been exclusively theirs. It's time they shared the prime time.

The percentage of available antlerless harvest authorization for Wood County Central Forest Zone should match the Public land 28% vs Private land 72% percentage. Which is 360 for private and 140 public. Wisconsin’s wildlife is for all the residents to enjoy not solely the private landowners. The US and specifically Wisconsin is steeped in tradition and statutes insuring public access to land. A few examples are County Forest Lands, State of WI lands, Wisconsin’s Navigable Waterway statutes, Tax laws such as Forest Crop Law and Managed Forest Land Open. Don’t hamstring those hard fought access opportunities by such a severe allocation discrepancy of 500 private to 0 public antlerless harvest authorization.

I continue to see a dramatic increase in deer population in and around our property in Wood County. Last evening, for example, there were 22 deer in the field to the northeast of my property, 15 deer in the field behind my property, and several (I was too far away to count them, but likely 7-12) in the field across the road from my property. Over 40 deer in an 80 acre area is excessive. We see very large groups of deer in many of the fields in the area. The herd is simply too dense to sustain a healthy population, there has been significant crop damage and landscape damage, and the population is soaring. There needs to be some reductions in the herd to maintain a healthy, sustainable habitat for all to enjoy.
The DNR has to wipe out the wolves or you will never gain a herd back. The DNR wiped out the deer herd 20 plus years ago. With no deer, no hunters, no business for local communities. This has definitely ruined the economy for the people in small business trying to make a living in the area. From Bars to restaurants, convenience stores, motels, you name it. We hunt and live in Crawford County. over the years we made lots of friends in the area. We go up for a kind of a vacation, but we would still like a chance to see a deer and maybe even shoot one, but i bet it's been 10 or more since we have bag one and we are thinking of stopping the tradition because of the lack of deer.

In terms of deer population, last year was one of the worst I have experienced in the recent past. I had many more trips lead to seeing no deer this past year, in comparison to recent years. The buck population was non existent. I never even pulled my bow back last year or even considered pulling it back. Gun deer season was about the same. There was never an opportunity for a deer bigger than a spike, in the bow season. There were even trips when I would see more wolves than deer. For context of my comments, I am not a "trophy" hunter, but also spend more time in the woods than most. I just want to see more deer. Thus, I would really like goals on increasing the deer population. Thank you!

Ive been hunting in this unit for 27 years and its the worst ive ever seen that is seeing nothing. Ive got 5 hunters in our hunting party 49,20,26,16,15 And no one has had a chance to harvest a deer . Old hunters have no doe tags . Only 50 offered. and young hunters just like us are just not seeing deer . Going to be hard to keep them interested in deer hunting. What we all have in common is wolf watching. We all had wolves running around below our stands . Wish i had all the answers , for wood county forest out on Seneca rd its hit a rough patch . I would like to see back tags and in person registration reinstated. Good luck youve got your work cut out for you.

We have 20 acres, Metro management had been here the last five plus years but only harvested one deer and rarely decide to hunt. In the last two years it has become the norm to see dozens of deer on our field and the neighboring 20 each day. As I understand herd health, it appears there are too many in this location. I don't know if it's because it's in the Village and the metro management is simply not sufficient, but our apple orchard, soy bean fields and surrounding area seem to be very over populated and under hunted. We have asked for nuisance tags, which gets circled back to metro, who don't show up, and on and on it goes.

I as long time hunter of this area am very concerned about the deer numbers with the c d a c committee giving a low number of anterless permits herd population seems to be just holding on not gaining any more deer it is apparently that there is a severe predator problem here as the amount of tracks and scat with deer hair in it. I'm very concerned about the future of hunting it's no wonder hunter numbers are down and also you don't see many younger hunters can you blame them I often think about what it used be like while I'm hunting seeing very few deer. We need better predator control. Thank you

I live in Marathon County and drive through Wood County daily to get to work. I've been doing this commute for 10+ years. I saw more vehicle caused deer deaths in 2019 than I have in the five years preceding it. I also saw more anterless deer opening day (rifle) than I have in years. If anything, I suggest an earn a buck program one of these years to keep the anterless deer herd in check. I also believe the rifle harvest numbers were down in 2019 due to the rifle season being too late in the month of November, e.g. the majority of the rut occured outside of the rifle season window.

I just wanted to say though I'm not a man good with numbers I trust in you the DNR research team that you will put the right management into play! I want to thank you all for what you do! Thank You Scott D Dye  P.S. If there is any like watch and give numbers activities you have going on I am not just an avid hunter I spend numerous hours in the woods watching all wildlife and teaching my children about how to properly treat the woods and wildlife I would love to help out where I could!
Regarding baiting restrictions where it is not allowed and the continued disregard for this ruling by many puts the legitimate hunters at a substantial disadvantage. The fact that the local gas stations sell “deer corn” in an area where baiting is not allowed demonstrates the lack of regard for the restrictions by the community as a whole. A couple of well timed visits to the establishments with follow up would set the tone that the restrictions will be enforced and that the DNR is serious about enforcing their rulings.

Go back to crossbows for seniors and handicap. Stop all gun seasons except the 9 day. The youth need to learn the traditions of deer hunting. Giving them a doe tag is enough. Getting hunters back in the woods during the 9 day should be more effective at deer harvest. With recent very low hunter number during the 9 day. Deer movement is minimal. All the different seasons have limited success on controlling numbers. All it has done is hurt the other hunters who have to wear orange during most of the fall (bow hunters).

The herd estimate for the state was WAY OFF! I remember in 2000 I believe the herd was estimated at 1.5 million deer. The farm fields were full of deer. Hundreds of deer before dark and dusk and hunting in Wood County central farmland (57C at the time) was awesome we had doe tags and bonus tags and there were a lot of deer and we got a lot of deer. There was no way there was 2 million deer in Wisconsin last year, not even a million. Those same fields had maybe 5 or 10 deer in them not hundreds like in 2000!

The presence of wolves and their impact on the deer population is ruining deer hunting in central Wisconsin. If wolves benefit the ecosystem please introduce them in Buffalo County and see what hunters have to say. I personally have seen the impact having hunted since I was 12 years old in the same area and to see 1 to 2 deer all season means there are no deer around, but seeing multiple wolves tells me why. Mistakes were made reintroducing the wolves, do something about it if you want to keep people hunting.

Please do SOMETHING about the EXCESSIVE numbers of WOLVES in the State. In Wood County while Bobcat hunting in the Dexterville and surrounding areas, there is much evidence of excessive numbers of Wolf tracks and Wolf deer kills. The Wolf numbers have gotten way out of line compared to what was originally suggested, in numbers of packs that are around. They need to be controlled better. They are also causing a number of excessive kills on dogs and other farm animals. Thank you for considering this...

Should we also be Concerned about quality deer management. How about we put some antler restrictions in place. Six points or better for a buck. Or how about we do an either or tag, were you can harvest a doe or a buck but only one. That way a guy has the ability to choose if he wants to harvest a doe or up on if the numbers work out. But I would really like to see some sort of quality management increasing.

The central Forest is loaded with antlerless deer on both public and private, the quota or lack of has decimated the buck population forcing hunters to take only bucks. The crossbow seasons is way to long and needs to be adjusted and brought into line with gun hunting. I own 80 acres and can see 20 deer a night all antlerless. We need to get the politics out of management and realize how losing hunters will hurt our economy and the wildlife population.

I feel as if the CDAC is on the right path with getting the Wood County Forest Zone back to where it needs to be. I’m seeing efforts and ideas come alive from year to year. There are a lot of predators in this zone and that has an enormous effect when trying to bring the deer herd back. We still have work to do, but I am happy with the results that I am starting to see. Keep up the good work and lets all make the deer population get better together!

Used to see in Wood County in earlier years 4 or 5 in a group. I have not seen more than 10 deer per season in the last few years. The idea of seeing 1 deer per hour would be a dream come true. I normally hunt from daybreak to shortly after 4:00 PM 8 days out of the 9 day gun hunt. I hunt alone and do not take mid-day breaks. Lunch is in my stand. Am 77 and plan on giving it a go in 2020 as well the next coming years if able.

The bad thing is your zone lines why would you make farm land into forests zone and than give out ag tags to farmers the deer don’t just come on that land To eat My thoughts are the country line between wood and Jackson. Jackson forest zone all wood ag zone and give less ag tags years farmers let you hunt now they get ag tags and tell you that all for buddy’s That is if you need ag tags than it farm land not forest land
2018 archery and gun season was great where I hunted in wood county. Would see deer every time we went out. 2019 was completely different story. Cross around didn’t change and hunting pressure was the same. But the deer weren’t there. Me and other hunters in the area are shrugging our shoulders. Do not split up the crossbow season. Should be no reason guys who can’t pull compounds back should have to take a back seat.

I feel like the wolf population is getting out of hand in this DMU. This is directly affecting the amount of deer not being seen or harvested during the hunting season. I have gone two seasons now without seeing any deer at all. I hunt in a group of seven and in the past three years, we have seen a total of 5 deer, harvested one. I believe that this is because of the ever-growing wolf population in the area.

We have been buck only for 5 plus years now and no one see's bucks year after year but we see plenty of doe's. You guys have RUINED deer hunting for everyone and we are all sick and tired of the Wisconsin DNR. It's obvious why younger generations are on the decline because you dont give anyone a chance to harvest a deer anymore during the gun season. MAKE IT SO WE CAN HARVEST DOE'S AGAIN!!!

Thanks, In my personal opinion the bow season is too long, the traditional gun season fluctuates per Thanksgiving week. I’ve personally only used my muzzleloader during all of gun seasons for over 5 years. I would like to see an opening day early to mid November for gun season, no matter what day it falls on. Give the option of longer seasons to firearms hunter’s not just bow hunters.

I saw only 1 deer last year on opening day and that was the 4 point buck I got and I hunt on 160 acres of private land. I would like to see baiting allowed on a limited basis. I hunt only with my brother-in-law now and I understand that if u get a deer u cant be in the woods to help out the fellow hunters in your group. Tried finding that rule in the rule book but was unable.

After hunting central forest public lands for years, its gone from bad to worse. So much land which is nice, but so few deer. Very little hunting pressure because people know it’s hard to shoot a deer in this area. Also been very wet last few years which makes it harder. Should be no does shot in this area for a few years in my opinion. Thanks for letting us comment!

You are proposing 0 public tags and 500 private tags. As a person who hunts with her family on public land in the unit I feel that is grossly unfair and unreasonable. 28% of the land is public, so 28% of the tags should be public. I do not have any connections to be able to hunt private land. I would ask that you make 140 of these tags public. Thank you for your time.

The predators are keeping the deer population in check in the Wood County Central Forest. No question there are fewer deer than in the 1990s, but the quality of the deer is better in my opinion. Make the antlerless harvest for young people to encourage them it get out and hunt and help put food on the table. Give more tags for public land and less for private land.

The wolf population / predation really needs to be addressed in Wood Cty - Central Forest region. I've captured wolf pics on my trail cameras multiple times (private property) and have witnessed deer kill sites (3). Also, friends have shown pics taken on iPhones of packs of wolves standing underneath their tree stands during hunting sits. Verrrrryyyy un-nerving.

It’s time to get deer numbers up on public land. Let’s start by putting physical tags on the deer. Let’s lower the Doe permits issued. I take my children hunting and it is hard to impress them with out seeing any deer. If you want to recruit new hunters, keep old hunters, and make hunting fun again it’s as simple as putting deer back in the woods.

Ten years ago antlerless quota was too high. It brought too many hunters to the unit and then the wolves moved in and destroyed the deer herd. Going from seeing 20 to 25 deer in three days of hunting to seeing none tells me that an over kill of antlerless deer and wolf predation has drastically reduced the deer population in southern wood county.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Number</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10825</td>
<td>I live in the forest zone. North of HWY 54. I have way too many doe on my property and can never get a doe tag. I will not pay $12 for a bonus tag. I think HWY 54 should be the new boundary line between the forest and farmland. You should check the herd population in this area as it is high. Also way too many WHITE deer populating this area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10826</td>
<td>The crop tags for this unit, specifically those granted to cranberry farmers has become a problem. The means of hunting for these tags is not policed, and there remains no direct analysis of the damage done to cranberry fields, and the overall negative impact of removing that deer from the population as it relates to other hunters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10827</td>
<td>make deer management central forest zone1 central farm land zone 2 and central farmland zone 2 ALL ONE ZONE the way it is now is not working no one wants to hunt and the older people are not hunting because they have a hard time figuring where the line is and if they shoot a deer and goes in the other zone do'nt know what to do</td>
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<tr>
<td>10828</td>
<td>Stop issuing tags for does the population is decreasing and is against the maintenance objective. I can only imagine what will happen after a severe winter as the deer population is decreasing during good to moderate years. Yet the board continues to issue the same number of tags. This is not s good practice stop the tags on doe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10829</td>
<td>More doe tags for public land and get them in the hands of the young people so we encourage young people to hunt and put some food in the freezer. The wolves have thinned the herd compared to the '80s and '90s. There are fewer deer but the quality of the deer is better in my opinion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10830</td>
<td>We are seeing way more deer than ever. Thankfully we had a mild winter or we would have seen a lot of starvation. We have been hunting the same land for over 40 years. We practice QDMA and are stewards of the land. The state/DNR need to allow hunters to harvest more antlerless deer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10831</td>
<td>I would like to see more deer on the land. Then you will have more young hunters and more hunters period. We can't shoot alot of Doe's and expect to have the number of hunters. Deer numbers are not there period. And making the seasons longer is not the answer I don't like that at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10832</td>
<td>It is very hard to regenerate a young forest with the amount of deer browse present in the wood county forest zone. I think they should be giving out more antlerless tags for public land in this zone to try to promote the regeneration of young forests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10833</td>
<td>With cross‐bow hunting becoming more popular and accounting for higher numbers of deer harvested by bows, I believe that some adjustment may be necessary, in the future, to the length of the bow season. I hunt in the Central Forest, zone 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10834</td>
<td>Older landowners who can’t figure out how to get a tag online are always out of luck we never have a chance to get a tag and we are feeding these deer. There should be something like years ago when we could go to the dnr office and get a tag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10835</td>
<td>Zero antlerless public land tags is ridiculous. For the low success rate across the twenty five 2019 antlerless tags issued, you can afford to provide 25 for 2020. Cut back on the private tags with the higher harvest percentage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10836</td>
<td>How can it possibly be justified to propose all of the antlerless tags going to private land and none to public land? The antlerless tag distribution should match the hunting land available: about 1/4 public and 3/4 private.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10837</td>
<td>I have observed a lot of Wolf sign/activity, and less deer sign/activity on my property in the Central Forest Zone. Please consider more research in order to more closely establish REAL deer predation by wolves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10838</td>
<td>The public vs. private land tags are ridiculous. I can have a private land tag and kill a doe, but not kill that same doe on public land 400 yards away. It's nonsense, and it happens a lot in the forest zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10839</td>
<td>The number of antlerless tags available for private and public land should match the amount hunting acreage available. Why would there be 0 antlerless tags available for public land? That is ridiculous.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Baiting deer should be all or non, not amu specific, sometimes not baiting does not allow any deer sightings at all, better to have off ground baiting so they are not investing fecal matter while eating.

Why can cranberry company shoot all the deer they want and let them spoil and rot and those of us who pay for a license can't even see a deer because there at are none left? I don't think that's fair.

With tens of thousands of acres of public land a small quota on public land will not impact the deer herd. Not providing a quota only impacts the number of hunters and takes away opportunity.

My group of 6 to 8 hunters makes deer drives in the Wood County central forest unit at least three days out of each gun deer season. We very rarely see fewer than 20 antlerless deer per day.

I believe we need to regulate the number of non-residents we allow and up the cost of a tag. I do a lot of out of state hunting and tags cost way more and there are limits on non-residents.

The wolves, coyotes and bear have had a major impact in the Juneau and Wood counties! The fawns don't have a chance to survive. I don't see heavy hunting pressure after opening weekend.

The doe to buck ratio favors the doe's by an extreme amount. There are very few shoot-able bucks. Would like to see you bring back a doe tag for this area for a one or two year period.

The amount of white deer in this unit has tripled in the last year. Why are we protecting a genetic mutation? We need to get rid of them not protect them.

I hunt on both private and public land in the Wood County Forest Zone. I think there should be some antlerless tags available for public land.

After several years of low number of tags the deer population is not responding. What is the problem?? I think it is too many predators.

I would like wardens to check the area around the hemlock creek, as there is a lot of people hunting, with no regard for the law.

There are plenty of antlerless deer that could be harvested. Make more bonus permits available for more hunting opportunities.

1 buck tag and 1 doe. Buy a tag for rifle get 1 doe tag just for rifle. Buy one for bow get 1 doe tag for that. Simple as that.

There is a lot of predators in the hemlock bottoms and the owl creek basin. Also a lot of illegal activity.

Thank you for your hard work and detailed understanding of the population. And giving us a voice. Great presentation!

With the amount of public lands acreage in this zone the proposed antlerless quota (zero) is a disappointing misstep.

Stop the doe hunts and let's get the population to grow. Sick of not seeing deer like I did when I was a kid.

This unit is a difficult one for sure. I see plenty of does on private land around the casino.

There are lots of does in this zone not a problem see 10 plus does in a sit and very few bucks.

In my opinion the antlerless permits for wood county central forest zone is way too low.

Overall saw more deer in 2019 than 2018 and prior years so i feel herd is doing well.
way to many predators seen bobcat coyotes wolf and bear more predators than deer

I've been seeing less and less deer every year and more big predators in my areas.

Thank you for allowing outdoor enthusiasts to voice an opinion.

Wolves and bears have to be part of the problem.

Leave the hunting seasons as they are.

Limit crossbow harvest!

to many predators

None at this time.